



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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**Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)  
Joint Environment and Natural Resources and Land Use Committee  
Minutes  
Thursday, August 4, 2016**

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

**Members Present:** Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg (via phone), Jennifer Becker (for Jackie Forbes) – Kane County Division of Transportation, Danielle Gallet – Metropolitan Planning Council, David Leopold – UI Labs, Stacy Meyers – Openlands (via phone), Joe Schuessler – MWRD, Kim Wasserman-Nieto – Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, Mike Warner – Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, Sean Wiedel – Chicago Department of Transportation, Moira Zellner – University of Illinois-Chicago

**Members Absent:** Lynn Boerman – IDNR, Ed Collins – McHenry County Conservation District, Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Jon Grosshans – U.S. EPA, Pete Harmet – IDOT, Suzanne Malec-McKenna – Chicago Wilderness, Deb Stone – Cook County Department of Environmental Control

**Staff Present:** Nora Beck (staff liaison for ENR), Kristin Ihnchak, Elizabeth Irvin, Jason Navota, Brian Daly, Anthony Cefali, Kate Evasic, Taylor LaFave

**Others Present:** Andy Donakowski – Friends of the Chicago River, Dawn Thompson – Center for Neighborhood Technology, Mike Klemens – Will County Governmental League

## 1.0 Call to Order

Sean Wiedel called the meeting to order at approximately 9:33 a.m.

## 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

- David Leopold and Kim Wasserman-Nieto have joined the committee and attended their first meeting.

## 3.0 Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 7 meeting was made by Joe Schuessler, seconded by Sean Wiedel. The date on the minutes was incorrect and later adjusted. The motion carried with all in favor.

## 5.0 ON TO 2050: Water Strategy Paper – Jason Navota, CMAP Staff

Water 2050 and GO TO 2040 recognized the water supply, water quality, and flooding challenges facing the region and emphasized demand management and resource protection strategies. CMAP is exploring new approaches that could be undertaken to achieve an integrated approach to water resource management. Jason presented a [scope](#) for a water strategy paper to explore this topic further in ON TO 2050. As Jason stepped through the scope components, committee members discussed the following points:

- Given one water policy framework, why the separation of stormwater into another strategy paper. Stormwater, and specifically urban flooding, could be explored further in another paper given lack of previous policy work by CMAP.
- Explore both point-source and non-point source pollution and integration of solutions.
- Resource recover, such as phosphorus, biosolids, and water reuse
- Map of combined sewer service areas. Lake County is largely separated now, except for potential illegal connections. New permit requirements should include this information. Watershed plans often detail this information. MWRD has a combined sewer atlas. Target requests to specific sanitary districts.
- Connection between water supply and quality with transportation investments. CMAP is contemplating how to cover this in the environmental evaluation for regionally-significant transportation projects. Also should consider the impacts of chlorides from road salt use.
- Review of developments of regional significance and impacts of the proposed Great Lakes freight corridor just outside of the 7-county region.
- Data stewardship. Need to explore how to integrate available data and coordinate between partners so people are making decisions based on the best available data.
- Climate change and how that will be addressed in the water strategy paper. Will be addressed, but maybe more directly addressed in the stormwater strategy paper.
- Headwater streams and the missing data we have on these and potential implications for land use planning.
- Water quality and habitat has the best connection to stormwater. Importance of retrofitting existing development areas for the water quality benefits.
- Updating stormwater model ordinances. Could be a potential recommendation and would therefore be an implementation step.
- Importance of water supply and how CMAP as the MPO is a good organization to lead regional coordination and provide data as well as provide best practices for the municipal scale, such as salting practices and water loss auditing. However, CMAP has no funding for additional analysis of this work, though there may be potential from IDNR.
- Explore mechanisms to incentivize conservation practices in locations that cannot support development, particularly higher densities.

## 6.0 Regional Stormwater Analysis – Nora Beck, CMAP Staff

CMAP has been developing a spatial approach to identify areas within a community that have a higher risk of localized flooding in order to better integrate stormwater management into local decisions about land use and development. With guidance from the Conservation Design Forum and Geosyntec, CMAP recently began working on re-adapting this spatial approach to a larger scale to identify priority clusters across the 7-

county region with the greatest stormwater mitigation needs. Using a [powerpoint presentation](#), Nora provided a summary of the context, the policy framework of GO TO 2040, and an update on the evolving approach. She also solicited committee feedback on priority areas to consider in the stormwater management strategy paper for ON TO 2050. Committee members discussed the following points:

- Synergy with regional and local analysis. The regional analysis is based on the approach developed for the local analysis, but the datasets differ slightly based on regional availability. In addition, the results of the local analysis have been used to check the regional analysis.
- Changes happening all the time, either upstream or in changing precipitation levels.
- Would help to visualize the causes to then understand what the solutions are and coordinate them together. Addressing the causes, like protecting upstream areas from further development, could be cheaper.
- Value of putting this data together for community engagement. CMAP can identify a number of internal practices, showcase a toolbox, and provide best practice recommendations for communities, but ultimately implementation will rest with local efforts. Discussed how to coordinate local efforts and the importance of bringing together these groups to talk about the shared issues. Some Cook County communities are executing / following the new WMO provisions quite well, others need more assistance.
- Connection to other CMAP priorities. The regional risk map has value for emergency planning, infill goals, etc.
- Cross connection with water quality and redevelopment goals. TMDLs mandates and the connection with flooding issues.
- Connection with green infrastructure and chlorides.

