

**MCHENRY COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 14, 2006**

Pre-meeting discussion

Ms. Ehardt welcomed Commissioners and began by stating that in the future, meeting packets will be mailed out approximately two weeks prior to the meeting date. The maps that were included in the current packet were duplications of maps previously provided with a few corrections.

Ms. Ehardt told the Commission that the focus of this meeting was to establish sub-committees; limiting each working group to approximately 3 commissioners per committee to avoid the need to post and publish meeting dates per *Open Meeting Act* requirements. However, the RPC could decide to post and notice all sub-committee meetings to allow any Commissioner to attend or to combine groups, if necessary, in the future. Whatever the Commission decided, staff would be attending all meetings.

After reviewing a list of possible planning issues provided by staff, Mr. Dennis Dreher suggested "Water Resources" be a separate category. Mr. Jerry Davenport stated that many categories would overlap and that the items "Agriculture" and "Economic Development", although somewhat related, should likewise be separate categories. Mr. Harrison agreed and after a brief discussion, there was consensus among the Commission to separate the Agriculture/Economic Development category; making eight categories in total for sub-committees.

Mr. RB Thompson questioned Ms. Wanaski about the transportation plan presently in effect and how it will relate to the future land use plan. She mentioned that the *2020 Transportation Plan*, adopted in 2005, is a stand alone policy document. However, issues and concerns from that *Plan* will be incorporated into the new land-use plan. Staff has also been working with McDOT on a transportation model that should allow the RPC to test out cause/effect options before the 2030 plan is finalized.

Ms. Wanaski also explained that the University of Illinois has a super-computer that already has the ability produce several modeling scenarios using variables such as changing traffic patterns, development locations while providing a fiscal impact analysis. The Department has been working closely with the iPlan/LEAM team and as a result, the Commission will be able to utilize this computer testing impacts throughout this planning process. The iPlan/LEAM team will be presenting a hands-on demonstration to the Commission in January.

On another note, Ms. Ehardt stated that she has met with Mr. Peter Austin, County Administrator, who has been in contact with the McHenry County Council of Governments (McCOG). This group would like to assist the RPC in obtaining and coordinating information from municipalities. They have volunteered to host some of the meetings that would eventually be held in the four quadrants of the county. Mr. Austin would like to promote discussions not only with elected officials, but also staff-to-staff meetings.

Mr. Austin spoke about the future Regional Planning Commission's website which will have agendas and minutes of the Commission and working groups, in addition to the general status of what is happening with the Commission. It was noted that the written reports submitted by the working groups relating their progress would assist in keeping the page up to date.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 p.m. by Mr. Jung.

Roll Call

Commissioner's Present: Ron Bauman, James Coughlin, Timothy Culbertson, Jerry Davenport, Dennis Dreher, Charles Eldredge (arrived at 6:45 p.m.), Frank Harrison, John Jung, Jr., James McNutt, Nancy Scheitzelt, Jeremy Shaw, C. William Swenson and RB Thompson.

Commissioner's Absent: Craig Hubert

Also in attendance: Randy Donley, Board Member District 6; Peter Austin, County Administrator

Staff: SuzAnne Ehardt, Maryanne Wanaski, Matthew Hansel and Cindy Sassaman

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Ronald Bauman, seconded by Mr. Frank Harrison to approve the Regional Planning Commission minutes of November 9, 2006. Mr. RB Thompson commented that the meeting started promptly at 7:00 p.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Public

None.

Old Business

Since, Mr. Tim Culbertson was not in attendance at the previous meeting, he introduced himself and explained that he is an attorney who moved to McHenry

County with his wife and children several years ago. They love the county and plan to make this their permanent home.

Ms. Ehardt informed the Commission that according their Bylaws, Mr. Jung could not be elected Commission Chair. The Bylaws could be changed, but the Planning and Development Committee wanted the Commission to know that they would not support any amendments. Since an amendment was not technically an option, re-nomination and election of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer needed to be accomplished in order to comply with the December deadline.

A brief discussion ensued to determine interest in the Chairmanship. Mr. Culbertson stated that if nominated, he would accept. Mr. Charles Eldredge stated that if the Chairmanship was offered to him he would likewise accept. He was co-creator of two parks of national significance, has worked in development and is educated as an economist. His philosophy is that every resource is in short supply. He also was a participant on the Groundwater Study committee.

