



Minutes
Environment and Natural Resources Committee
August 1, 2007—9:30 a.m.

- Members Present:** Dr. Martin Jaffe – University of Illinois Chicago, Dr. Moira Zellner (alternate) -University of Illinois Chicago, Karla Kramer-US Fish and Wildlife Service, Marsha Wilhite (alternate)-IEPA Bureau of Water, Patty Werner -Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, Joe Schuessler (alternate) - Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, Patricia Young – Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, 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, Mr. Pete Harmet – IDOT District One, Chris Choi (alternate) – US EPA, Kevin Givens – Cook County Environmental Control, Kate Agasie, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus
- Staff Present:** Don Kopec, Kerry Leigh, Jill Leary, Bob Dean, Jesse Elam, Ty Warner, Ester Schwartz, Ross Patronsky
- Others Present:** Mike Klemens-WCGL, Paul Heltne – Center for Humans & Nature

1.0 Call to Order

Chairman Jack Darin called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

2.0 Agenda Changes & Announcements

Ty Warner's presentation on the Leadership Workshops and Centers Toolkit was re-scheduled for next month due to time constraints. The CMAQ presentation and discussion was held after the Regional Comprehensive Plan item on the agenda at the request of Jill Leary.

3.0 Approval of Minutes- June 6th, 2007

MOTION: John Oldenburg motioned and Karla Kramer seconded to approve the June 6th, 2007 minutes. Motion carried. There was no July meeting.

4.0 Programming & Planning Coordinating Committee Reports – Chair Jack Darin and Vice Chair Ingrid Ruttendjie

Jack gave a Programming Coordinating committee report and said that the CMAQ program was described with money for the state given to regional MPO's. The region then solicits projects and discusses the criteria for evaluation and selection of projects. The concept of Developments of Regional Impacts was also presented with CMAP staff kicking off a process including defining the criteria for review. This will be a long process and this Environment & Natural Resource Committee will be spending time looking at developing the DRI criteria.

Ingrid added that the Regional water supply planning group had set it's 5 goals, and that these are available on the CMAP webpage. The Planning Coordinating committee is a committee that looks at long term initiatives rather than the shorter term programs that Programming committee considers.

- 5.0 CMAQ - Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program**-Ross Patronsky
- Ross described the CMAQ program and discussion ensued among the committee in particular as to how to encourage a dialog between communities and applicants. The committee suggested that there could be a mechanism to coordinate and facilitate this dialog, and that perhaps CMAP could be that mechanism, particularly as one of CMAP's strengths is facilitating intergovernmental co-operation and coordination. The project criteria should be consistent with the comprehensive plan, in particular a criteria focused on achieving regional growth objectives and should also encourage partnerships. Ross noted that as CMAQ projects were specifically focused on air quality improvement, they were to some extent already consistent with the comprehensive plan although there was no explicit ranking for regional growth objectives as it is focused on cost/benefit analysis.

Jack asked that as goals change with regard to air quality had there been thoughts about adding a CO(2) indicator? This could really be a benefit as the state tracks how it is doing and can accrue credits for the state. Ross responded that under VMT reduction it is incorporated in an informal way, as the program addresses the non-attainment issues. Jack noted that VMT can track CO(2) closely and Ross said that it can be ranked in terms of daily reduction of VOC and looking at fine particulates.

John asked to see a distribution by geography of the funding. Ross said that could be done. John noted that looking at theoretical conversions to alternative fuels, even with an increase in population, CO(2) and overall VOC's could be decreased. He also didn't see an integrated approach here relative to transportation supply and demand and would like to see a direct reduction of VOC's and general carbon emissions worked into a plan and see the funding support the plan. Marty asked if we should push the envelope on this particularly as VOX from global source offsets to stationary sources such as fleet conversions could sell credits. John said as the deadline is August 28th we should take a look at the future path of the program in terms of regional sustainability. Kate suggested the committee re-address this issue in the future and discuss how programs can be integrated. Kate wanted to discuss the selection process soon.

Slides from this presentation are on the website and there is a booklet describing the program. Comments on the current project selection need to be to Ross by August 28th. Comments can be either on the projects in the program, or projects that aren't included but were submitted. There are copies available or it is on the web.

6.0 **Regional Comprehensive Plan –Bob Dean/Jesse Elam**

6.1 Plan Development Process

Bob stated that the development of the Regional Comprehensive Plan was underway, and provided an overview of the planning process. He explained that the planning process would involve six major steps. These included:

- Developing a vision for the region
- Preparing a series of reports to develop an understanding of current conditions
- Identifying and evaluating possible planning strategies to achieve the vision
- Choosing a preferred scenario (or combination of strategies) that best moves the region toward the vision
- Choosing a preferred combination of capital projects that best supports the preferred scenario
- Writing the final plan, which will include recommendations for implementation strategies and capital projects

Bob also reviewed in more detail the process that will be used for the development of a preferred scenario. He used the Envision Utah project as an example, citing its high level of public involvement and degree of acceptance by local leaders and the business community. He stated that CMAP planned to use a similar process to construct and evaluate future scenarios.

Bob stated that CMAP would develop indicators from the regional vision, construct alternative future scenarios for the region's development, and then evaluate how well each future scenario performed against the indicators through a quantitative and qualitative evaluation process. He stated that this would lead to the selection of a preferred future scenario, which will identify the combination of actions that will best move the region toward its future vision. Bob added that the major capital projects that best support the regional vision would be selected after the preferred scenario was identified.

