



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

233 South Wacker Drive
Suite 800, Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60606

312-454-0400 (voice)
312-454-0411 (fax)
www.chicagoareaplanning.org

Northeastern Illinois Regional Water Supply Planning Group

January 23, 2007 10:00 a.m.

Cook County Conference Room
Suite 800, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Sears Tower, Chicago, Illinois

Present:

Robert Abboud-President, The Village of Barrington Hills, William Borgo-Mayor of Manhattan, Conor Brown-Government Affairs Director, Illinois Assoc. of Realtors, John Church-County Board member, Karen Darch-President, Village of Barrington, Joe Deal-Assistant to the Mayor, Jeffrey Edstrom-Project Planner, GeoSyntec Consultants, Scott Goldstein-VP of Policy and Planning, Metropolitan Planning Council, Jeffrey Greenspan-Senior Project Manager, The Trust for Public Land, Martin Jaffe-Director and Associate Professor, University of Illinois Chicago, Alan Jirik-Director of Corporate Regulatory Affairs, Corn Products International, Inc., Mike Kenyon Farmer-Kane County Board member, Ken Koehler-County Board Chairman, Karl Kruse- County Board Chairman, Robert Martin-General Manager, DuPage Water Commission, Karen McConnaughay- Chair, Kane County Board, Daniel McLaughlin- President, Village of Orland Park, Marshall Newhouse, County Board member, Joyce O'Keefe-Deputy Director, Openlands Project, S. Louis Rathje-Chairman, DuPage Water Commission, Lynn Rotunno- Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter McHenry County Defenders, Jeffrey Schuh-Senior VP, Patrick Engineering, Inc., Sergio Serafino-Supervising Civil Engineer, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of GC, Jack Sheaffer-Principal, Sheaffer International, L.L.C., Patrick Smith-General Counsel, Deer Point Homes, Bonnie Thomson Carter-County Board member, Ruth Anne Tobias-County Board Chair, Peter Wallers-President, Engineering Enterprises, Inc., Thomas Weisner-Mayor of Aurora

Others Present:

Randy Blankenhorn, Gary Clark, Ed Glatfelter, Tim Loftus, Don Keefer, Paul Schuch, Ron Thomas, Mark Williams

I. Welcome and Overview of Agenda:

CMAP Project Manager Tim Loftus called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was in the Cook County Conference Room at the office of Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, 233 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 800, Sears Tower, Chicago, Illinois.

II. Opening Comments and Introductions:

Chair McConnaughay opened the meeting advising that a leading historical precedent for the water supply planning process in a similar initiative undertaken by Kane County, in cooperation with the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS), starting in 2002. Dr. Loftus gave a brief overview of the agenda. Randy Blankenhorn, Executive Director of CMAP, thanked the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for the opportunity to facilitate the deliberations of the Regional Water Supply Planning Group (RWSPG) and gave a brief explanation of CMAP's origin and charge, emphasizing that the RWSPG is a policy-recommending body that should consider CMAP its staff. The members of the RWSPG introduced themselves.

III. Review/Discuss Regional Water Supply Planning Group (RWSPG) Purpose and Themes:

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, Dr. Loftus described CMAP's charge in the process as (1) fostering the creation of the RWSPG; (2) developing water demand scenarios to 2050; (3) helping the RWSPG evaluate management options; and (4) outreach and education. As for the RWSPG, Chair McConnaughay indicated that its responsibilities were to (1) participate in the water supply planning process as a regional voice; (2) consult with CMAP during the development of the demand scenarios; (3) develop, evaluate, and rank management options; and (4) conduct outreach. She noted that these points are outlined in the operational guidelines distributed at the meeting.

Dr. Loftus summarized the themes from stakeholder caucus sessions at the Regional Water Supply Planning Open Forum held in Oak Brook on November 17, reporting that four common themes had emerged: (1) the need for good planning / sustainable development; (2) the need for improved public awareness and participation; (3) a concern for practical issues regarding implementation of the RWSPG's plan, (i.e., thinking ahead to capacity and responsibility for implementation); and (4) water quality and resource protection.

Dr. Loftus agreed with a statement made to define terms like *sustainable*, adding that CMAP would work on producing a definition of *sustainability* for the RWSPG.

IV. Partner Agency Roles and Responsibilities:

Chair McConnaughay introduced each of the partner agencies.

Gary Clark, Director of IDNR-Office of Water Resources (IDNR-OWR) reported that Executive Order 06-01 gave IDNR-OWR and the state surveys the responsibility to begin state-level water supply planning and thanked CMAP for its involvement in the

project. Referring to the presentation given by Bill Mullican of the Texas Water Development Board at the Open Forum, Clark advised that Illinois would try to follow the Texas model of water supply planning as closely as practicable, also noting that IDNR-OWR will be going through its 10–15 year reevaluation of Lake Michigan allocations, which will answer the question of how much lake water is available and will feed into the RWSPG planning process.

Ed Glatfelter, Water Supply Planner for the Illinois State Water Survey (ISWS), described the ISWS's role in the process as using prior, ongoing, and future research to evaluate the availability of groundwater and surface water in the Fox Basin as well as analyzing the demand scenarios CMAP will be developing. Glatfelter added that he would be the coordinator of the surveys' technical support to the RWSPG, and that both ISWS and the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) are developing a website for the water supply project.

