



Environment and Natural Resources Committee

DRAFT Minutes

July 1, 2009 – 9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Patty Werner - Lake County SMC, Karla Kramer – US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wally Van Buren – Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Pete Harmet – IDOT, Ingrid Danler – Fox Waterway Agency, Sean Weidel – City of Chicago, Kate Agasie – Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, Joe Schuessler – Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, Marty Jaffe – University of Illinois at Chicago, Lenore Beyer-Clow – Openlands, Jim van der Kloot – USEPA Region 5, Kama Dobbs – DuPage Mayors and Managers

Staff Present: Jesse Elam, Hala Ahmed, Lori Heringa, Tom Murtha, John O’Neal, Randy Blankenhorn, Don Kopec, Megan Elberts, Bob Dean

Others Present: Paul Heltne – Center for Humans and Nature, Ricca Slone – ELPC

1.0 Call to Order

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

None.

3.0 Approval of Minutes from May 26, 2009

The minutes were approved.

4.0 Coordinating Committees Update

5.0 Draft 2009 Update of the Northeastern Illinois Regional Greenways and Trails Plan

Lori Heringa and Tom Murtha of CMAP presented the draft 2009 update to the Greenways and Trails Plan, which was first developed in 1992 and last updated in 1997. The network of trails and open space corridors shown in this plan has been helpful to local governments and others in securing funding for regional trails. Regional trail mileage has doubled since the plan was first developed. Some members had a variety of suggestions for the plan. One was that it should include dams on the stream layer on the map. Staff suggested that that would require the plan to propose recommendations to address the dams and that that wasn’t something the plan could readily do. Another member suggested that the plan should include proposed trails in counties abutting the CMAP region, which staff said they would investigate.

6.0 GO TO 2040 Update

Bob Dean presented initial staff conclusions from the scenario analysis that CMAP has been undertaking over the spring and summer, cautioning that it represents only staff views and not the results of public engagement. Among these initial conclusions are that significant investments in physical infrastructure would be necessary to improve mobility most dramatically, that increases in highway capacity led to increases in vehicle miles traveled (even with investment in transit), that most of the environmental benefits of a scenario could be attributed to increased density or compactness of development, that farmland preservation strategies tended to move development from higher-productivity soils to lower-productivity soils without significantly affecting the total quantity of farmland developed, and that none of the scenarios appeared to come very close to the greenhouse gas emissions reductions commonly thought to be needed.

A member asked whether staff had measured connectivity or otherwise quantified biodiversity impacts. Bob noted that biodiversity is difficult to measure. Jesse said that an analysis had been carried out using metrics from the program Fragstats, but that it proved computationally intensive and did not seem likely to show significant changes between scenarios. To investigate the issue, Jesse held a conference call with Chicago Wilderness members and researchers at the Illinois Natural History Survey in January. The conclusion of the people on the call was that a single connectivity metric would not be appropriate and could do more harm than good. Also, it was thought that connectivity would not improve habitat conditions for birds, and there are no large mammals in Illinois that require large ranges, such as are found in the West. A member suggested that CMAP needed to measure wetland and stream impacts in the scenarios, as well as water quality and air emissions from non-mobile sources. It was noted that CMAP had computed how much imperviousness was occurring in the watersheds of sensitive streams, but staff agreed to look into the issue further. Jesse said that staff had tried to calculate annual runoff by scenario, but that the results were problematic. A member suggested that CMAP try to use Purdue's L-THIA model. Jesse said that the methodology used in that model was the one CMAP had tried. Finally, members noted that the GO TO 2040 plan should address flood impact reduction.

7.0 Other Business

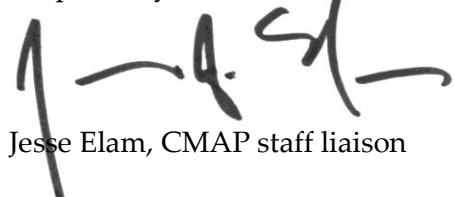
None.

8.0 Public Comment

Paul Heltne brought up the issue of scarcity in extractable metals in the earth's surface. He briefly presented a paper called "Metal minerals scarcity: a call for managed austerity and the elements of hope" by A.M. Anderson at TNO Defence in the Netherlands.

9.0 Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jesse Elam". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Jesse Elam, CMAP staff liaison