



## Environment and Natural Resources Committee

### DRAFT Minutes

November 3, 2010 —9:30 a.m.

- Members Present:** Patty Werner - Lake County SMC, Sean Weidel – City of Chicago, Mike Sullivan – Kane Kendall Conference of Mayors, Joe Schuessler – Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, Kate Agasie – Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Kama Dobbs – DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, Christy Sabdo – Kane County, Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Marty Jaffe – University of Illinois at Chicago, Pete Harmet – IDOT, Wally Van Buren – Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies, Angela Larsen – Alliance for the Great Lakes, Ingrid Danler – Fox Waterway Agency
- Staff Present:** Jesse Elam, Ylda Capriccioso, Pete Saunders, Patricia Berry, Bob Dean, Hala Ahmed, Ricardo Lopez

#### 1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am by Ingrid, who chaired the meeting until Jack arrived. A round of introductions followed.

#### 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Jesse announced that the Great Lakes Commission and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative would be conducting a study to evaluate options for ecological separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi basins. An advisory committee was being established to guide the project.

Patty asked if someone could give an update on the Facility Planning Area (FPA) process. Wally said that it was still “up in the air,” but that the Illinois EPA wanted to move toward watershed planning to substitute for the FPA process. Wally said the state would still need to figure out how to allow so-called Designated Management Agencies, i.e., the wastewater plant operators, to serve the areas they have planned their systems to serve.

#### 3.0 Approval of Minutes from September 1, 2010

The minutes were approved with no changes.

#### 4.0 Coordinating Committees Update

Neither the Planning nor the Programming Committees had met since the last ENR meeting.

## **5.0 Legislative update**

Ylda gave a brief election update, noting that there had been many referenda (105), and a handful of them were for parks. The general assembly veto session would begin on November 16 in both chambers. She expected rainwater harvesting to come up in the veto session. There was some discussion to the effect that Property Assessed Clean Energy financing could come up. Ylda pointed out that the extension service was seeing funding cutbacks. A House bill amending the Fox Waterway Agency Act to allow dredge spoil was mentioned, while a bill to fund a shoreline stabilization program for Fox Waterway Agency had not moved. The Farmland Preservation Act had not been seen. Lenore pointed out that she had worked on that bill, and it would give counties authority to go to referendum to generate revenue for Purchase of Development Rights. It has passed the Senate twice but never went anywhere in the House. She believed the bill could at some point have incentives for infill development to balance out interest in it. She felt like there could also be interest in Transfer of Development Rights. Jack suggested that CMAP could provide technical help in drafting bill language. Ylda mentioned that legislation had passed to regulate phosphorus in commercial fertilizer. Finally, stormwater utility legislative language had been floated, although the committee was unsure about its purpose and effect. A member thought it was meant to make it possible for non-home rule communities to charge stormwater utility fees.

## **6.0 Sustainable Communities Initiative grant update**

Bob explained that a SCI grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development had been awarded to CMAP through a competitive process. CMAP would be using most of the funding to hire staff who would work directly with local governments on plan implementation projects. CMAP is still developing a process to figure out how to deploy staff resources. A member asked how the program defined sustainability. While an exact answer could not be given immediately, Bob said the focus was on linking land use planning, transportation, housing, and environmental protection. Jack mentioned that he thought it would be important to work on energy code development for local governments, and several members agreed. Bob suggested model ordinances could be developed as part of the technical assistance offering.

## **7.0 2011 CMAP/RTA Joint Community Planning Program**

Hala provided background on the Regional Transportation Authority's Community Planning Assistance grant program. In 2011, CMAP is planning to add Unified Work Program funds to that grant program, with seamless program integration as the goal. CMAP and RTA are drafting evaluation criteria and modifying grant documents. The CMAP and RTA boards are expected to adopt these programs in February 2011.

## **8.0 Implementation of GO TO 2040: Technical Assistance**

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation and a handout in the meeting packet, Pete Saunders gave an overview of the technical assistance CMAP hoped to offer and how it might compare with what other MPOs provide. Pete distinguished between five "levels" of assistance, with level 1 being a "full spectrum of direct technical assistance to municipalities," and 5 having the MPO act as a "gatherer or facilitator of information specifically about its region." A member asked if CMAP would aim for level 1. Pete

suggested level 1 or 2. He felt CMAP was already at level 3, where the MPO acts as a “gatherer or facilitator of information on sound planning techniques.” Bob said the SCI grant was explicitly for level 1 or 2 activities. A member wondered how environmental work would be coming in, and Jesse said a collaboration on SWAT or a watershed planning implementation project would be possibilities. That would be appropriate, the member felt, but wondered if the work could be geographically broadened. In particular, another member suggested, green infrastructure planning between communities could be a possibility. A question was asked about what partners could be involved; Pete thought nonprofit partners should be brought in. Bob explained that the level of formality would depend on whether the assistance was a grant, which would require board approval and contractual arrangements, or staff assistance, which would be less formal. Several committee members suggested discussing criteria for the grants at the next ENR committee meeting. Some discussion followed about whether RTA grants could go to counties; discussion suggested ENR members felt it should. A member asked whether there would be match requirements. Some felt match requirements would bring buy-in, while others felt requiring match would cut out some towns that cannot afford the match.

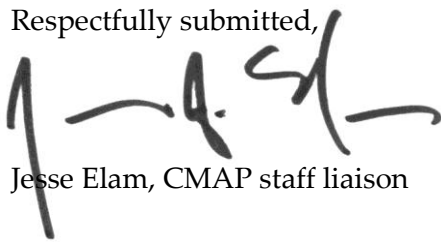
The committee briefly discussed topics for the January and February meetings. Angela agreed to present on the Coastal Zone Management program, while it was suggested that staff on the Chicago Region Retrofit Ramp-up program should present on its progress. Flooding was also mentioned as a possible topic.

**9.0 Public comment**

None.

**7.0 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