Don Keefer, project manager for the ISGS, representing Chief Bill Stilts, described the ISGS role as technical support to the RWSPG, stating that while water supply problems would have to be solved eventually at the local level, the ISGS would concentrate on the translation of regional studies, to local well field management. Keefer also emphasized that the RWSPG, as the policy body, should direct the ISGS to focus on certain research topics, as some questions that the RWSPG needs answered would not be obvious to the state surveys (and vice versa).

Questions raised by participants, including the following were fielded by those representing the partner agencies. How would the surveys be work together and whether there would be a great deal of handshake or only some overlap? What does the region actually know about water availability and what could the state surveys do with the data currently available to them? Are the surveys resources sufficient for the project task? How will data collection and research be approached? The level of knowledge the surveys have about water availability statewide was also questioned. While the surveys have identified many research work items that have yet to be funded, some will probably not be completed by the end of the current project. Asked whether the RWSPG would receive a confidence level on data, the response was affirmative. Asked whether there would be information available showing areas of data deficiency in McHenry County, and if so whether the County could contribute funds to fill such gaps, there is such a list statewide, but not for McHenry County specifically.

Finally, a suggestion was made that the RWSPG develop a list of questions for the surveys to answer to focus their research and guide their work. Dr. Loftus said he wanted to remind the RWSPG that the thrust of the survey's work is improving the understanding of the bedrock aquifer, shallow groundwater, and surface water in the Fox River basin.

A question regarding the \$2 million spent by Kane County compared to the present project was raised. Keefer responded that the surveys were also supplying their own

budgets beyond the governor's project funding. Also asked was why the surveys were not addressing the Rock River or even the Chicago River, with Clark responding that these rivers would eventually be addressed and that many early models were available.

Another suggestion was made that training on the issues be made available to RWSPG members, as they come from a variety of disciplines.

Additional questions included: whether the 2050 demand scenarios would take into account climate change. The response was affirmative. It was also suggested to coordinate the timelines for the demand projects and the availability study.

V. RWSPG Operational Guidelines:

Ron Thomas, Deputy Executive Director for Planning-CMAP presented the draft operational guidelines for the group. Thomas stated that the RWSPG should look at itself as a hands-on working group and that, as the process moves forward, more of the dialog should be between RWSPG members themselves. The guidelines were introduced, with Thomas stating that most decisions would hopefully be reached by consensus. However, Thomas added, the guidelines do have a supermajority component. He suggested looking at the current effort as an ongoing process and reminded the group that that Bill Mullican had counseled the region not to expect too much too soon. Transportation planning, for example, is a process that requires a full plan every ten years with one or two updates in between. Thomas said he hoped to have learning experiences available to the RWSPG, such as field trips and speakers from other states and locales.

After having read the draft guidelines, Patrick Smith suggested that if the RWSPG was not in immediate need of a governance structure, he would make a motion to form a drafting committee. Motion passed. Those volunteering for the committee were: Smith, Kenyon, Deal, and O'Keefe.

VI. Project Timeline:

Mr. Thomas introduced the draft timeline for the RWSPG's activities. While it was suggested that too much activity was packed into the end of the project and that the proposed training and learning for the RWSPG should remain, it would have to occur at the same time the RWSPG is guiding and focusing the surveys' work. When asked about caucus meetings, Thomas responded that while CMAP would make suggestions for holding them at certain milestones, they had not yet been defined.

Additional comments included a suggestion that the guidelines were too heavy on "government-speak" and that the document does not clearly define what the RWSPG is meant to do. While clear on process objectives, it is unclear about outcomes or products. If the RWSPG is to guide research by the surveys at taxpayers' expense, it is believed that the goals should be well-defined and appropriate.

A suggestion was made that the RWSPG's focus should be on areas that are growing and should examine what measures need to be in place to "salvage what we can," such as removing impervious surface and buying land.

It was also suggested that one year for visioning, as called for in the draft timeline, was too long, and that evaluation of options needed to start earlier.

A shorter version of the special master's report required by the U.S. Supreme Court decision on Illinois' Lake Michigan allocation, which explained many of the available options and should be used as a baseline, will be posted to the website.

Finally, it was agreed that there should be a simple goal statement. A motion for a committee to establish a mission, goals, and objectives passed. Those volunteering were: Abboud, Greenspan, Jirik, Jaffe, and Thompson Carter.

VII. Set RWSPG Meeting Schedule for 2007:

The group agreed to meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, taking a summer break in August. Approximately every other meeting would be held outside downtown Chicago. It was also agreed that the meetings could stretch longer if site visits or other speakers were combined with regular business. Mr. Koehler offered to host a meeting in McHenry. Dr. Loftus asked the RWSPG for suggestions on potential speakers and field trips.

VIII. Closing Comments:

Mark Williams, representing the Mayor of Belvidere, volunteered to host an RWSPG meeting.

It was suggested that CMAP name the caucus group on the members' placards in addition to their names.

IX. Adjournment

At Noon, the meeting of the Regional Water Supply Planning Group adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Elam', written in a cursive style.

Jesse Elam
CMAP Staff Liaison

01-29-07