



## Environment and Natural Resources Committee

### DRAFT Minutes

February 3, 2010 — 9:30 a.m.

**Members Present:** Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Martin Jaffe – University of Illinois at Chicago, Patty Werner - Lake County SMC, Lenore Beyer-Clow - Openlands, Ingrid Danler - Fox Waterway Agency, Joe Schuessler - MWRD, Jeff Mengler – Chicago Wilderness, Wally Van Buren – Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies, Christy Sabdo – Kane County, Sean Weidel – City of Chicago, Pete Harmet – IDOT, Kate Agasie – Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, Kama Dobbs – DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference

**Staff Present:** Jesse Elam, Hala Ahmed, Bob Dean, Tim Loftus, Megan Elberts

**Others Present:** Christina Seaman – Openlands

#### 1.0 Call to Order

Vice Chair Ingrid Danler called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

#### 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

None.

#### 3.0 Approval of Minutes from January 6, 2010

Patty Werner said that the minutes did not reflect her note that the Preferred Regional Scenario does not address the flooding. She asked that that be included in the minutes and addressed in the plan. Minutes from the January 6 meeting were approved with that amendment.

#### 4.0 Coordinating Committees Update

Vice Chair Ingrid Danler attended the Planning Coordinating Committee on January 13 and reported that she had indicated that the ENR committee supported the Preferred Regional Scenario, although its support was conditional on making several edits to the wording.

#### 5.0 Water Supply Planning Update

Tim reported that the Northeastern Illinois Water Supply/Demand Plan had been approved at the Regional Water Supply Planning Group's (RWSPG) meeting in January, and that in the week since he had done nine press interviews. Several ENR committee members felt that this level of interest would be positive. Tim said that CMAP was transitioning into implementing the plan and that the RWSPG's term was ending with approval of the plan. It was suggested that a role for ENR in implementation and

ongoing water supply work should be discussed at a future meeting. Some members suggested ENR should be the main implementing committee, but others felt the councils of government (COGs) would not be enthusiastic about the prospect. The COGs would have concerns about recommendations from the water supply plan being unfunded mandates. Outlying municipalities would be concerned about the involvement of any higher level of government in water management. It was suggested that the role of ENR in water supply plan implementation should be discussed at the March meeting and that the water supply plan should be sent out to members.

#### **6.0 Update on IEPA Green Infrastructure Study**

Marty Jaffe gave a PowerPoint presentation on the work of the University of Illinois-Chicago and partners on evaluating green infrastructure practices for Illinois, funded by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Hala Ahmed updated the committee on CMAP's role in the study; CMAP has reviewed the requirements in the countywide stormwater ordinances. The committee discussed whether green infrastructure practices could be handled in the same way as energy portfolio requirements, with some members suggesting that there were issues with that approach. It was mentioned that IDOT could provide peer review for the analysis. There were a number of other questions, such as how the Illinois Urban Manual would be affected, and whether the study's information could be disseminated to the technical advisory committees for countywide stormwater committees/commissions. It was also suggested that Marty's presentation contain more citation information, study *n*-values, etc. It was determined that the ENR committee should be updated again in April.

#### **7.0 GO TO 2040 Update**

Bob Dean explained that staff are working on existing conditions chapters for the GO TO 2040 plan and that ENR would be asked to review the "water" and "environment" chapters. Furthermore, several "priority recommendations" chapters were being developed, and ENR would be asked to work closely with staff to refine the recommendations. Bob briefly explained the overall timeline for finishing the plan and noted that the full financial plan would accompany GO TO 2040 as an appendix. Only transportation improvements would be covered in the financial plan. Most of the GO TO 2040 plan's recommendations would save money, additional land protection being an exception. An ENR member commented that while open space will cost money, it could be partly offset by increased tax revenue. Another member suggested that financing for open space also be fleshed out, which Bob agreed would be appropriate.

Jesse asked members for their comments on the January 5 strawman draft of open space recommendations. It was suggested that more needed to be inserted on parks in urban land, which Jesse said would be in the next draft. Another member suggested looking at the Chicago Nature and Wildlife Plan. Jesse reported that he had presented the recommendations to the Illinois Association of Forest Preserve and Conservation Districts. Members suggested defining open space more clearly. It was recommended that private development could be encouraged to buy land and donate it to public agencies. The recommendation for setting aside 1% of transportation project funding was not thought appropriate because that could be less than needed in some projects, because project budgets for environmental mitigation/enhancement may be higher now,

and because FHWA would not authorize such expenditures. A recommendation regarding targeting of wetland mitigation funds to the Green Infrastructure Vision area needed strengthening, another member suggested. Jesse said he would return to ENR with a new version in March.

**8.0 Other business**

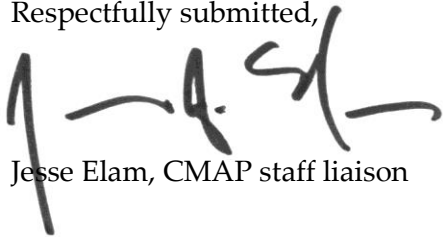
None.

**9.0 Public comment**

None.

**10.0 Adjournment.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jesse Elam', written over the typed name below.

Jesse Elam, CMAP staff liaison