



## Environment and Natural Resources Committee

### DRAFT Minutes

January 5, 2011 —9:30 a.m.

- Members Present:** Patty Werner - Lake County SMC, Sean Weidel – City of Chicago, Joe Schuessler – Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, Kate Agasie – Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, Martha Dooley – Village of Schaumburg, Mike Sullivan – Kane/Kendall Conference of Mayors, Christy Sabdo – Kane County, Marty Jaffe – University of Illinois at Chicago, Wally Van Buren – Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies, Angela Larsen – Alliance for the Great Lakes, Harlan Spiroff – Spiroff and Gosselar, Ltd., Jim VanderKloot – USEPA Region 5, Nancy Williamson - IDNR
- Staff Present:** Jesse Elam, Ylda Capriccioso, Pete Saunders, Bob Dean, Hala Ahmed, Tim Loftus, Ricardo Lopez
- Others Present:** Hal Sprague – Center for Neighborhood Technology

#### 1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 am by Patty, who chaired the meeting because neither the chair nor vice-chair was present. A round of introductions followed.

#### 2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

Hala announced that on January 27 CMAP would be hosting the third of four water resources forums scheduled this fiscal year. She handed out an agenda for the forum, which was titled “The Problem with Water: Regional Flooding and Stormwater Management.”

#### 3.0 Approval of Minutes from November 3, 2010

Patty asked for more details about the water quality harvesting bill referred to in the minutes, which she said were ambiguous. However, those chiefly involved with that bill were not present at the meeting to fill in the details. Nancy had a question about the Fox Waterway Agency bill relating to dredging, wondering how the spoil would be used. The question could not be answered conclusively. The minutes were approved with no changes.

#### 4.0 Coordinating Committees Update

Neither the Planning nor the Programming Committees had met since the last ENR meeting.

## **5.1 Legislative update**

Ylda provided a handout with a report on the 96<sup>th</sup> General Assembly veto session and a list of important dates in the 97<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. She said that she was looking organizations to share legislative priorities with CMAP staff; a draft set of these priorities for the year would go to the CMAP Board in February. Hal Sprague handed out draft language that would give counties the ability to pay for stormwater management programs through fees charged to property owners who benefit from stormwater management services, noting that without such a fee, local governments have to use general revenue to cover stormwater management. The idea would be to establish a dedicated revenue stream for use in stormwater management. The language referred to “new development,” and a member asked how that was defined. Another member answered that the counties generally define that for themselves through their countywide stormwater ordinances. It was noted that schools and churches may resist the fee. In Lake County it had been attacked as a “driveway tax,” a reference to the fee’s basis in a property’s imperviousness. In general, Hal noted, courts have ruled that the charge is a fee rather than a tax. Another member noted that municipalities should support the legislation, as it authorizes cooperative arrangements with municipalities for spending the fees collected. A member asked if anyone intended to pursue any energy-related legislation. It was suggested that more legislative unity would be helpful. Another member mentioned that a coalition of municipalities had been coming together to negotiate franchise agreements, and that USEPA had gotten involved. At the close of the discussion, Patty asked members to email Ylda with any legislative priorities they might have for the year.

## **5.2 Local Technical Assistance program update**

Bob introduced Pete, saying that he would cover the staff assistance program, while Hala would cover the grant program being undertaken alongside the RTA. Pete passed out the call for projects for the Local Technical Assistance (LTA) program. He reported that CMAP was interviewing staff to handle the projects and that 10 new staff people would be hired under the HUD grant. The focus of the LTA program would be on ordinances, special studies, analyses or other planning projects that help implement GO TO 2040 or previously developed local plans. He had received 12 expressions of interest, and four applications had arrived. The call for projects would end January 28, with another call expected in late spring or early summer. A member suggested that even with new staff, resources would still be limited: how would CMAP pick projects? Pete said he was not yet sure. It was asked whether a special purpose district could apply. The answer was yes, at least through interjurisdictional collaborations. Hala then presented the grant funding program, which she explained was funded through the Unified Work Program but coordinated with the RTA grant program. She referred to a handout. A member suggested that the northwest Indiana MPO should be a partner in such a grant program.

