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Northeastern Illinois Regional Water Supply Planning Group

May 22, 2007 10:00 a.m.

Lake County Forest Preserves
Ryerson Woods Welcome Center
21950 N. Riverwoods Rd., Deerfield, IL 60015

Delegates Present:

Robert Abboud-President, The Village of Barrington Hills; Conor Brown-Government Affairs Director, Illinois Assoc. of Realtors; Karen Darch - President, Village of Barrington; Jeffrey Edstrom-Project Planner, GeoSyntec Consultants; Scott Goldstein - VP for Policy, Metropolitan Planning Council; Jeff Greenspan-Project Manager, The Trust for Public Land; Tom Hyde-Mayor, Village of Island Lake; Martin Jaffe-Director and Associate Professor, University of Illinois Chicago; Mike Kenyon - Kane County Board, Ken Koehler-McHenry County Board Chairman; Karl Kruse-Kankakee County Board Chairman; Robert Martin-General Manager, DuPage Water Commission; Karen McConnaughay-Kane County Board Chair; Joyce O'Keefe-Deputy Director, Openlands Project; S. Louis Rathje-Chairman, DuPage Water Commission; Lynn Rotunno- Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter, McHenry County Defenders; Jack Sheaffer-Principal, Sheaffer International; Jeffrey Schuh-Senior VP, Patrick Engineering, Inc.; Sergio Serafino - Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago; Patrick Smith - General Counsel, Deer Point Homes; Bonnie Thomson Carter-Lake County Board member; Catherine Ward, Boone County Board Chairman; Peter Wallers-President, Engineering Enterprises, Inc.

Delegates Absent:

James Bilotta-Will County Board member; William Borgo-Mayor, Village of Manhattan; Joe Deal-City of Chicago; Jerry Dudgeon-Director, PB&Z Kendall County; Alan Jirik-Director of Corporate Regulatory Affairs, Corn Products International, Inc.; Daniel McLaughlin-Mayor, Village of Orland Park; William Olthoff, Farmer; Ruth Anne Tobias-DeKalb County Board Chairman; Thomas Weisner-Mayor, City of Aurora

RWSPG Vacancies:

Cook County Government, Grundy County Government, Boone-Grundy-Kankakee County Mayors

Others Present: Randy Blankenhorn, Jesse Elam, H. Vernon Knapp, Tim Loftus, Phil Rovang, Ron Thomas

I. Welcome and Overview of Agenda:

Chairman McConnaughay called the meeting to order shortly after 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held in the Lake County Forest Preserves Ryerson Woods Welcome Center at 21950 N. Riverwoods Rd., Deerfield, IL 60015. The chairman thanked Lake County board member Bonnie Thomson-Carter for hosting the meeting, then pointed the delegates' attention to the draft timeline for the regional water supply planning process. She noted that she had been copied on a number of emails recently sent between the CMAP project manager Tim Loftus, members of the Goals Subcommittee, and others, and said that she wanted to sort out questions therein regarding the authority of the RWSPG vis-à-vis CMAP. Chairman McConnaughay invited Randy Blankenhorn, CMAP Executive Director, to present his understanding of the role of CMAP staff in the regional water supply planning process.

Mr. Blankenhorn described the role of CMAP as staffing the RWSPG, that is, coordinating work and providing recommendations to the Group for review and approval. He commented that the CMAP Board does not wish to supersede the RWSPG; it wants to approve the RWSPG's recommendations and forward them to the state. Mr. Blankenhorn noted again that CMAP staff is at the service of the Group and asked delegates to call him with any questions or problems.

II. Objective #1: RWSPG Operational Guidelines

Chairman McConnaughay called on Patrick Smith to give the Drafting Subcommittee report. Mr. Smith noted two changes that had been incorporated into the document since the previous meeting and one pending inclusion: (1) the requirement for calling a vote in the event that consensus could not be obtained had been changed to a simple majority; (2) conflict of interest language had been inserted as recommended by Dr. Loftus; and (3) the subcommittee recommended changing the number of county delegates to 11 to ensure that Kane County continues to be represented once the RWSPG chairmanship shifts to an elected position.

Mr. Smith motioned to accept the Operational Guidelines as amended. Motion passed.

III. Objective #2: RWSPG Working Goals

Jesse Elam, CMAP Associate Planner, gave a presentation on a proposed structure for goals, principles, strategies, and evaluation measures that will be developed for the regional water supply planning process, referring to a PowerPoint presentation. In constructing a goal, Mr. Elam proposed that a well-worded goal be SMART: specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-bound. He followed with an example of how a goal is supported by the other elements (i.e principle, strategy, etc.) of the structure.

