



Minutes
Environment and Natural Resources Committee

April 4, 2007—10:00 a.m.
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

Members Present: Dr. Marty Jaffe-University of Chicago, Dr. Moira Zellner, (alternate) University of Chicago, Karla Kramer-US Fish and Wildlife Service, Lynn Boerman-IDNR Ecosystem Partnerships, Mike Rogers - IEPA Bureau of Air, Amy Walkenbach-IEPA Bureau of Water, Jim Van der Kloot-USEPA Region 5, Patty Werner (alternate)-Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, Joe Schuessler (alternate) - Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Mayor Thomas Murawski - Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Environmental Initiatives, Ken Anderson-County Representative Kane County, Lenore Beyer-Clow -Openlands, Jack Darin- Sierra Club Illinois Chapter, Wallace Van Buren-Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies, Ingrid Ruttendjie - Fox Waterway Agency, John Oldenburg (alternate) – Chicago Wilderness, Bonnie Thomson-Carter - Illinois Association of Conservation & Forest Preserve Districts, Mr. Pete Harmet – IDOT District One.

Staff Present: Randy Blankenhorn, Don Kopec, Kerry Leigh, Joy Schaad, Amy Talbot, Dawn Thompson, Tom Vick, Ty Warner, Jill Leary, Bob Dean, Jesse Elam, Lee Deuben, Jon Hallas.

Others Present: Mike Klemens-WCGL, Harry Solomon, CMAP Citizens Advisory Committee, (*unknown audience member*)

1.0 Call to Order

Chairman Jack Darin called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. There were some new faces at the table so there was a round of self-introductions.

2.0 Agenda Changes & Announcements

The Committee agreed to change the future meeting times from 10:00 am to 9:30 am.

The Committee agreed to add another agenda item after agenda item 4.0 to more clearly focus the discussion of the previously circulated Committee member discussion points as being relevant to the RTP Update and not just the Regional Comprehensive Plan. Therefore agenda item 4.3 was revised to agenda item 5.0 and titled **RTP Update** with the subsequent agenda numbers altered accordingly.

3.0 Approval of Minutes-March 7, 2007

Patricia Werner noted that she is with the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission and not Lake County Management Commission. The minutes will be corrected.

John Oldenburg requested that future minutes reflect the committee's comments in more detail to be more accurate, particularly as they are a part of the federal consultation process. Randy Blankenhorn clarified that these committee meetings are a piece of the federally required consultation process, one mechanism among many, and agreed that a more complete sense of the discussion is appropriate. Subsequent minutes will reflect committee discussion in more detail.

MOTION: Bonnie Thomson-Carter motioned and Ingrid Ruttendjie seconded to approve the March 7, 2007 minutes as amended. Motion carried.

4.0 Regional Comprehensive Plan – Randy Blankenhorn & Bob Dean

4.1 Background of the Plan Development Process

Randy Blankenhorn referenced some expectations for the creation of a new 'Burnham Plan' and how the expectation for the plan is not just a combining of plans but truly a vision for the 21st century including the incorporation of economic competitiveness with sustainable communities. This group is key to creating that plan which is required by the end of 2010. It was remarked that the tight 3 year deadline means a lot of hard work ahead.

Bob Dean handed out a draft flowchart for the Regional Comprehensive Plan, stating that work had begun on developing the plan's vision and goals, and that this would be a primary focus of the remainder of the meeting. Other activities have also been

begun by staff, including the preparation of a regional snapshot report series which will link CMAP's issues areas, research of potential policies and strategies to determine their effectiveness, and the development of regional models to assist in analysis. Bob stated that this would result in a scenario analysis process by which specific policies, strategies, and investments would be evaluated based on how well they meet the regional vision.

John Oldenburg wanted to know what these models are and whether the information to be input into the models is comprehensive. He wanted to know what inputs and assumptions would be involved? Bob said that a key piece of the analysis is determining what assumptions to use, and that the information would be accessible to the public. Randy said that the tools are still under development and a briefing on where we are on the modeling techniques could be useful to the committee and could be provided.

John Oldenburg commented that an interdisciplinary process with a diversity of disciplines from the beginning is very important. Bob said that this would not be done just internally and that there will be significant work with other agencies to develop policy. Randy reiterated that significant partnerships would be developed.

Ingrid Ruttendjie asked about plans for implementation strategies in the last box on the chart, and about costs and analyses. Bob replied that constructing scenarios will get us closer to implementation and in particular give us a better idea of: who is responsible, the costs, and both the positive and unintended effects of policies. Patty Werner asked that we make sure that the full life cycle costs are considered.

Jack Darin indicated that a modeling discussion with the CMAP modeling team at some future date would be helpful to the committee, particularly in regards to water supply, energy use, and carbon emissions and global climate change. Bob said that the model development is currently in the scoping stage and this discussion would be timely to make sure that environmental concerns are incorporated into the model development. It was clarified that a suite of models will be used.