Pat Young asked how feasible the Utah plan is and Bob responded that as it had the support of local government and the private sector it appears to be working for them.

Pete commented on the investment level for transportation, as investment costs include sewers and other infrastructure. Bob said that in the Envision Utah plan, it was determined to be less costly to develop in a compact way as there is less infrastructure. Pete then asked if this could then measure congestion and show us what we're getting, in particular in hours of delay, for example. Bob said that our plan was expected to measure congestion.

Lenore suggested that as McHenry County also used Envision Utah as a model it might be useful to talk to McHenry County planning department.

Patty noted that the process builds on itself with the early steps focusing on strategies, but asked if there would be an assessment of current conditions, noting that there did not seem to be much on water quality. Bob responded that water quality may be an indicator to measure sustainability., and that one purpose of the snapshot reports is to identify indicators. Jesse added that we will look at current conditions, and then something that tracks changes in water quality over time. Marty asked if there was a difference between snapshot indicators and scenario indicators, and Bob responded that the snapshot reports would help to identify indicators for use in the scenarios.

Patty asked whether committee input would be used in designing the public outreach materials. Bob said that was not determined yet, as the public engagement plan for this process was still being developed, but that working committees would be involved throughout the process.

6.2 Regional Vision Development

Bob reviewed the eleven themes developed at the June 6th meeting, and stated that these would be used for development of the overall vision and asked the committee if any were missing from the list. Patty asked whether the economic impact of flood damages was captured in these themes, and noted that watershed-based planning should be considered as part of the “coordinated government and planning” theme. Bob responded that economic damage from flooding could be included as part of the economic competitiveness theme. Karla noted that “quality of life” was a vague theme, and asked what ideas were included in this theme. Bob clarified that one of the major purposes of the visioning event is to identify this additional content, defining the terms used as major themes.

The committee then prioritized the 11 themes through a dot-voting exercise. After voting and subsequent discussion, the committee reached consensus that the following modifications should be made to the themes:

- The “climate change” should be merged with the larger “sustainability” theme.
- The “education” theme was a means to accomplish all of the other themes, so did not need to stand alone as a theme.
- Similarly, the “regional identity” theme could be removed as a stand-alone theme, because the visioning event would be designed to develop regionally specific material for all of the major themes.
- The “reinvestment and infill” theme should be merged with the larger “economic development” theme.

6.3 Visioning Workshop

Bob reminded everyone of the September 12th event and said that more content behind the themes will be developed and there will be some prioritization. There will be several interactive activities to generate more content to the themes and to prioritize them. Patty asked Bob to post his presentation from today's meeting on the web site.

7.0 Leadership Workshops and Centers Toolkit – Ty Warner

This item was tabled to next month's meeting on September 5th due to time constraints.

8.0 A Watershed Approach to Green Infrastructure Planning – Paul Heltne

Paul from The Center for Humans and Nature presented an idea that was discussed with CMAP and a small group of people who were convened for a presentation by the firm of Jones and Jones on the potential for changing the base for regional planning from a quarter section basis to a watershed basis. Jones and Jones presented a GIS tool called ILARIS for looking at landscape features in terms of values people attach to them. It is a way to reinforce peoples' connections with the landscape they live in as landscape values aren't traditionally brought into the fundamental thinking of a region until they are on a map and can be visualized. The Green Infrastructure Vision put a lot of important values on a map and the question is how we translate that vision into real operational activity. One way may be by utilizing watershed units, and two questions arise out of that concept: one, is a watershed approach a useful way of going about land use planning; and two, is this firm a firm that could guide it?

Ty added that this approach is in line with moving planning towards a more resource based foundation. Broad federal guidelines have been given for taking natural resources as the foundation for planning projects. This approach could set the trend nationally in fulfilling those guidelines in a practical way and on a regional scale.

Patty noted that Lake County attempted to incorporate green infrastructure into watershed plans, particularly as everyone agrees that land use impacts water resources, however the obstacle was that land use planning is done by municipalities, and within the context of watershed plans Lake County SMC can't make land use recommendations.

Ty suggested that the promise of this approach is that it could bridge that gap by establishing a common planning base that corresponds to real geography rather than abstract political boundaries. Instead of trying to fit watershed concerns into land use plans it provides a planning base used by multiple jurisdictions that takes these resource concerns as fundamental. The impact of land use decisions can then be discussed based on their effect on a total system.

Karla noted that it focuses on everything important to us at a very small scale and could build a system of importance and relativity. This may be a way of seeking input and

educating citizens more comprehensively than how we usually look at the issue. People have strong feelings for their land base and this would make them more empowered to make decisions. Paul closed with saying that the process strengthens peoples' insight as to development patterns.

9.0 Discussion Items for Future Meetings

Kerry will facilitate the transportation sub group to set an agenda for September.

10.0 Other Business

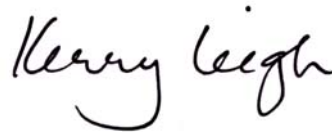
Wally informed the committee that the date of the first meeting for the wastewater committee is up in the air at the moment..

11.0 Public Comment

12.0 Adjournment

MOTION: At noon, Marty Jaffe motioned to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Pete Harmet. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerry Leigh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping "K" and a long, horizontal stroke for the "y".

Kerry Leigh
Staff Liaison

KL/CMAAdmin/E&NRcommittee/minutes/08-01-07