Robert Abboud provided a summary of the work of the goals subcommittee. Members recommended that, going forward, goal development should be more of a product of the full RWSPG rather than that of an ad-hoc committee.

Mr. Abboud followed with additional commentary as a prelude to discussion of each of the goals that have been brought before the RWSPG. Ron Thomas, CMAP Deputy Executive Director for Planning, facilitated the following discussion and took notes on a large-format flipchart.

Goal #1 / Water supply demands are met in 2050 for all users supported with robust policies sufficient to manage through transient drought conditions. Comments included offering math calculations to arrive at a water budget; a question regarding sustainability and if that means meeting demand during peak water-use days during summer; concern about terms like 'sustainability' given that it hasn't been fully discussed, much less defined; questioning use of the term 'robust'; suggesting adding reference to a 'margin of safety'; and the suggestion that sustainability means, in part, not being subsidized.

Goal #2 / Withdrawal from major aquifer inventories is sufficiently managed to protect and maintain productive aquifer structures through 2050. Comments included the suggestion that we insert 'and surface waters' since sources are interconnected or rewrite to read "all water sources;" the suggestion that the goal should be to protect in perpetuity rather than through 2050 or that the language read "2050 and beyond."

Goal #3 / Source water quality is protected and improved. Comments included the suggestion to remove the term "source" because that smacks of the regulatory source water protection program; goals should be understood by everyone in the general public; and that the deep aquifer cannot be improved.

Goal #4 / Water supplies are sufficient to sustain aquatic ecosystems, navigation, and recreational users. Some concern was expressed regarding the combination of uses. It was suggested that the intention of this goal is to maintain in-stream flows for the benefit of the three uses enumerated and these uses were non-consumptive and, thus, different from those enumerated in Goal #5.

Goal #5 / Water supplies are sufficient to accommodate business and industry, and regional growth and development. Comments included the suggestion that we add 'agriculture' and 'real estate'.

Goal #6 / Costs of water supply stewardship are minimized and distributed equitably among user groups while respecting the economic value of water. Comments included concern that the goal implied imposing a new water tax and that water rates should reflect the real cost of water resource stewardship.

Goal #7 / Regional water supply is recognized by global community as abundant and a unique asset to the regional economy. Following an explanation of this goal by Mr. Abboud, it was suggested that capturing true cost works against the "brand" idea promoted by Mr. Abboud.

Goal #8 / *Individuals, governments, businesses and other entities have an improved understanding and general support for water supply planning.* Comments included: delete the term 'general'; federal legislation doesn't seem to have been implemented by the City of Chicago; the entities referred to in the goal should support plan implementation; sustainability means replacing or regenerating what is used.

Chairman McConnaughay directed CMAP staff to assimilate comments and notes taken and bring revised goal language back to the full RWSPG next month.

Finally, concern was expressed regarding the planning project's timeline and it was suggested that task #21 in particular should get underway sooner than the timeline indicates. As is, the task is "too back loaded."

IV. Objective #3: Water Resources 101

H. Vernon Knapp of the Illinois State Water Survey gave a presentation on "Northeastern Illinois Streams: Factors that Affect the Distribution of Streamflow for Water Supply and Instream Flows," referring to a PowerPoint presentation.

V. Objective #4 Stakeholder Interest Group Presentations:

Joyce O'Keefe made a presentation on the interests of the Environmental Advocacy caucus group, and Conor Brown and Patrick Smith made a presentation on the Real Estate and Development group's interests. All referred to PowerPoint presentations.

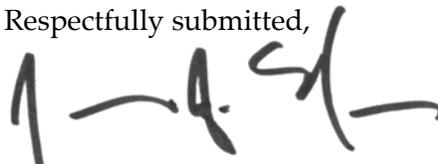
VI. Objective #5 Lake County presentation:

As this month's meeting host, Ms. Carter offered some comments, invited delegates to have lunch. Mr. Phil Rovang also welcomed everyone and invited all to view a new video produced for Lake County about their keen interest in and concern for their water resources.

VII. Other Business, Closing Comments, Adjournment

Dr. Loftus announced that the next meeting would be held at CMAP in Chicago at the Sears Tower, commencing at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was adjourned shortly after 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jesse Elam, AICP
CMAP Staff Liaison

05-29-07