4.2 Goal Setting Process

Bob described the goals document that had been previously sent to the committee. This document consisted of 52 goals that were taken from the 2040 Regional Framework Plan, and 3 goals that were added based on objectives from the 2030 Regional Transportation Plan that weren't inherently a part of the 52 Framework Plan goals. For each goal, CMAP staff had made an initial evaluation of whether this goal was central (C) or relevant (R) to each committee's focus.

Bob stated that the purpose of the today's discussion and similar discussions with the other working level committees was to start to develop a vision for the Regional Comprehensive Plan by identifying the goals that are most relevant to the each committee's work, and to identify the major policy issues contained in these goals. Over the summer this process will evolve and culminate in a group event with all the committees. Bob emphasized that the purpose of the current committee meeting was to identify ownership of goals, with more discussion on the substance to take place at future meetings. The goals are an initial tool to guide the development of the regional vision and will not ultimately survive as written, so "word-smithing" is not necessary. Randy clarified that any significant policy issues that might be missing can always be added.

Karla Kramer said she hadn't seen anything in the way of an overall development policy whereby all land developments would use *state of the art* BMPs (best management practices). She suggested that perhaps there should be a separate goal for design of new developments.

There was a discussion of all goals having some relevance to this committee and how creating new goals could be confusing, and in some cases the added concepts could translate as additional information to be used in the modeling effort rather than as new goals. There was discussion of a possible ad hoc committee, but Randy indicated that there will be a lot of staff work on all the issues. A concern as to how much many goals the committee is willing to take ownership of, so as not to be overburdened was raised. It was noted that it will be important to find a balance in order to maintain a focus on what is critical. Randy informed the committee that there will be opportunities to meet jointly with other committees to talk about issues that cross topical boundaries. It was suggested that an example of an organizing principle could be public health benefits. Bob noted that scenarios will be evaluated against the vision and quantified to measure the scenario's potential efficacy on relevant factors such as public health benefits.

As a continuation to the public health benefits discussion, a question on air quality was raised by Marty Jaffe. He asked about the sophistication of our air modeling and in particular, capturing the connections of land use to global climate change. He pointed out that air-sheds include counties outside this agency's formal jurisdiction and that if a broader scope is employed this could be a good way to integrate regional planning and human health impacts. Marty suggested looking at indirect sources, and that the State of Illinois is prohibited from that but it is open to other levels of government to take on. It would be good to see it emerging in the different

types of modeling. Randy agreed that it was time to talk about real air quality planning and go beyond just the traditional regulatory concerns.

Mayor Murawski wanted to propose a strategy he felt was absent in the RTP that specifically addressed redevelopment and infill as a primary strategy. He asserted that the State continues programs that promote sprawl, so the problems will continue and that sprawl is encouraged by inference in the RTP. John Oldenburg agreed that this was absolutely of germane relevance and that if there is no opportunity for land use changes otherwise, creating better BMPs are also important. Lenore Beyer-Clow said that the growth patterns need to be kept at the top of the agenda. Bob indicated that staff expects land development policy to be a strong part of the next plan and Randy reiterated that a discussion of the goals can be expanded. Joy addressed Mayor Murawski's comment later in the meeting giving some RTP references to encouraging infill, redevelopment and transit oriented development. While there was agreement that infill and redevelopment were also supported, there was no clear sense of policy against sprawl in the 2030 RTP.

Mr. Dean reiterated the sense of the committee on each of the goals discussed and there was a consensus on revisions to their relevance code (R or C).

ACTION ITEM: Bob Dean will revise the list from the discussion and have ready to send to the committee prior to the next meeting.

5.0 RTP Update – Joy Schaad

Kerry Leigh distributed John Oldenburg and Marty Jaffee's comments by e-mail for committee review on March 19th. Ms. Schaad began the discussion by putting this update in context relative to other regional transportation planning and the consultation process. Joy discussed the interplay of the RTP, the Regional Framework Plan and the upcoming Comprehensive Plan, referencing a graphic on Intra-Regional Plan Dynamics. A clarification was asked for background on what the RTP is, exactly. Joy Schaad explained that the regional transportation plan is both a policy document and a guide to what transportation investments will be made over the 20+ year horizon and includes all projects of regional significance and all projects that will have federal funding. She clarified that the capital element of the RTP, which was adopted last fall, identifies specific capital projects for the foreseeable future and that smaller projects and maintenance efforts are all included by categories of work. All projects put into the 5 year TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) for construction need to be in the RTP, at least by category. She explained the two major constraints on the plan: the RTP must be fiscally

constrained to a reasonable amount of funds expected for the region over the timeframe and that the RTP must conform to the mobile source pollutant budgets adopted in Illinois' State Implementation Plan. In northeast Illinois, specifically, budgets for volatile organic compounds (VOC) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), and fine particulate matter, sized at 2.5 micrometers or less (PM_{2.5}) have been established.

The air quality conformity testing was done and passed last fall. Since 1991 RTP updates were required every three years, but with the passage of SAFETEA-LU (*the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users*) the update requirement is four years. Randy Blankenhorn confirmed that, except for aspects adjusted due to consultation or an unforeseen major revision, the RTP will not be reviewed again for 4 years. Ms. Schaad pointed out that the next RTP will not be a Transportation plan per sé – but will be the region's Comprehensive plan, due in 2010.

