

**McHenry County Regional Planning Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 12, 2007**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Eldredge called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Commissioners Present: Charles Eldredge, Chairman; James Coughlin, Dennis Dreher, Craig Hubert, John Jung, Jr., C. William Swenson, Jerry Davenport, Ronald Bauman, RB Thompson and Nancy Schietzelt

Commissioners Absent: Frank Harrison, Tim Culbertson, Jeremy Shaw, and James McNutt

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

**Minute Approval**

Ms. Schietzelt reported that the Open Space and Environmental/Natural Resources subcommittee report was not mentioned in the May minutes and was also missing from the April minutes. Motion by Ms. Schietzelt seconded by Mr. Thompson to approve the minutes of May 2007 with the addition of the Open Space and Environmental/Natural Resources subcommittee report. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Ms. Schietzelt seconded by Mr. Dreher to approve the minutes of June 14, 2007. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Ms. Schietzelt requested copies of the handouts from the last meeting. She also asked if Open Space and Environmental/Natural Resources could be added to some of the items on the timeline discussed at the last meeting.

**Public Participation**

None

**Directors Remarks**

Ms. Ehardt requested Mr. Jung to report on the McHenry County Council of Governments (MCCG). Mr. Jung explained that MCCG would like to be invited to join the Commission. He spoke to Brian Sager, the newly appointed President, who requested involvement with the Commission. It was suggested that the Commission could appoint someone from MCCG as an ex-officio, non-voting member. Mr. Eldredge was in favor of this proposal. Mr. Swenson would like them to be a part of the Intergovernmental Subcommittee. Ms. Ehardt offered to prepare a meeting packet for them as any Commissioner would receive and in the meantime, will work on amending the Commission's bylaws and get approval from the County Board for the ex-officio position. It was the consensus of the Commission to direct staff to produce the amendment to the bylaws and compose a letter to MCCG. Mr. Dreher asked if the Commission should have a representative at their meeting. Mr. Jung felt that we did not need to attend their meeting or have a standing report if there is an ex-officio member at the Commission meetings.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

*LEAM Proposal – CDBG Application-* Ms. Ehardt reported to the Commission that in addition to the CDBG application, she has submitted a supplementary budget request for the LEAM project. She then asked Mr. Hansel to speak about the CDBG application. Mr. Hansel provided an overhead visual of the CDBG application to be submitted. He noted the deadline is July 31<sup>st</sup> and that partial funding could be a possibility. However, the Department could apply some unused funds from vacant positions in this year's Planning and Development Budget toward this effort. A budgetary line item transfer would be needed.

Jerry Davenport left the meeting at 6:50 p.m. He mentioned before he left the meeting that he feels the LEAM project is a bit oversold. It does have important values, but he is concerned about spending \$100,000 of taxpayer funds.

Mr. Hansel explained that applicant interviews are late in August. LEAM will be present at the meeting along with departmental staff and possibly Chairman Eldredge and Mr. Jung would also attend. Mr. Hansel will e-mail Commissioners a copy of the final version of the application.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

*Preparation for the August 7<sup>th</sup> County Board presentation-* Ms. Wanaski reminded the Commission to think about the August presentation to the County Board and to give their ideas to staff to produce the 2-3 slides. Mr. Jung reported to the County Board that the presentation would be brief. Ms. Ehardt noted that a slide with all the groups that have participated or been involved with subcommittee meetings and regular meetings should be made and put toward the end of the slide show. Mr. Hansel asked that they provide the text and staff will provide the graphics. Ms. Ehardt asked that this be worked on during the next subcommittee meetings. If something is not prepared by the subcommittee, staff will prepare the information.

### **Subcommittee Reports**

*Agriculture –* Mr. Bauman reported the subcommittee met at McCann's Berry Farm. There were 30 people in total including the Economic Development Subcommittee. During the meeting discussions were about traffic concerns and that it is not only the produce that is sold on site it is also a matter of entertainment. Mr. Bauman also stated that people coming to the site also spend money on gas and possibly eat at a local restaurant which helps the economy of the County. He also mentioned that specialty growers have a concern with limits on water usage since most specialty crops need at least 1" of water per week. Growers also noted they employ junior high and high school students. It was reported that Royal Oak Farms has only generated 20% of their sales from apples and the rest of their income is from the entertainment.

*Communications-* Mr. Jung and Mr. Eldredge will be attending a meeting with the Township Highway Commissioners later in the month. Mr. Dreher encouraged subcommittees to put notices and press releases on the listserv. Follow-up stories could also be added to the listserv. Mr. Dreher noted there has been difficulty getting coverage from the press especially since no controversy is present. A meeting will be set up with Mr. Jung and Mr. Koehler with editorial boards. Mr. Dreher wanted to make

sure the Commission is getting the message out to residents using subcommittee reports.

*Community Character* – Mr. Coughlin reported that the last meeting was combined with the Infrastructure Subcommittee. Jack Schaefer from METRA attended that meeting. METRA is also scheduled for the July subcommittee meeting where there will be a slide presenting additional information. Community Character will be meeting with CAHMCO in August on affordable housing.

*Economic Development* – Mr. Swenson reported that Mike Eesley, Administrator and Susan Milford, VP Strategic Planning and Marketing for Centegra attended the last meeting. Mr. Eesley gave the most interesting presentation on Centegra's growth plan, concept plan, competition, population and changes in medicine. The next ED meeting will be July 25<sup>th</sup> at MCC with Sue Low from the City of McHenry, Dave Nelson from the City of Harvard, Tim Clifton from the City of Woodstock and Kit Karsten. The topic will be revitalization of town centers. Mr. Dreher mentioned that OWC (Other World Computing) won an award for progressive planning. He felt that could be an attractant for building business in McHenry County. Mr. Thompson mentioned that the City Woodstock will be building a \$12 million dollar "green" building which shows their commitment.

John Jung, Jr. left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

*Water Resources and Open Space & Environmental/Natural Resources* - The subcommittees met jointly and had representatives from the Fox River, Boone and Kishwaukee watersheds. There were several themes present such as groundwater, importance of infrastructure, corridors along rivers, emphasis on where development is happening, conservation development, ag protection, integrate local codes to reflect on plan. There was also a greenways map (staff is waiting to receive the digital version). The next meeting is also a joint meeting to discuss all the data collected to date.

*Intergovernmental Coordination* – Mr. Thompson reported 3 questionnaires were returned from Fox River Grove, Harvard and Woodstock, respectively. The City of Woodstock's response was very detailed and included a map in which the city planner had made notations as to the 1½ mile planning jurisdiction. Questionnaires have been sent out to Marengo and Union which completes mailings to the western portion of the County. Before the Marengo and Union surveys were sent, the subcommittee made some changes based on the first returned questionnaires.

### **Member Comments**

Ms. Schietzelt asked if the Commission would be speaking to surrounding counties and if the counties would be separated into groups based on their location. There were a few possibilities such as meeting with Wisconsin counties at one time and grouping the other surrounding counties by 2 and meeting with them.

Ms. Wanaski will contact the surrounding counties and set up speakers for the August, September and October meetings.

Staff will provide background information from the 2020 Land Use Plan that is still pertinent and applicable.

**Chairman's Comments**

*Summary of Action Items*

- each subcommittee chair will prepare 2 minute speech for the August County Board presentation
- staff will prepare an invitational letter to McCOG
- staff will prepare resolution for amendment to RPC Bylaws allowing McCOG to participate as an ex-officio
- staff will arrange meetings with surrounding counties

**Public Comment**

None

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn, by Mr. Swenson, seconded by Mr. Thompson; all present voting aye.  
Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned 8:20 p.m.