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Environment and Natural Resources Committee
DRAFT Minutes
March 3, 2010 —9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Martin Jaffe – University of Illinois at Chicago, Patty Werner - Lake County SMC, Lenore Beyer-Clow - Openlands, Ingrid Danler - Fox Waterway Agency, Jeff Mengler – Chicago Wilderness, Sean Weidel – City of Chicago, Pete Harmet – IDOT, Kate Agasie – Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, Kama Dobbs – DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, Jim van der Kloot – USEPA Region 5, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg

Staff Present: Jesse Elam, Bob Dean, Randy Blankenhorn, Hala Ahmed, Drew Williams-Clark

Others Present: Paul Heltne – Center for Humans and Nature

1.0 Call to Order
Vice Chair Ingrid Danler called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements
Lenore announced that Openlands and other organizations are promoting the establishment of the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is currently considering whether to conduct a full feasibility study of the proposal to create the refuge. Ingrid announced that a state senate bill had been proposed to give the Fox Waterway Agency a revolving loan fund to aid landowners around the Chain of Lakes in restoring their shorelines. It was asked if the Agency was looking to harden the shoreline; Ingrid said the preference would be for softer erosion control measures.

3.0 Approval of Minutes from February 3, 2010
The minutes were approved with no changes.

4.0 Coordinating Committees Update
None.

5.0 GO TO 2040 Update
5.1 Priority area: Energy and water conservation
Hala Ahmed gave a presentation on resource conservation, one of the priority areas in the GO TO 2040 plan, referring to a PowerPoint slide show. The main areas covered were energy efficiency and water conservation. Energy efficiency measures would concentrate on building codes and retrofits. Hala noted that water use is projected to

outstrip population growth if current trends continue. This would cause two major problems, the capture of streamflow by groundwater pumping and interference between wells located close to one another. Another purpose of resource conservation is to reduce carbon emissions, and land use practices and building energy use reductions were highlighted as means to do so. It was asked how vehicle technology would play into carbon reduction. Bob answered that vehicle technology (fuel efficiency, alternative fuels) would clearly play a major role, but that that mainly would be addressed at the federal level. Another committee member suggested that the municipalities in the region that have developed climate change plans be called out.

A member noted that the recommendations were good as far as they went, but they did not seem to address funding sources. Hala said CMAP would be working on that. A member suggested that something would be needed to make sure municipalities and other entities were all instituting similar programs. Legislation could be a possibility, such as the state legislation being pursued to permit rainwater harvesting.

5.2 Priority area: Data sharing

Drew Williams-Clark gave a presentation on CMAP's work to date on the Regional Indicators Project and a demonstration of the web tools being developed in partnership with the Chicago Community Trust. Members asked whether it would be possible to see environmental data at the watershed level. Drew responded that CMAP was working on being able to use other geographies besides Census and political boundaries, but it probably cannot be done by the time the initial website is rolled out.

5.3 Priority area: Parks and open space

Jesse asked members to review the March 15 draft of the recommendations for parks and open space, referring to a list of questions to help guide discussion. He asked whether the recommendations for concentrating wetland or other environmental mitigation funding within the Green Infrastructure Vision boundaries were appropriate; members felt the general idea was sound, but that specific details needed to be changed. It was suggested that Fermilab be considered federally protected open space. It was also suggested that the parks and open space recommendations also include water trails. The recommendations for requiring public access to subdivision open space, connectivity between subdivision trails and regional trails, and greenway connectivity between municipalities would cause some stir, it was felt. Members felt that local governments would be able to do this, although there would be resistance at first. RETT revenue projections were felt to be overly high considering economic conditions. Also, some ambiguity was noted in the recommendations for changing OSLAD criteria. Paul Heltne stated that he felt water supply issues should be connected to the open space recommendations. A member suggested urban land banking as a means of having interim open space.

5.4 Major capital projects

Bob presented the staff recommendations for the major capital projects for *GO TO 2040* that would be reviewed by Transportation Committee in March. A small amount of the total fiscal constraint would be available to add new facilities or to expand existing facilities, making it especially important to use good project selection criteria. He noted

that Chicago Wilderness wanted to review the major capital project recommendations and suggested that ENR members who wished to do so should join as a subcommittee. He asked that subcommittee to present initial recommendations to ENR in April. Jesse would coordinate the subcommittee review process.

6.0 Other business

None.

7.0 Public comment

None.

8.0 Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Jesse Elam, CMAP staff liaison