



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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**Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
Environment and Natural Resources Committee
DRAFT Minutes
Thursday, January 4, 2018**

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 (via phone) – Village of Schaumburg, Jackie Forbes – Kane County Division of Transportation, Stacy Meyers (via phone) – Openlands, Mike Prusila – Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, Joe Schuessler – MWRD, Mike Sullivan – IDOT, Sean Wiedel – Chicago Department of Transportation, Nancy Williamson – IDNR

Members Absent: Ed Collins – McHenry County Conservation District, Keary Cragan – U.S. EPA, Jack Darin – Illinois Sierra Club, Deb Stone – Cook County Department of Environmental Control, Danielle Gallet – Metropolitan Planning Council, David Leopold – UI Labs, Kim Wasserman-Nieto – Little Village Environmental Justice Organization, Moira Zellner – University of Illinois-Chicago

Staff Present: Nora Beck, Brian Daly, Kate Evasic, Holly Hudson, Jared Patton, Kelsey Pudlock, Joe Szabo

Others Present: Jack Cruikshank – Will County Governmental League

1.0 Call to Order

Sean Wiedel called the meeting to order at approximately 9:35 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Stormwater and Flooding Strategy Paper: Nora thanked the committee for their feedback on the strategy paper, which is set to be [released](#) later this week. CMAP will also be posting the data behind the Regional Flooding Susceptibility Indexes to the [CMAP DataHub](#).

3.0 Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 2 meeting was made by Mike Prusila, seconded by Joe Schuessler. The motion carried with all in favor.

4.0 Climate science in local planning – Brian Daly, CMAP staff

CMAP is working with APA on a project on “Incorporating Local Climate Science to Help Communities Plan for Climate Extremes” under a grant funded by NOAA. Through the LTA program, CMAP is assisting five communities to incorporate climate data into comprehensive plans, stormwater plans, subarea plans, and capital improvement plans (CIPs) by completing a vulnerability assessment for each community. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Brian provided an overview of the project. Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions and had the following comments:

- **Availability of data and tools:** Noting reliance on federal data sources, the committee discussed the viability of some of the datasets and tools currently available. Staff have recognized this and also noted that most of the existing tools are focused on climate impacts in coastal areas.
- **Communicating with communities:** While the audience for this specific project has been planning professionals, CMAP staff have learned from the pilot communities about the need to connect back the climate data and recommendations to cost savings. In addition, community partners have stressed the need to have all of the climate data backed up with sources. It’s been a bit easier than perhaps predicted because communities have an understanding of their historical natural hazards. Committee member recommended the use of local press to get the word out about climate change.
- **Open space protection:** Committee members noted that the ecosystem services provided by existing open space are important but the plans must also recognize that climate change is impacting them as well and their ability to provide those same services may diminish over time. The assessments should stress the need for restoration and maintenance in order to retain these assets. The committee also noted the importance of natural resources and open space for recreation and local tourist economies.
- **Value of natural areas and costs of providing those services separately:** Committee discussed different ways to communicate the value of existing services and the potential for additional open space as part of the solution. Limitations with the GIV 2.3 ecosystem service valuation means that data cannot be used at a small scale. Recommendation to review Tom Price’s calculation comparing the services provided by different open areas versus an impervious lot in terms of stormwater management.

5.0 Watershed planning – Lower Salt Creek and Mill Creek – Holly Hudson, CMAP staff

Supported by a Clean Water Act Section 604(b) planning grant from IEPA, CMAP has been working with project partners [DuPage County Stormwater Management](#) and [DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup](#) to develop a watershed-based plan for the Lower Salt Creek Watershed. This project is nearing completion and a working draft of the [plan](#) is available for download. CMAP is in the beginning phases of starting a watershed-based plan for Mill Creek. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Holly provided an update on these plans. Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions and had the following comments:

- **Format of stakeholder engagement:** Committee members relayed their experiences with different advisory committee structures and related outreach strategies to involve both municipal and advocacy stakeholders as well as property owners in the watershed planning process. The structure has varied based on conditions, but several have had success with separate steering and citizen committees to build more participation among watershed residents.
- **Lower Salt Creek TMDL.** Discussion over whether Salt Creek TMDLs were useful for the Lower Salt Creek Watershed-based Plan. While they are separate planning efforts, pollutant load reductions resulting from projects and programs identified in the watershed-based plan and subsequently implemented will be tracked by the DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup.

6.0 Water supply planning – Nora Beck, CMAP

With support from IDNR, CMAP is undertaking four new water supply planning projects in the first half of 2018 with the help of the Metropolitan Planning Council and Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant. The projects include updating the regional water demand forecast, working on a strategic plan with the Public Water Commission (Joliet area), outlining shared water supply governance options for Oswego, Montgomery, and Yorkville, and updating a Lake Michigan permittee water loss tool. Using a PowerPoint presentation, Nora provided an overview of the four projects. Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions and made the following comments:

- **Capturing the impacts of high water use development:** New development proposals, particularly for industrial development, should be reviewed in light of potential impacts on existing wells and the long term viability of a community's drinking water supply. Through the water resources strategy paper, CMAP called for adequate funding and community utilization of ISWS review of new withdrawals. Committee members expressed concern that communities are not aware of these issues, particularly smaller communities.
- **Coordination with Freight and Intermodal planning efforts:** Recommendation to include water supply planning goals within regional freight planning to avoid overwithdrawal in specific areas. Also recognize this issue in economic cluster analysis.
- **Coordination within Lake Michigan:** Some communities currently treating their own Lake Michigan water are evaluating purchasing water to reduce costs. Potential for shared services and consolidation also exists with Lake Michigan permittees.

- **Potential of water reuse:** Communities need to recognize the value of their wastewater as they continue to face water supply issues. Regionally, as more users look to the Fox River, coordination on meeting low flow standards will be essential.

7.0 Other Business.

None.

8.0 Public Comment

None.

9.0 Next Meeting

The next ENR Committee is scheduled for Thursday, February 1, 2018.

10.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nora Beck (ENR Committee Liaison)
January 4, 2018