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Environment and Natural Resources Committee DRAFT Minutes

September 5, 2012 - 9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Patty Werner – Lake County SMC, Sean Weidel – City of Chicago,

Lenore Beyer-Clow – Openlands, Debbie Stone – Cook County Department of Environmental Control, Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra

Club, Jon Grosshans – USEPA Region 5, Wally Van Buren –

Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies, Christy Sabdo – Kane County, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Harlan Spiroff – DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, Anne McKibben – CNT Energy, Mike Sullivan – Kane/Kendall Council of Mayors

Staff Present: Tim Loftus, Gordon Smith, Jason Navota, Hala Ahmed

Others Present: Janice Hill and Janie Maxwell – Kane County

1.0 Call to Order

Lenore called the meeting to order and a round of introductions followed.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Lori Heringa, who had been on the agenda, was out sick. Lenore announced the approval of the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge and said that she wanted to discuss it in more detail in an upcoming meeting.

3.0 Approval of Minutes from June 6, 2012

The minutes were approved as written.

4.0 Coordinating Committees Update

Mike Sullivan reported on the June 13 Regional Coordinating Committee meeting. The Local Coordinating Committee had not met since May.

5.0 Legislative Update

Gordon Smith gave the legislative update instead of Ylda Capriccioso, who was originally on the agenda. He said that the legislative working groups CMAP had had meetings with previously would be reconvened and appealed to ENR for coordination regarding the legislative agenda. In response to a member's question about the veto session, Gordon said that CMAP had no activity planned beyond support for IDNR's sustainability package. When asked about funding issues, he indicated that CMAP's funding was sound for the present year. A member noted that McHenry County plans to work on farmland preservation. Another brought up the plastic bag bill, suggesting that

it was a bad bill that limited the ability of local governments to regulate more stringently than the state.

6.0 Review of Kane County's local food and farmland activities

Janie Maxwell and Janice Hill gave presentations on the Kane County Fit for Kids initiative and the Fit Kids 2020 Plan, referring to a PowerPoint presentation. Kane County is seeking local endorsement for the plan. The county has had significant success in starting community gardens. It is the ten-year anniversary of the Kane County farmland protection program, with over 5,1000 acres protected and \$33 million invested. Yet most farms in the county are large-scale corn/soybean farms rather than farms producing food for local consumption. The Farm Bill is biased against small farms. The county is looking to amend the farmland protection ordinance to bring emphasis to local food production , small farms, and organic growers. The Development Department is also involved in the Health Impact Assessment that the Health Department is carrying out.

7.1 CMAP local foods program update

Jason gave a presentation on CMAP's work in encouraging local food production in Lake County, referring to a PowerPoint presentation. He also showed a five-minute video on local foods recently produced by CMAP.

7.2 Local Technical Assistance (LTA) projects: overview of applications from the August 2012 call for projects

Hala indicated that CMAP had received 109 project requests from 88 applicants, with 28 from communities that reapplied for new projects. CMAP would be taking preliminary project recommendations to the Transportation Committee the following week. A member expressed concern regarding the role and activities of the ENR committee considering that the committee could have had more substantive discussion and review of the LTA project applications before selection. Other committee members concurred.

8.0 Other business

None.

9.0 Public comment

None.

10.0 Next meeting

Members suggested discussions of Hackmatack and the Millennium Reserve.

11.0 Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

Jesse Elam, CMAP staff liaison