



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

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## Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) Environment and Natural Resources Committee Minutes Thursday, February 1, 2018

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

**Members Present:** Ed Collins – McHenry County Conservation District, Keary Cragan – U.S. EPA, Jackie Forbes – Kane County Division of Transportation, Stacy Meyers – Openlands, Joe Schuessler – MWRD, Mike Sullivan – IDOT, Mike Warner – Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, Sean Wiedel – Chicago Department of Transportation,

**Members Absent:** Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, 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, Nancy Williamson – IDNR, Moira Zellner – University of Illinois-Chicago

**Staff Present:** Lindsay Bayley, Nora Beck, Kate Evasic, Kristin Ihnchak, Ricardo Lopez, Jared Patton, Elizabeth Schuh

**Others Present:** Garland Armstrong – Access Living, Laura Oakleaf – Cook County

### 1.0 Call to Order

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

### 2.0 Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 1 meeting was made by Joe Schuessler, seconded by Jackie Forbes. The motion carried with all in favor.

### 4.0 ON TO 2050 Drafting Process – Elizabeth Schuh, CMAP staff

CMAP has begun drafting ON TO 2050 in earnest and seeks robust feedback from stakeholders to inform the plan's recommendations. Using a presentation, Liz provided an overview of the general review process and how the ENR Committee will be involved. Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions and had the following comments:

- Requested to see the Land Use chapter and/or relevant sections of the draft.

- Requested to be on the email list to receive notification of when draft plan chapters are released.
- Asked about the format of the draft plan chapters, noting that PDF copies can be hard to comment on.

#### 5.0 ON TO 2050 Natural Resources Snapshot – Jared Patton, CMAP staff

As part of ON TO 2050 development, CMAP is preparing a Natural Resources Snapshot, which will provide an overview of key trends impacting natural resources in the region. Using a presentation, Jared provided an overview of the snapshot. Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions and had the following comments:

- **Access to parks information.** Committee members asked for clarification on what and how parks were included in the analysis and recommended that that information be made more clear in the snapshot. Committee members discussed the recreational opportunities of the forest preserve district lands and how that value could be articulated in the snapshot and/or update of the access to parks indicator. Could look to the work of the Cook County Forest Preserve Districts, Next Century Conservation Plan to qualitatively discuss this issue in the snapshot. Staff discussed that the access to parks layer is really focused on walkability to neighborhood parks and that other efforts might better make this connection to natural lands. Could look to the work of the Cook County Forest Preserve Districts, Next Century Conservation Plan
- **Access to water trails.** Water trails are an important asset and should be included as regional trails, and/or as a way to access natural areas.
- **Graphical issues.** The size of the legends and the notes providing more details on the charts and maps are too small.
- **Flooding susceptibility indexes.** Review how the potential application of the indexes is discussed in the Stormwater and Flooding Strategy paper so that its use in open space acquisition decisions is more clear.
- **Lake Michigan allocation.** Committee members discussed recent decisions about waterway management with MWRD. The Natural Resources snapshot relies on analysis conducted as part of Water 2050.
- **Conservation areas.** This layer is not shown in the Natural Resources snapshot given that the layer is still in development. However, the inclusion of the Oak ecosystem mapping was discussed as an important feature.

#### 6.0 ON TO 2050 Layers Approach – Lindsay Bayley, CMAP

In developing ON TO 2050, CMAP aims to provide actionable guidance or local implementers of policy recommendations. CMAP developed the place-based layers approach to deliver contextual information on how strategies relate to local communities. Using a presentation, Lindsay provided an update on the layers approach and give more information on the data layers that most directly relate to the environment. Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions and made the following comments:

- **Connecting strategies to locations.** Staff added clarification that while the layers are based on data, their role in the planning process is 2-fold – data about conditions and connecting relevant policy recommendations to those conditions. For the latter, CMAP is thinking the layers will help navigate stakeholders to recommendations relevant for their area. For example, while the full and complicated picture of water quality is not

depicted in the impervious cover by catchment map, the map is useful to connect more spatially appropriate recommendations about preserving and enhancing water quality.

- **Conservation areas layer.** Discussion about how large mosaic preservation goals, such as Hackmatack and Kankakee plans can be incorporated into the layer. Discussion about how to reflect the restorative and visionary aspects of the GIV into the conservation areas layer. Discussed the role of headwater streams, and the need for an inventory similar to the INAI.
- **Combining layers.** Committee members saw value in being able to combine different spatial layers to point out specific opportunities within the region. For example, being able to see the trails plan on top of the conservation areas map could highlight specific design strategies or goals that a local decision-maker could consider.

#### **7.0 ON TO 2050 Health Equity Strategy Paper – Ricardo Lopez, CMAP**

With funding support from the Chicago Community Trust, CMAP partnered with Adler University Institute on Social Inclusion to develop a strategy paper on Health Equity to inform ON TO 2050. This strategy paper articulates how a health equity lens will be incorporated into strategies across ON TO 2050 topic areas. Using a presentation, Ricardo provided an overview of the process for developing the strategy paper and discussed proposed strategy areas. Committee members asked a number of clarifying questions and made the following comments:

- **Healthy Schools Campaign.** Recommendation to reflect the work of the Healthy Schools Campaign in the strategies.
- **Water Quality.** Recommendation to recognize the impact of CSOs and other pollutants have on public health.
- **Data on access to facilities and health care.** Recent work on mapping out pharmacy deserts was mentioned. Stakeholders involved in the process want to see a health index developed. CMAP is exploring what data the agency needs and how partners have been able to process data about health and health access.

#### **8.0 Other Business.**

None.

#### **9.0 Public Comment**

Referencing the Health Equity discussion, Mr. Armstrong discussed the need for improved sidewalks so that people with disabilities can access different parts of the community. He strongly supports efforts to improve air and water quality. Poor air quality can impact those with respiratory conditions. He recommended CMAP improve outreach efforts to the disabled community as they need to know more about environmental conditions that may affect them.

#### **10.0 Next Meeting**

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

#### **11.0 Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Nora Beck (ENR Committee Liaison)  
February 1, 2018