



**Minutes**

**Environment and Natural Resources Committee**

November 7, 2007—9:30 a.m.

- Members Present:** Patricia Young & Maureen Durkin (*alternate*) – Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Lenore Beyer-Clow - Openlands, Jack Darin- Sierra Club Illinois Chapter, Melinda Pruet-Jones & John Oldenburg (*alternate*) – Chicago Wilderness, Mr. Pete Harmet – IDOT District One, Kama Dobbs- DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, Charles Wheelan – Harris School of Public Policy, Amy Walkenbach, IEPA Bureau of Water, Mike Warner- Lake County SMC, Ingrid Ruttendjie- Fox Waterway Agency, Marty Jaffe & Moira Zellner (*alternate*) – University of Illinois, Jim VanDerKloot – USEPA, Andy Kimmel – Illinois Assoc. of Forest Preserve & Conservation Districts, Wally Van Buren – Illinois Association of Wastewater Districts,
- Staff Present:** Kerry Leigh, Jill Leary, Bob Dean, Jesse Elam, Joy Schaad, Drew Williams-Clark, Hala Ahmed, Lori Heringa, Don Kopec, Randy Blankenhorn
- Others Present:** Mike Klemens – Will County Government League, Alan Mammoser – SE Environmental Task Force, Dennis Dreher – Cowhey Gudmundson Leder and Assoc., Richard Mariner, Chris Mulvaney – Chicago Wilderness

**1.0 Call to Order**

Chairman Jack Darin called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

**2.0 Agenda Changes & Announcements**

Kerry reminded the committee to register for the December 11<sup>th</sup> Summit on Climate Change.

**3.0 Approval of Minutes- October 3, 2007**

MOTION: Lenore Beyer-Clow motioned and Jim VanderKloot seconded to approve the October 3rd, 2007 minutes. Motion carried.

**4.0 Comprehensive Regional Plan – CMAP staff**

ACTION REQUESTED: Information & Discussion

Regional Vision Update – Bob Dean

Bob gave a regional vision update and described the next steps. Bob requested that committee members fill out the survey on the website, it should only take 20 minutes. Staff will be looking for general public feedback in the next couple of months, but for now planners and policy makers are invited to take the Survey.

**5.0 Implementing the Green Infrastructure Vision – Jesse Elam, CMAP staff**

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Discussion

Jesse began the discussion with explaining how the Chicago Wilderness (CW) Green Infrastructure Vision (GIV) is proposed to be integrated into the Comprehensive Plan, and is seen as one of the ways to engender connectivity within the region. He reiterated that it is not a land acquisition plan. Today's exercise will be for the committee and observers to split into groups for a table workshop format exercise to try to answer some 'scoping' questions regarding the integration of the GIV into the regional comprehensive plan.. The draft results of the work will be presented at the next CW executive committee meeting.

John Oldenburg noted that within the region there are levels of disparity between data, but even with that, it is a sound guidance document for the region. Jesse said that one of the questions staff is exploring is how can we use this within CMAP's scenario planning? We would need to determine what effects implementing the GIV would have on other planning considerations. Dennis Dreher said that when the document was being prepared land cover was not the main focus. They looked at what is on the ground or potentially there and that low density residential was included in green infrastructure as was agricultural land which is also considered a critical element of green infrastructure. Dennis also said that the original data layers are all assembled and we could start there rather than the traditional land use base, as that would be a new direction. Ecologists were the backbone for that determination and he would like to see them included in this further work.

John said that this is a visionary new type of planning and a new model may develop rather than just having this as a simplified form, he would like to see this as a new way of modeling and planning. Jesse asked why refinements were left out. Dennis replied that the plan identified large scale macro/inter-county/interstate areas. The 'regional' GIV is something different. Much agricultural land, for example, was originally wetland and had been drained for crops. This open space was fundamental to what CW defined as part of the Vision.

Moira said that we need to integrate concerns as Jesse mentioned, the model is useful if we think of economic activities differently in terms of ecological functions – what would that look like?

Dennis said that it seems counterintuitive: that urban areas, even in that context, could, overtime retrofit urban landscapes with bioswales, etc. Hydrology is a critical aspect of the GIV. Most development is counter productive to ecological integrity.

Jesse asked if the retrofit areas could be targeted, and John replied that infill development could accommodate population growth and potential ecological functions could be brought back as enhancements.

Mike Warner brought up the definition of Green infrastructure in the context of the watershed planning process. He noted that if the definition is only habitat based the county cannot be legally part of it, as stormwater management systems are integral to the SMC mandate. Andy Kimmel noted that areas identified are priority areas, for example incorporating more green infrastructure within the watershed planning process. Stormwater is very important and zones can be identified as part of a watershed.

Randy clarified that we are not trying to change the GIV, but rather to ensure that it is useful as a performance measure. What are the actions the region can take to meet the goals of the GIV? We have to have differentiation to identify why this or that is important. We can make it a basic component of the foundation of the plan. Jesse elaborated by saying that we need a target and a way to measure it.

John said that we could build potential actions or a myriad of examples for the local areas and identify what issues are vital to an area and can't be captured on a map. Actions and utilizations can be offered as guidances to mayors and managers.

The meeting then split up into workgroups. Jesse will report back to the next committee meeting in January on the results of the workgroups and the CW executive committee.

#### **6.0 Chicago Wilderness Transportation and Environmental Collaboration Initiative – Joy Schaad, CMAP staff**

Ms. Schaad reminded the committee that Chicago Wilderness's Sustainability Team has been working on a project idea to improve communication and understanding between members of the environmental and transportation communities, particularly transportation project sponsors and consultants. The hope is to obtain some grant funding through Chicago Wilderness to engage a neutral group to facilitate dialog and education about each community's processes, priorities and scope and to produce a comprehensive and updateable database of which parties within the environmental community that should be targeted for notice of which transportation improvement projects in northeast Illinois. The timeframe for seeking CW funds has been relaxed and there is more work to be done on the approach. It is agreed that both CMAP's Transportation Committee and E&NR Committee will be party to discussions on the approach before finalizing, however with today's long agenda it is suggested that this topic be deferred to a later date.

#### **7.0 Discussion Items for Future Meetings**

- Discussion with the modeling team – TBA
- Air Quality – going above and beyond federal regulations – January
- Developments of Regional Importance – TBA
- FPA Process

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**9.0 Other Business**

There was no other business.

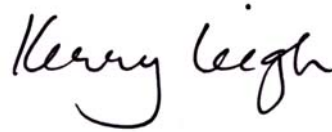
**10.0 Public Comment**

There was no additional public comment.

**11.0 Adjournment**

MOTION: Motion to adjourn was made by Marty Jaffe seconded by Pete Harmet. The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerry Leigh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Kerry Leigh  
Staff Liaison