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Environment and Natural Resources Committee DRAFT Minutes

May 7th, 2008-9:30 a.m.

Members Present: Patricia Young and Joe Schuessler (alternate) – Metropolitan Water

Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Melinda Pruett-Jones – Chicago Wilderness, Patty Werner (alternate) - Lake County SMC, Jack Darin and Cindy Skrukrud (alternate) – Sierra Club, Karla Kramer – U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Kama Dobbs – DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, Wally Van Buren – Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies, Pete Harmet - IDOT, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Lenore Beyer-Clow – Openlands, Joyce Coffee – City of Chicago Dept. of Environment, Cathy Geraghty – Illinois Association of Conservation and Forest Preserve Districts,

Amy Walkenbach – IEPA Bureau of Water

Staff Present: Kerry Leigh, Andrew Williams Clark, Bob Dean, Russell

Pietrowiak, Tim Loftus, John Hallas, Jesse Elam, Don Kopec,

Kirsten Heery, Dawn Thompson

Others Present: Mike Klemens, Will County Government League

1.0 Call to Order

Jack called the meeting to order at 9:35 am.

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Agenda item 4.0 was moved to 5.0 to allow for staff travel schedules. The minutes reflect the changes. The student FLIP program was described; The Beyond Showerheads and Sprinklers Conference, and the Lake Michigan Watershed Academy Conference were announced.

3.0 Approval of Minutes from April 2nd, 2008

Cindy Skrukrud did not move to approve the March minutes as noted in the draft April minutes. Melinda Pruett-Jones moved to approve seconded by Kama with change as noted. Motion carried.

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4.0 GO TO 2040 Indicators Development – CMAP staff

- 4.1 Scenario Construction Bob Dean
 - Staff is still working on constructing scenarios. The working committees will work through the summer on these. Patty Werner had several comments on the draft vision statements and left comments with Kerry for Bob. Bob noted that if the comments were minor that would be ok, but if major the committee needed to discuss. She specifically mentioned transportation impacts on water quality and quantity and community connectedness, and how water supply is different from aquatic health. Bob will follow up on those comments.
- 4.2 Snapshot on Aging Russell Pietrowiak
 Russell discussed the demographics of seniors and how this comprehensive plan
 will be focusing on 'Aging in Place' by encouraging communities to develop in
 ways that meet the needs of seniors in the community of their choice. Services
 offered in communities including townships and unincorporated areas will be
 - offered in communities including townships and unincorporated areas will be looked at in terms of their living patterns, and how people change their patterns and choices as they age. The snapshot also identified barriers and emerging issues. Russell emphasized that Aging in Place is a land use issue and the challenge is in creating those communities.
- 4.3 Indicators Development Andrew Williams Clark
 Andrew reviewed the spreadsheet that indicated what areas of research were
 still needed for each indicator. Questions included data aggregation and
 availability. Amy from IEPA said they can help with a lot of these including
 construction debris and waste. Joyce asked if there was an energy indicator.
 Andrew will update the committee next month on the progress of the consultant.

5.0 Coordinating Committees – Chair Jack Darin

Jack updated the committee on the DRI process which is close to being ready for discussion by the working committees. There will be a draft for discussion. The Full scale DRI analysis will occur each year on less than 10 projects, and is envisioned to be a tiered structure. They are currently brainstorming about past projects to test out examples from history. Don noted that the working committees will fill in the skeleton. Patty urged that they think about the value as well as the functionality of the program. Jack said that the programming committee will be meeting next week to discuss this further.

There was a discussion on the role of the coordinating committees. There is concern that there is no time during the coordinating committees for the working committees to share what they have been working on. The coordinating committees are not set up to offer that. Don noted that when issues come up at working committee level and they want things to be on the agenda of the coordinating committees they can have a full discussion there. Working committees identify issues to be brought up at coordinating committee. The concern was also expressed that unless a committee moves something to coordinating committee, the other committees have no idea what each other is doing.

Don said that the working committee monthly report that goes to the board can go to coordinating and working committee level. Kerry will provide that on the web page as supplemental materials for meetings.

