



Environment and Natural Resources Committee

DRAFT Minutes

May 4, 2011 —9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Patty Werner and Mike Prusila - Lake County SMC, Sean Weidel – City of Chicago, Joe Schuessler – Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, Ashley Craig – Environmental Law and Policy Center, Anne McKibbin – Center for Neighborhood Technology, Mike Sullivan – Kane/Kendall Council of Mayors, Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Kate Agasie – Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, Christy Sabdo – Kane County, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Kindy Kruller – Delta Institute

Staff Present: Jesse Elam, Tim Loftus, Bob Dean, Rosa Ortiz, Kristin Ihnchak, Drew Williams-Clark

Others Present: Rachel Sudimack – Illinois Department of Natural Resources

1.0 Call to Order

Patty Werner was asked to lead the meeting since the co-chairs were unable to attend the meeting. The meeting was then called to order at 9:35 am. A round of introductions followed.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Tim announced that CMAP would be collaborating with the Delta Institute to offer a workshop on groundwater protection on May 6.

3.0 Approval of Minutes from April 6, 2011

The minutes were approved with no changes.

4.0 Coordinating Committees Update

There were no coordinating committee meetings in April.

5.0 Legislative update

Jesse asked if individual committee members had updates on legislation. A member wondered about the status of the stormwater water utility legislation that CNT backed, remarking that some COGs were concerned that, under the current language, counties could selectively charge fees only to certain areas within their borders. The status of the bill was not known.

6.0 Illinois Coastal Management Program update

Rachel Sudimack provided an update on the Illinois Coastal Management Program, referring to a PowerPoint presentation. She said that the program would provide \$1~1.5 million in grants for environmental improvements in the coastal zone and that formal program approval was expected by August 2011. A member asked whether stream restoration would be eligible on streams that are privately owned but under easement; the answer was that this would have to be researched. In answer to another question, it was not clear whether there would be preferences for projects on the Lake Michigan shore. A member suggested that the amount of the funding that DNR would be using for administrative purposes was excessive. Rachel noted that DNR was beginning a Lake Michigan Division, separate from the Office of Water Resources. A member suggested that it was odd that DNR would be expanding when most other agencies are contracting.

7.0 CMAP Program Updates

7.1 Metropulse

Drew Williams-Clark gave an overview of the regional indicators project and a demonstration of the website, now called "Metropulse." He noted that he had not presented to the committee in two years. There are two main objectives to the project: tracking implementation of GO TO 2040 through outcome measures, and giving local decision-makers tools for analyzing conditions. The project was funded through a partnership with the Chicago Community Trust. In response to questions, Drew indicated that data could be downloaded as CSV files for use in a spreadsheet program, but that data could not be layered in the map because of the complexity and memory demands. Data also cannot be aggregated to watershed geography; although that was considered, it would have been a great deal of work for a fairly limited user group. Drew mentioned that the feedback he was receiving was that future improvements might be to add more flexibility, more parcel-level data, and that users would like an option to see all data for a particular geography. Future developments are an iPhone app to be available in May 2011 and making data available to private developers for an app contest.

7.2 Local Technical Assistance

Bob introduced the local technical assistance projects, suggesting that he was seeking feedback on the projects from the committees. Kristin Ihnchak and Rosa Ortiz talked about sustainability master plans being developed in several communities in the region. While environmental sustainability aspects would be included in all of these projects, they mentioned that the current thinking was to decide how to address the economic and social equity goals of sustainability on a community-by-community basis, and insofar as these also had environmental aspects. A member asked whether water supply, wastewater, etc. would be included; these would be addressed to some extent. Another member felt the goal of sustainability would be better served by focusing on all jobs in general rather than just green jobs. Staff answered that it would be very difficult to carry out a timely planning process if such boundaries were not established. In answer to a question about how bottom-up vs. top-down the process would be, said a specific outreach plan would be part of each project. Rosa also briefly discussed a planning

project being undertaken in Campton Hills, noting that CMAP would be in a facilitation role, while Conservation Design Forum would be developing a land use plan.

7.0 Other business

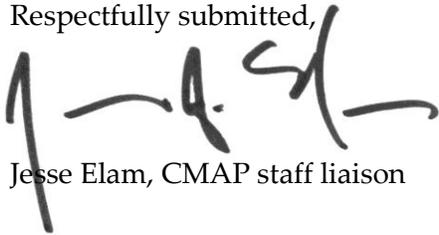
Jack Darin (who arrived later in the meeting) felt there would be considerable interest in Lake Michigan activities and suggested that updates continue on the subject, e.g., GLRI updates. Members also asked about energy policy, particularly whether there were disparities in siting requirements by municipalities for small-scale renewable energy and how successful or well-used energy efficiency and weatherization programs have been.

8.0 Public comment

None

9.0 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