#### 7.0 ON TO 2050: Alternative Futures Scenario Planning – Elizabeth Irvin, CMAP Staff

As discussed during the Committee’s July meeting, CMAP is using an alternative futures scenario planning approach for ON TO 2050, which will identify existing and emerging trends with the potential to impact regional priorities. CMAP staff has been working to identify the universe of trends that might impact the region and has created an initial list of potential alternative future scenarios to explore. Using a [powerpoint presentation](#), Elizabeth shared the initial topics and asked the committee to provide feedback on the level of impact and likelihood of the identified environmental and land use trends.

Committee members discussed the following points:

- **Intensified climate change impacts:** consider inclusion of disparate impacts on vulnerable populations and effects on soft infrastructure, like public services (e.g., health and social services, etc.), public finances, and community networks. When the final major trends list is determined and then evaluated, the information presented more publicly needs to be clear about how these impacts affect the region.
- **More efficient and resilient energy system:** concern that this trend will overemphasize the role technology can play in the solutions. Smart technology and efficiency alone is not the silver bullet, as we see how it often isn’t able to change behavior. In fact, increased efficiency may even lead to increased consumption. Discussion should also consider the role (and need for) regulations that create

incentives (both for individuals as well as institutions and providers) for decreasing energy consumption or improving efficiency. References to the Clean Power Plan should include discussion on equity being a component of that plan. Discussion should also include carbon sequestration as well as the water-energy nexus. Could refocus this – or have as a new trend -- to be more about decentralization of traditionally centralized systems, which could then in turn broaden this from energy to include water, government financing, community impacts etc. In that case, we should also talk about new financing vehicles in a decentralized environment.

- **Smarter, more responsive built infrastructure and land use monitoring:** Need to get more health and environmental impacts integrated in land use and development decisions. Connections with monitoring could help decision making. Discussion of this trend should also consider the institutionalization, leadership, and funding of strategies. For example, consider efforts to have monitoring be a part of zoning and permitting process, led by municipalities (currently, that is something groups are advocating for). Discussion about air and water quality impacts and the different financing and time scales associated with these decisions.
- **Constrained water supply:** Expand constraints listed for groundwater sources to include quality in addition to quantity as the shallow groundwater aquifers are seeing increased levels of chlorides from road salting practices and other land use contamination. Also, explore the impact on development and transportation patterns if there is no feasible alternative to current groundwater sources (so, consider the scenario that there is *no* surface water in some areas).
- **Transitioning natural and agricultural lands:** Clarification that this one is where the trend to develop agricultural and natural lands continues. Expand on impacts of this scenario on the conservation process—for example, funding drying up for permanent conservation efforts. In discussion of trend, acknowledge that there is support for conservation (70% voter ratio stat).
- **Preference for suburban lifestyles:** Note that some of the migration to suburbs is not a result of preference but of rising cost of living in cities. Explore the interaction between this scenario and climate change impacts, noting that suburban areas may be less prepared for climate impacts.
- **Investment in mixed-use centers:** (time didn't allow for discussion on this item).

Committee members reflected on the list of 7 macro trends and how 6 of them are more anthropocentric, in terms of the way that the trend itself can be altered by local actions. While there are clear mitigation strategies that should be executed locally for climate change, it will largely be a trend that we are responding to. Committee members also recommended that discussion for each of the trends include concrete examples of impacts to residents (e.g., more water main breaks due to climate change impacts). Across each of the trends, including ones beyond the environment and land use (e.g., freight intermodalism), members urged CMAP to consider disparate impacts. There may be an uptick in areas that are being proactive in incorporating equity goals into larger policies and activities (e.g., New York City's most recent waste policy and Long Beach's port policies related to environment justice). The Chicago region, however, remains reactive.

After the discussion, committee members were invited to identify the macro trends they find to be the most likely and the most significant. Of the 7 discussed at this meeting, the intensified climate change impacts and constrained water supply were identified as the most significant, and the constrained water supply and transitioning agricultural and natural lands were identified the most likely.

**8.0 Other Business.**

None

**9.0 Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**10.0 Next Meeting**

The ENR Committee is scheduled to next meet on Thursday, September 1, 2016.

**11.0 Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nora Beck (ENR Committee Liaison)  
August 5, 2016