Patty Werner noted that topics are addressed in committee but feels that there is subsequently little followup about where a topic is going until months later when it might resurface. She suggested that a clear discussion about what happens next with agenda items would be helpful.

As an example, the question of how the economic committee weighs in on how we're going to achieve environmental goals was asked, particularly if committees aren't communicating, there may be a problem as a lot of environmental concerns overlap and it doesn't appear to be clear on where the integration is.

Jack said that he can reach out to the chairs of the other working committees and see if they are sensing the same need for integration. This discussion will be continued next month.

6.0 Kishwaukee River Watershed Planning and the B-MAG Framework – Tim Loftus, CMAP staff

Tim updated the committee on the planning effort which is due for completion in September of 2008. The watershed planning stakeholder meetings are held monthly. They are currently working on pollutant loads and settling on a suite of BMP's to reduce loads. The suite includes agricultural, riparian and wetland and urban retrofit BMP's. It also includes the contribution of waste water treatment plants (WWTP) particularly as the state will adopt the 1mg per liter phosphorus limit with improved concentration standards.

The watershed approach to improve Clean Water Act implementation is based on the B-MAG framework which is aimed at providing a more comprehensive view of watershed planning and aims also to make the connections with water conservation and water reuse.

Patty Werner asked if there was good municipal representation on the planning committee and Tim replied that the Upper Kishwaukee has strong municipal representation but it is not comprehensive or diverse. Lawrence Creek is more diverse and Beaver Creek has the best representation with landowners, farmers and municipalities. The WWTP's are largely municipal and Tim goes to them in the public works departments as there are key people there. Patty also asked how it would work as the FPA boundaries extend beyond the watershed boundaries. Tim responded that they are now beginning to address those solutions.

Joe Schuessler asked about the role of the IEPA. Tim responded that the 319 grant originally was for the typical process with the 9 minimum elements, but then when awarded the grant, IEPA asked them to go beyond that to incorporate the B-MAG framework and comment on the strengths and weaknesses and the utility of the watershed approach. IEPA will then conduct a public comment period on the watershed plans. The next step would be for the municipalities to endorse the plan. The IEPA would then decide if they will elevate these plans to become part of the Areawide Water Quality Plan. This could be a major change in policy at the state level.

Amy Walkenbach added that it could look like the old 208 plan which looks at more than the 9 minimum elements. The downside is that funding for these projects is difficult, especially for the infrastructure. It doesn't prohibit federal funds, but it does prohibit some state funds.

7.0 Facilities Planning Areas Update – Dawn Thompson, CMAP staff

Dawn provided the committee with a monthly update. She noted that the FPA process currently remains intact from the previous NIPC process. Any proposed changes to the process will be brought to the working committee. The question of how this committee can fit into the FPA process was addressed. Dawn suggested that the committee can serve as a conduit between the wastewater committee, the board and the region in promoting the vision and also that there may be a move to a voluntary watershed planning approach as the Kishwaukee pilot plan is investigating.

There is a table on the web that outlines the Level 1 and Level 2 applications for the last several years. She handed out a synopsis of the review criteria and the FPA table.

Jack added that this committee can be helpful amplifying the public notice and asked the committee if it had some interest in commenting on the applications. Dawn added that the applications are on the website. Patty added that they have been trying to figure out what's been going on. Dawn said that comment from counties is welcome and Jack asked about the notice. Dawn said that it goes to the Designated Management Agencies within 1.5 miles and to the watershed planning groups.

Jack asked Dawn to ask the committee members who wants to be on the list for notification and what watershed they are in. Dawn will send out an e-mail asking who wants notification.

8.0 Discussion Items/Follow Up for Future Meetings

- Facility Planning Areas
- State Capitol Improvement Program issue of open space funding. Several meetings are being set up around the region. See illinoisworkscoalition.org
- Agricultural issues as they relate to sustainability

9.0 Other Business

There was no other business.

10.0 Public Comment

Cindy Skrukrud asked about the Regional Vision Statement comments and are they going before the planning committee? Bob will be giving a response to comments.

11.0 Adjournment

Patricia Werner moved to adjourn and Patricia Young seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, June 2nd, 2008 at 9:30 am