

**MCHENRY COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 12, 2007**

Call to Order

Chairman Eldredge called the meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Charles Eldredge, Chairman; James McNutt, Ronald Bauman, James Coughlin, Timothy Culbertson, Craig Hubert, John Jung, Jr., Nancy Schietzelt, Jeremy Shaw, C. William Swenson, Jerry Davenport, Frank Harrison and RB Thompson

Commissioners Absent: Dennis Dreher

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

Minutes Approval

Mr. McNutt made a motion, seconded by Mr. Davenport to approve the minutes of March 8, 2007 as presented. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Public Participation

None

Director's Remarks

Website - Ms. Ehardt reported that a presentation of the Commission's website was made to the County Board. The Board was ecstatic and very pleased. They liked the links that are on the website and that the public has the ability to comment. The Northwest Herald was present at the meeting and also liked the website and will be promoting it when possible. In addition, an article was written in the Daily Herald which also noted the website. Ms. Ehardt stated that subcommittee information will be posted soon with a synopsis of the meetings.

Goals and Objectives submitted to County Board - The goals and objectives were forwarded to the County Board. There was concern with the Economic Development Committee's lack of goals and it was thought they should have more than what was presented. This will be discussed later in the meeting. Mr. Swenson felt that the comments regarding the Economic Development subcommittee's goals and objectives were not fair comments. The subcommittee will be meeting with Catherine Jones from MCC next week, which will allow the group to come up with meaningful goals on what type of training is needed to produce a better workforce.

Mr. Davenport would like the goals and objectives to be flexible and very general so that ideas are not “locked in”. Ms. Schietzelt suggested taking a look at Kane County’s website to get ideas. Ms. Ehardt reminded the commission that this is just to give an idea of which way the 2030 Plan will be proceeding. Mr. Swenson offered to email more goals and objectives to staff after meeting with MCC on Tuesday evening, which will still allow them to be presented to the Planning and Development Committee on Thursday.

Attendance - Ms. Ehardt requested Commissioner’s notify staff if they are not able to attend any meeting. Also, notify staff if any subcommittee meetings will be combined.

Subcommittee Profiles: Intergovernmental Coordination - Mr. Davenport will submit the subcommittee’s profile for the website by the end of the following week, April 11, 2007.

New Business

Discussion: The Plan Document – scope, contents, direction - Ms. Ehardt asked the Commissioners to think about the written document and the format in which they would like to see the plan. She suggested looking at past plans, neighboring county’s plans, and look into the centralized node concept. The County is proud of the natural resource aspect of all previous plans. She asked the Commission to give thought to what items should be included in the text; such as a history of planning or perhaps the discovery of the natural resource base. Each subcommittee will write a portion which will be funneled into the ultimate plan.

Mr. Swenson left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Wanaski noted that there are certain methodologies that could be utilized such as neo-traditional, land-transportation connection, growth corridors, growth boundaries and/or demographic scenarios. She suggested the Commission could consider a base plan with sub-area plans or maybe two regional type plans in one document such as east and west with a transitional growth area to buffer each other. She noted that there are pros and cons to each method, but wanted the Commission to start thinking how to mesh 8 subcommittee’s research into one plan.

Mr. Bauman inquired if Ag land is considered open space. It seems that people are confused on the definitions. There was some discussion regarding this and other definitions. Ms. Ehardt suggested that a glossary of terms be compiled. Subcommittees can begin compiling words and pass along to staff so they can begin to create the glossary.

Mr. Hubert would like the plan to be pictorial in nature with graphics to convey the message easily.

Mr. Davenport noted that he produced an executive summary for a previous plan, where the document was 11" x 22" in size, double sided with photos and text. This document was very successful in getting the plan out and understood. It was the consensus of the Commission that the plan should be a visual document.

Mr. Harrison made the comment that there are no new rental properties in the County. He noted that in Lake County developers are required to have a certain number of affordable house units. There was some discussion on affordable housing and impact fees. Commission asked staff to look at demographics and the housing market.

Subcommittee Reports

Agriculture - Mr. Bauman reported that 5 people from the Farm Bureau attended the meeting. A better turnout was expected, but low attendance was due to Ag Day in Springfield. Don Volkens of the Farm Bureau will send out the questionnaire. He also noted that traffic on the east side of the county is a large problem for farmers. Locally there is a trend where younger people are no longer starting farms. Another concern of the farmers are Drainage Districts. They have been invited to attend the Water Resource subcommittee meeting to voice their concerns.

Communications - Mr. Coughlin noted that they met jointly on March 22nd with Intergovernmental Coordination subcommittee. An initial "welcome to join" letter co-authored by Chairman Eldredge and Mr. Koehler will be sent to all municipalities. He explained that once the letter is sent out, Mr. Eldredge and Mr. Koehler will attend MCCOG and also call mayors, administrators and township supervisors to gain participation. The questionnaire will be presented to all commissioners to ensure that all subcommittee questions and concerns can be added. The questionnaire/letter will not be sent until after the election.

Community Character – Did not meet.

Economic Development – Mr. Harrison reported that the subcommittee has been meeting every two weeks. They have talked with Chris Manheim from MCEDC and will be meeting with Catherine Jones from MCC. They will have a joint meeting to discuss agribusiness. The first meeting in May will be a meeting with the gravel/trucking representatives. Mr. Harrison explained that there are issues with what to do with excess excavation. He also expressed a desire to meet with the chambers of commerce, mayors, representatives from manufacturers and the medical industry.

Water Resources – Larry Thomas gave a presentation on groundwater, which focused on the findings in the 2006 Baxter & Woodman *Groundwater Resources Management Plan for McHenry County*. Tim Loftus' presentation focused on sub-area watershed projects CMAP will be working on in the future. Ms. Schietzelt informed the Commission that the next subcommittee meeting will be a joint meeting with the Open Space Subcommittee, Water Resources Subcommittee and the Agricultural Subcommittee. The meeting will take place on April 26,

2007 at 6:00 p.m. with guest speakers, Ed Weskerna from McHenry County Soil and Water Conservation District and Dave Brandt from the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Infrastructure - Mr. Culbertson reported they did not meet. This month they will focus on getting their profile approved and organization of the next few meetings.

Intergovernmental – Mr. Davenport noted the subcommittee did not meet. They would like to move forward with distribution of the questionnaire and test with one or two communities to fine tune. The test could be on a community that is built out and one that is in the beginning stages of growth. Any comments on the survey should be returned prior to May, 3, 2007.

Ms. Ehardt reiterated items that needed attention:

1. Goals and objectives from the Economic Development Subcommittee.
2. Completed profile from Infrastructure Subcommittee.
3. Staff will provide surveys to all Commissioners; return thoughts and ideas to be considered.

Mr. Shaw left the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Ms. Wanaski informed the Commission that the slide show presentations by Larry Thomas and Tom Loftus are on the 2030 webpage under Planning 101.

Public Participation

None

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Davenport, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to adjourn the meeting. All members present voting are. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Approved 5/10/2007