



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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**Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Environment and Natural Resources Committee
Minutes
Thursday, March 3, 2016**

Offices of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Lake County Conference Room
Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois

Committee Members

Present: Lynn Boerman – IDNR, Ed Collins – McHenry County Conservation District, Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Jackie Forbes – Kane County Division of Transportation, Jon Grosshans – U.S. EPA, Joe Schuessler – MWRD, Vincent Waller (for Deb Stone) – Cook County Department of Environmental Control, Chris Mulvaney (for Suzanne Malec-McKenna), Stacy Meyers – Openlands, Sean Wiedel – Chicago Department of Transportation, Patricia Werner – Lake County Stormwater Management Commission

Absent: Pete Harmet – IDOT, Wallace Van Buren – IAWA, Moira Zellner – University of Illinois-Chicago

Others Present: Elaine Bottomley – WCGL, Steve Simmons – Sierra Club, John Donovan – FHWA

Staff Present: Joe Szabo, Jason Navota, Kate Evasic, Kristin Ihnchak, Louise Yeung, Brian Daly, Elizabeth Irvin, Nora Beck

1.0 Call to Order

Sean Wiedel called the meeting to order at approximately 9:30 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

- **Next Meeting.** The next committee meeting will be held jointly with the Land Use Committee on Thursday, April 14 at 9:30 a.m.
- **ON TO 2050 Update.** Kristin Ihnchak, referring to [this memo](#), explained that CMAP staff will be giving the CMAP Board and Committees regular detailed updates on the various components of ON TO 2050 plan development.

3.0 Approval of Minutes – February 4, 2016

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 4 meeting was made by Jackie Forbes, seconded by Lynn Boerman, and with all in favor, carried.

4.0 ON TO 2050: Place-Based Approach—Pilot Layers – Brian Daly, CMAP Staff

At the Committee's January meeting, staff described potential [place-based approaches](#) and recommended the use of "layers" (data layers and mapping, along with pertinent spatially-based recommendations) for key topics in the next long-range plan. To explore the layers concept more concretely, staff are moving forward with the development of two "pilot layers" – locally identified priority reinvestment areas and high quality natural resource areas – to explore how the approach might work and estimate the level of effort that may be required to incorporate the layers concept into the next plan.

Using a [powerpoint presentation](#), Daly provided a brief overview of the layers approach and then provided more background on each of the two pilot layers – locally-identified priority reinvestment areas and high quality natural resource areas. CMAP staff will be reviewing existing local plans to identify locally defined priority to create a draft map of reinvestment areas to inform the next regional plan. Daly then reviewed the natural areas pilot layer and explained it would be more data driven than the reinvestment areas but still rely on the existing county green infrastructure plans to identify local priorities. He then went into more detail of potential data sources that could be used to identify high quality natural areas and explained that the underlying data sources of the Green Infrastructure Vision would be a starting point with updates and new relevant information incorporated as well.

ENR committee members had a number of suggested resources and approaches:

- Village of Schaumburg has a Biodiversity Plan
- Lake County is in the process of developing a Wetland Restoration Plan and the initial data layer is complete (contact Mike Prusilla)
- Watershed Plans provide a good inventory.
- Chicago Wilderness SWOT work and the Oak Study
- IDNR's Wildlife Action Plan
- NRCS Hydric soils will help identify the best opportunities for wetland restoration.
- Openlands study on Headwaters (contact Ders Anderson)
- Lake County hydrography layer (contact Patty)
- Audubon grassland bird habitats, region provides a critical space for these species.
- Illinois and some counties already have a Natural Area Inventory. Already in Ecocat.
- Coverage -- need to ensure that the layer identifies the three main natural communities in the region and aquatic life.
- Biologically Significant Streams lacks data on headwater or smaller streams.

Outside of potential data sources, ENR committee members asked a number of questions and made comments on the following key topics:

- Type of reinvestment – Daly clarified that the layer is focused on land development, versus some other type of infrastructure or energy investment.
- Support for the Priority Reinvestment Areas – This layer could help emphasize the reinvestment angle; that the plan wouldn't just be about the big ticket items. Also, it would have a more action-oriented focus.
- Support for Restoration – Value in identifying restoration opportunities distinct from the existing high quality areas. Several Forest Preserve Districts have done

this in their plan; Lake County has some 30,000 acres that are currently being farmed. See earlier point about hydric soils.