## **5.3 Chicago Region Retrofit Ramp-Up**

Dan Olson provided an overview of progress on the Chicago Region Retrofit Ramp-Up (CR3) program and indicated the next phases of the project to come. He referred to a memo dated January 5, 2011 which he handed out and which is also posted on the ENR committee website. He noted that the CR3 program is meant to provide access to

comprehensive information on retrofit opportunities, access to financing, and to increase workforce training for retrofits. The program would last three years and is expected to result in 5,000 retrofits, 2,000 new jobs, and \$500 million in leverage.

#### **5.4 Coastal Management Program update**

Angela noted that the governor had signed an executive order to establish the Illinois Coastal Management Program and that the program will go to the federal government for approval. The Alliance for the Great Lakes is running outreach for Illinois DNR, which is responsible for the program. A member asked if all the program documents were on the DNR website, and Angela thought that they were. DNR is also developing an Illinois Lake Michigan Plan. A discussion ensued regarding the extent to which there might be overlaps with other programs. Patty suggested a “master event” to communicate the various programs dealing with Lake Michigan to start a bigger conversation about program overlaps.

#### **6.0 Discussion of ENR committee role and priorities**

Jesse suggested that the committee should discuss what it felt like its priorities should be in 2011. He felt the committee had been instrumental in helping develop GO TO 2040, but that it should focus more on plan implementation now, in particular by helping maintain accountability for working to implement plan recommendations. Bob noted that staff would recommend to the CMAP Board changing the Planning Committee to the Local Coordinating Committee (to oversee much of the technical assistance activity CMAP would be carrying out) and changing the Programming Committee to the Regional Coordinating Committee (to oversee mainly regional policy initiatives). Bob also noted that he would recommend adding to the ENR committee members with expertise in energy. A member suggested that the ENR committee had long had a water bias and welcomed additional energy expertise.

Jesse asked if the new focus on legislation over the past two meetings (inclusive) had been useful and could be considered appropriate. Members suggested that it had been and should be a regular part of the ENR meetings. Ylda mentioned that it helps to air legislative priorities so that others working in Springfield can know what the “asks” are. A member suggested that, much like energy, air quality was being addressed insufficiently in the committee. Jesse responded that CMAP had tried to explore air quality issues in more depth with the committee by developing the Snapshot on Air Quality in 2009. The historic focus on mobile sources is a role mandated for MPOs by the federal government, although the discussion suggested that CMAP should seek an influence beyond simply the role required by federal law in mobile source control.

Members suggested that the LTA program could be an area where the ENR committee could provide a service, for example by helping review projects and recommending ways to extend them to build in an environmental component. While after discussion it appeared that transportation planning and project implementers were adequately represented, it seemed that Illinois EPA was not. It was suggested that Jesse should try to involve them despite their difficulties traveling, perhaps by asking them to participate by phone.

While it was suggested that the discussion be revisited in February, as several members of the committee had been unable to attend, the preliminary list of priorities could be put as follows:

- a. Concentrate on energy more – bring in more representatives with those interests, and focus on potential CMAP implementation activities.
- b. Make the committee an opportunity to review legislation and form partnerships to work on legislation.
- c. Serve as an accountability mechanism for GO TO 2040 plan implementation.
- d. Review and suggest improvements to Local Technical Assistance program proposals.
- e. Review and provide recommendations on the FPA program and basin separation proposals.
- f. Examine additional opportunities to improve air quality beyond meeting transportation conformity requirements.

**7.0 Other Business.**

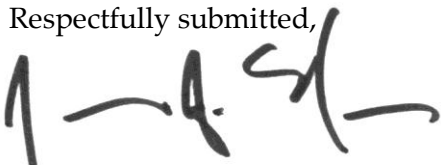
None.

**8.0 Public Comment**

None.

**9.0 Adjournment.**

Respectfully submitted,



Jesse Elam, CMAP staff liaison