A question was asked as to how Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) fits in. Joy pointed out that quite a bit on CSS was added to this update and that CSS broadens the review of issues to all stakeholders and the community and in a sense, widens previously required environmental reviews to consider the impacts on the human environment. Pete Harmet, who is responsible for project planning from IDOT, gave a brief overview of how CSS is incorporated into the work of the agency.

John Oldenburg said that there were two major issues that really needed to be addressed in section 1.2.6. of the RTP and that the problem regarding the definition of mitigation was a prime one and it is imperative to place the definition of mitigation in the plan and to have some type of educational process. He felt that the language in the current draft RTP is erroneous and that the typical attitude of a transportation planner towards mitigation is as an obstacle to overcome, not one of environmental stewardship. He said it needs to be made clear that mitigation is not the same as environmental protection. He asked how the draft update language gets changed. Joy outlined the process for public comment integration into the RTP Update. Randy said he sees no problem to referencing the regulations in the RTP document as suggested in John's prepared comments.

MOTION: John Oldenburg moved to forward the proposed revisions to section 1.2.6 for consideration in the RTP update process.

Patti said that there was also a need for project mitigation to be done within a context, and that project mitigation away from local impacts is not addressed in the

language. Randy clarified that the RTP is a policy document and not a document to outline processes for project level mitigation. Patti suggested that the word 'local' be added into the consultation language in the RTP and , in the section where the RTP lists out the plans being consulted, watershed plans need to be separate from the SAFETEA-LU language.

Mayor Murawski wanted regional projects that have impacts that expand beyond the regional boundaries to be considered.

Jim Vanderkloot noted that the general concepts appearing in green ink in the draft RTP Update need to have very specific wording modifications as such generalizations are unworkable.

It was pointed out that each agency could submit comments during the RTP Update process and that those that were circulated March 19th seem to have broad consensus in the committee. Also it was recognized that some of the March 19th comments do have more applicability in the upcoming Comprehensive Plan than the RTP Update. There was some discussion of authorizing staff to work with a few committee members to synthesize committee comments for the submittal, but Randy informed the committee they would have to meet again in a public forum to approve the submittal in order to stay within the parameters of the open meetings act. He suggested that they could submit them as written, or as worked out today, and let the RTP Update process do the synthesis and refining. There was an acceptance that staff and the committees that are charged with review public comments could review the E&NR comments and determine which points which are relevant to the RTP update vs. comprehensive planning efforts. *Members were reminded that any additional comments by individuals or agencies need to be submitted by April 23rd.* John Oldenburg revised his original motion to include the whole document, as the written comments were consistent with the committee's discussion.

MOTION: John Oldenburg amended his previous motion and moved that these comments in their entirety be forwarded by the committee as official comments for the RTP Update. It was seconded by Karla Kramer. The motion passed, with Bonnie Thomson-Carter abstaining.

ACTION ITEM: Staff will forward the committee's comment document to the proper RTP public comment channel ('info'@cmmap.illinois.gov).

6.0 Facility Planning Areas – Dawn Thompson

Dawn handed out a draft document “Wastewater Planning and Management in Northeastern Illinois” for review by the committee. The document outlines the regional benefits of wastewater planning, provides a legal basis for the FPA process, and proposes a future CMAP role in the process. A projected timeline for consideration of the document among the various CMAP committees was outlined. The ENR group was asked to provide comments on the draft document by Wednesday, April 11, 2007. The document will be a topic for discussion at a future ENR meeting.

Marty requested that this issue also be raised to the regional water supply group (RWSPG) as it is the back end of the water cycle, and currently they are only considering the front end of the cycle. Marty is a member on that planning group.

ACTION ITEMS:

Facility Planning Areas (FPA): Committee members are to have comments to Kerry by April 12th for collation prior to the April 19 meeting of the CMAP Land Use Committee (NIPC planning committee) when changes to the FPA process will be discussed. The E&NR committee comments will be disseminated by Kerry to the E&NR committee and presented to the Land Use Committee for reference during their deliberations on the 19th. This issue will be discussed again at the E&NR May 2nd committee meeting in depth prior to the CMAP Programming Committee meeting in May.

7.0 Discussion Items for Future Meetings

Modeling: Modeling needs and capabilities with the modeling team for the Comprehensive Plan.

Public Participation Plan (PPP): Committee member comments need to be submitted to Kerry by the 19th of April because there is a May 10th deadline for all comments to the PPP. There will be a presentation at the May 2rd E&NR committee meeting by Hubert Morgan on the Public Participation Plan. Committee comments can be discussed at that meeting.

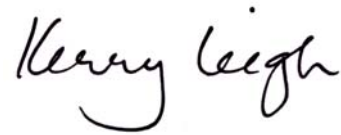
8.0 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9.0 Adjournment

MOTION: At 12:00 noon, Chair Jack Darin motioned to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Ingrid Ruttendjie. Motion carried.

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

/kl
04-04-07