- Data gaps – are there ways we can use other data sources as proxies when we don't have enough information? See earlier point about streams.

5.0 ON TO 2050: Green Infrastructure Co-Benefits – Louise Yeung, CMAP Staff

CMAP has developed a [draft strategy paper](#) that provides a policy framework for addressing green infrastructure in the next regional plan. CMAP aims to strengthen the connection of green infrastructure policies across scales of planning, from regional to community to site levels. Yeung explained that this was the first draft strategy paper completed for the next plan. She also stepped through some of the main points the committee made at earlier stages of their review. Using a [powerpoint presentation](#) and referring to the draft paper itself, Yeung summarized the structure and content of the strategy.

The ENR committee provided detailed feedback, on the following points:

- Rename non-traditional green space – recommended a better phrase for referring to these spaces.
- Make a stronger link to climate mitigation and adaptation, go deeper on the transportation section of the paper, mention urban flooding and how more properties are impacted by this than riverine flooding.
- Emphasize how green infrastructure cannot be put in a box, or thought of as an afterthought or add on at the end of a project. It needs to permeate all stages of design.
- Incorporating a “what if” analysis or providing an assessment of what could be achieved if goals were met. In terms of stormwater, need to build a connection to the decision-makers. For example, if the 10,000 rain gardens program was applied to our region....
- Balance of stormwater capture and habitat.
- Core-Hub-Corridor concept at the municipal scale with a new water ethic.
- Discussion of Cost Savings and how BMPs can reduce CSOs and substantial infrastructure costs. MWRD has information on this.
- Discussion about investigating regulatory drivers to help implementation, such as the CSO control Plans
- Ecological cores, need to stress that we cannot allow roads to go through these areas, that alternative routes have to be found.
- Restoring wetlands in each watershed where they used to be needs to be a regional priority. Ed will send ideas for identifying restoration priorities.
- GSI in commercial land uses – need to break the high I.C. design of big box stores.
- Changing role of stormwater and how it can help us in water supply
- Self-driving cars, technology will produce an opportunity to change the way we design our streets. Ihnchak explained that CMAP will be looking into potential technological impacts.
- Pollinators and the importance of native landscaping
- Implementation – incorporate who the leads and supporting actors could be in each of the sections of the paper.

- Include health benefits, biofilia even at the site level.
- Recommendation to combine the two impervious cover maps and could take the floodplains off.
- Rate of impervious cover change, could include existing numbers and where we want to end up.

6.0 Illinois Route 53/120 Corridor Land Use Strategy – Jason Navota, CMAP Staff

CMAP partnered with Lake County, the Illinois Tollway, corridor communities, and other stakeholders on a corridor land use plan for Illinois Route 53 and Illinois Route 120, as recommended by the Blue Ribbon Advisory Council in 2012. The corridor planning process engaged municipalities to plan for the potential market-driven development that can result from such a major transportation infrastructure investment, as well as the potential impact on quality of life and the environment. Using a [powerpoint presentation](#), Navota provided background on the history of the proposed road and the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Advisory Council. He explained the structure and process the team used as well as the objectives of the corridor land use strategy. Navota provided details on how the ecological network was considered within the strategy, including the identification of core landscapes and opportunity landscapes and the corresponding data that defined the categories. He also summarized the market forecast for the region and the focus on providing a land use mix that met market realities. The strategy uses a zone framework with specific recommendations and development typologies for key areas located within each zone.

ENR committee members discussed a number of items related to the Blue Ribbon Advisory Council and how this was an innovative approach. Members discussed how some think that the strategy doesn't go far enough to protect natural resources and how communities don't want to bind themselves to the plan. Committee members asked clarifying questions about the next steps; the tollway has asked IDOT to do the EIS. Committee members asked about the voting results and what was motivating specific communities to vote for or against the strategy. Committee members see value in the existing conditions assessment and the mapping of the natural resources in the area. The strategy will go for adoption in November and the IGA by the end of the year. Lake County will be the organizing lead.

7.0 Other Business.

No other business.

8.0 Public Comment

None.

9.0 Next Meeting

The ENR Committee will be Thursday, April 14, 2016.

10.0 Adjournment