A motion was made by Mr. Davenport to nominate Mr. Culbertson for Chairman, seconded by Mr. McNutt. A second motion was made by Mr. Harrison to nominate Mr. Eldredge for Chairman, seconded by Mr. Shaw. Motion by Mr. Bauman, seconded by Mr. Harrison to close the nominations for chairman. Paper ballots were collected. Mr. Eldredge was elected Commission Chair by 11 votes, Mr. Culbertson received 1 vote.

A motion was then made by Ms. Scheitzelt, seconded by Mr. Bauman to nominate Dennis Dreher as Vice Chairman. Approved by acclamation.

Thirdly, a motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Bauman to nominate Mr. McNutt as Treasurer. All members present voting aye.

Ms. Scheitzelt noted that the second Thursday of the month is somewhat of a conflict with her schedule and would like a different Thursday (the third Thursday) if possible. Others had conflicts with the third Thursday which resulted in a motion by Mr. McNutt, seconded by Mr. Bauman for the Regional Planning Commission meeting to remain on the second Thursday with the meeting time changed to 6:00 p.m. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

New Business

The Public Relations Committee, when formed, will determine how to "get the word out" and get people engaged with the workings of the full Commission and sub-committees. In addition they will be charged with getting the webpage up and running with staff's technical expertise.

All press related contacts should be directed to the Chairman and/or Vice-chairman. Chairman Eldredge will contact John Rung at the Northwest Herald to help with press notices

Mr. Bauman asked if all school superintendents could be invited. Ms. Ehardt suggested contacting Gene Goeglein the Regional Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Davenport suggested that schools be moved to the intergovernmental work group.

After general comments and discussion the following working groups were formed as noted below:

Community Character

Jim Coughlin, Chairman
Charlie Eldredge
RB Thompson
Bill Swenson

Intergovernmental Cooperation

Jerry Davenport, Chairman
RB Thompson
Frank Harrison
Jim McNutt
Jeremy Shaw

Open Space

Nancy Schietzelt, Chairman
Ron Bauman
Dennis Dreher
Jim McNutt
Frank Harrison

Groundwater

Dennis Dreher, Chairman
Nancy Schietzelt
Ron Bauman
Jim McNutt

Agriculture

Ron Bauman, Chairman
Frank Harrison
Jeremy Shaw

Charlie Eldredge

Economic Development

Frank Harrison, Chairman
Bill Swenson
Jerry Davenport

Infrastructure

Tim Culbertson, Chairman
RB Thompson
Charlie Eldredge
Jim Coughlin

Communications

Dennis Dreher, Chairman
Bill Swenson
Jim Coughlin

It was decided by Commission membership that all meetings will be published to meet the *Open Meetings Act*. When available, meeting dates will also be noted on the Commission's new website. When the Commission returns in January the groups will hopefully have already been in contact with members via phone, email or in person (remember to notify the Department to publish/post), will have determined specific topics and arranged a schedule of meeting dates. A motion was made by Mr. Harrison, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to accept all sub-committee assignments. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Members Comments

Mr. Harrison suggested that a time for additional "public comments" be added to the end of the meeting to allow the public a chance to speak about items that have been dealt with during the meeting. It was the consensus of the Commission to allow the additional agenda item.

Ms. Scheitzelt recommended that the Commission forgo dinner at the meetings and use those funds to subscribe to the Planning Commissioner's Magazine. Ms. Ehardt noted that there are several publications in the Department's library from the American Planning Association which are available to Commissioners. Many Commissioners expressed that with the meetings starting at 6:00 p.m. it is convenient to have dinner provided.

Mr. Thompson had several items of interest to share with the Commission. He noted the Healthy Commission Study, a 195 slide presentation; includes surveys in McHenry County. He also recommended watching Al Gore's *Inconvenient*

Truth about global warming on DVD. He was impressed with Dennis Dreher's publications. Finally, Mr. Thompson felt that the group should be more Commission driven and require less direction from staff. Mr. Eldredge reminded him that the Commission is a recommending body to the County Board.

Mr. Dreher recommended focusing on communication with the County Board and to engage them when possible. It was noted that Ms. Wheeler will attend Planning Commission meeting when possible.

Mr. Dreher requested that the maps the Commission received be added to the website. He also suggested the following links: Kane County 2030 Plan, Regional Greenway Plan, wood and vegetation cover, hydric soils.

Mr. Thompson recently saw a Florida Statewide Planning Commission meeting where the focus was on "how to make the County suffer". By identifying those items they knew exactly what areas needed to be protected.

Rica Sloan, from the Environmental Policy Center, was introduced to the Commission and offered any technical assistance and education that she could provide.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Harrison. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8: 30 p.m.