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# Joint Meeting Economic and Community Development Committee Minutes Environment and Natural Resources Committee June 23– 9:00am DuPage County Conference Room

Members Present: Tracey Bosman, Consuella Brown, Bill Browne, Lori Clark, Grant Davis, Cynthia DeWitt (for Robin Kelly), JoAnn Eckmann, Thomas Gary, John Greuling, Rand Haas, Charles Perkins, Angie Powell, John Schneider, Gary Skoog, Ed Sitar

**Members Absent:** Chris Aiston, Robert Gleeson, Robin Kelly, Judith Kossy, Cindy McSherry, Harry Pestine, Mike Scholefield, David Young

Staff Present: Brett Baden, Annie Byrne, Bob Dean, Bola Delano, Brian Rademacher, Paul Reise

Others Present: Kristen Anderson, Ivan Baker, Paul Heltne, R. Damon Lee, Leslie Page-Piper

#### 1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am.

#### 2.0 Welcome and Introductions

All attendees introduced themselves.

#### 3.0 Approval of the Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Lori Clark and seconded by Bill Browne.

## 4.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

There were no agenda changes or announcements.

#### 5.0 Staff Report

Staff reported that the regional snapshot on Industry Clusters is now available on-line. Copies will be made available at the next committee meeting. CMAP will be presenting a workshop 'Invent the Future with *GO TO 2040*' at the Illinois Development Council conference on Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>. IDC members were encouraged to attend while at the conference.

### 6.0 Chairman Report

The chairman gave an update on the DRI process. Version 2 of the DRI process was approved by the board earlier in June. The chair highlighted the role that committee members had in the process which ensured that economic development related issues were considered and addressed in the final version and that the project will run for a two year beta period.

The chairman gave an update on the incentives whitepaper. Due to the cooperative work of committee members with staff the final report is a basic introductory paper on incentives designed to offer some background information and professional assistance to local communities that want to learn about the topic. Committee members were encouraged to send any additional comments on the report to staff. The paper is now available on CMAP's website.

## 7.0 *GOTO* 2040 Update

**7.1** Bob Dean gave a brief introduction to the strategy report on Innovation completed by RCF Economic and Financial Consulting. The report outlines the main existing initiatives and resources for supporting a strategy on innovation, and identifies specific industries that are critical to the strategy. The report then makes recommendations to CMAP on how to strengthen an innovation strategy. The committee was asked to comment on the report and suggest which recommendations should be prioritized and make additional recommendations not included in the paper.

The committee requested that RCF give a full presentation on the report at the July meeting, as they thought that more details would assist them in providing the appropriate feedback. Some committee members had initial concerns that the report did not go far enough in describing current regional initiatives in innovation and that there was a disconnect between the report and its recommendations. Gary Skoog said the paper did a good job of highlighting the weakness of innovation and lack of collaboration in our region. John Greuling agreed and said reports like this can be helpful if there is a recommendation that suggests the formation of a think tank to ensure that future approaches to regional economic development have specific outcomes. It was agreed that the committee should have a full presentation on the report and more time to comment.

**7.2** Erin Aleman gave a presentation on the public engagement process for the Invent the Future Workshops that will be held throughout the region. She walked the committee through a brief example of how the meetings are coordinated using `MetroQuest, interactive software that is designed to enable attendees to participate in an interactive alternative scenario building exercise. For people unable to participate in the workshops access to a scenario building exercise is available on CMAP's website at <a href="https://www.goto2040.org/haveyoursay/">www.goto2040.org/haveyoursay/</a> where participants have the opportunity to participate on line. Tracey Bosman asked if the public input in this exercise is meant to inform

policy recommendations or if it was more of an educational process. Staff responded that it is more educational. John Greuling wanted to know the breakdown of attendees at these meetings. Staff responded that fifty workshops are scheduled to be held in the region designed to capture a diverse sector of residents in the region, to date attendees stemmed from professionals to ordinary members of the public from all parts of the region and the ultimate goal of this exercise was to have at least 2500 participants. Charles Perkins asked if on-line users were being tracked or included. Staff confirmed that they were being tracked via their zip codes. Joann Eckmann asked if the preferred scenario would be available for public comment once released. Bob Dean said that could be considered once the summer workshops were over.

#### 8.0 Public Comment

Paul Heltne brought to the attention of the committee new studies available on coal and strategic metals as well as papers on water and aquifers and what those implications are the region. He offered to give a brief ten minute presentation at the committee's discretion. The committee agreed to have it on the agenda at some point this summer.

# 9.0 Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

The next meeting of the Economic and Community Development working committee will be held on **Tuesday July 28rd**, **2009 at 9:00am** in the CMAP offices.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Rademacher Staff Liaison

07-13-09