

McHenry County Regional Planning Commission
Meeting Minutes
June 14, 2007

Call to Order

Chairman Eldredge called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Charles Eldredge, Chairman; James McNutt, James Coughlin, Dennis Dreher, Craig Hubert, John Jung, Jr., Jeremy Shaw, C. William Swenson, Jerry Davenport and Frank Harrison

Commissioners Absent: Ronald Bauman, Tim Culbertson, RB Thompson and Nancy Schietzelt

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

Also in attendance: Peter Austin, County Administrator; Mary McCann and Barbara Wheeler, County Board Members; Jason Osborn, McHenry County Division of Transportation, Cassandra McKinney, Water Resource Manager and the press.

Minute Approval

The Commission did not receive a copy of the minutes. This item will be deferred until the next meeting.

Public Participation

Mr. Austin introduced Cassandra McKinney, Water Resources Manager for McHenry County.

Director's Remarks

Ms. Ehardt stated that Mr. Shaw had an important announcement. Mr. Shaw announced that he is the proud father of a baby girl!

OLD BUSINESS

LEAM- Proposal - Mr. Hansel reported that he and Ms. Ehardt met with LEAM and had a few additions to the proposal. The application will be completed and ready within two weeks, which is well before the July 30th deadline. He explained that CDBG interviews are near the end of August and funds are usually available by April or May of the following year. He noted the CDBG program is a reimbursement program and the County would have to provide funds upfront until they could be reimbursed. Ms. Ehardt explained that the Planning & Development Department has a few vacant positions where money could be transferred to start phase 1 and part of phase 2 of the LEAM project. Ms. Wanaski also mentioned that funding would be necessary for printing, education and maps. Ms. Ehardt commented that the 08' Budget process has already begun.

Intergovernmental Coordination's survey results – Mr. Eldredge reported that he received one survey partially completed from the City of Harvard. He also provided copies of letters in support of the Regional Planning Commission from the Village of

Huntley, Village of Lakewood, and Ms. Dorothy Otis, former trustee from the City of Marengo.

A brochure for a seminar offered by CMAP on Watershed Planning was handed out by Chairman Eldredge for all interested in attending.

NEW BUSINESS

Summary/outline of planning process – Ms. Wanaski provided handouts of the timeline to Commissioners. She mentioned that some of the work was completed during the 2020 Land Use Plan process. She also provided a copy of the Winnebago plan as an example. The Presentation Timeline was also given to the Commission. They are working on the LESA inventory and the inventory of meets and bounds parcels, and the digital inventory of municipal plans. (She also mentioned that Wayne Micek is working on converting all municipal plans digitally to apply to the transportation plan model for the Division of Transportation.) Ms. Wanaski asked the Commission to use handouts and identify their strengths and weaknesses. During next subcommittee meetings staff will review status for each subcommittee.

Mr. McNutt asked if we would be sending out more letters and surveys. Mr. Davenport would like a presentation on the techniques using the existing land use. He also feels that any forecasts need to be reviewed by the Commission.

Mr. Dreher commented that policy language should be developed prior to the writing of the plan. Mr. Dreher requested staff to include steps to accomplish policy.

Ms. Ehardt suggested for data collection, specific areas should be assigned to certain subcommittees. Staff can help produce information and help develop a power point presentation. She also noted that staff was still waiting on the return of the surveys that were sent out. Staff could also make a presentation on the existing land use map. Ms. Wanaski noted that the goals and objectives were created first not necessarily the same route that Winnebago County chose to follow, however, certainly in keeping with a planning program. She also noted that some subcommittees are farther along than others.

Mr. Davenport left the meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Chairman Eldredge mentioned that the existing land use applies to every subcommittee and knowing that could be helpful. Ms. Ehardt said that a presentation could be made at the next meeting.

The Commission reviewed the timeline and discussed which areas would be assigned to certain subcommittees. They are as follows:

Existing Land Use Inventory	Full Commission
LESA System quarter section analysis	Full Commission
Inventory of buildable metes and bounds parcels	Ag/Comm Charc/Water Res
Inventory of industrial and commercial parks	Economic Development
Inventory of undeveloped, planned land use acreage	Community Character

Develop. of population forecasts based on new population date	Full Commission
Inventory of municipal, township and Surrounding counties plans	Full Commission
Inventory of municipal service extensions	Infrastructure
Municipal annexation and 1 ½ mile jurisdiction map	Staff
Ag intensive use affidavits and ag area maps	Ag/staff
Affordable housing data	Community Character
Transportation information	Infrastructure
Open space inventory (MCCD, local, state County)	Open Space
Environmental features	Natural Res. & Water Res.

Mr. Dreher informed the Commission that NIPC has broken down the agricultural uses by category. Staff was asked to look into this and provide information. He also felt the Assessor's Office could be utilized.

There was discussion on how and when to report to the County Board. Ms. Ehardt explained that Mr. Eldredge and Mr. Jung will be making fairly regular reports to the County Board. Some County Board members might like the entire finished document to read and then break up the review by chapter.

Ms. Wheeler said that the County Board would like to hear from the Commission by the first meeting in August, then again in January and once more in June or July of '08. She suggested the chairman of each subcommittee, and some subcommittee reports could be combined, would have 2-3 minutes during the first meeting in August. Staff will be able to provide the power point presentation for the meeting.

Staff will begin writing the community profiles.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Agriculture – Mr. Harrison brought up a concern that was discussed at a recent subcommittee meeting. Often times people are confused between agricultural land and open space. Ms. Ehardt noted that this is where the glossary will become helpful and reminded everyone that they should be compiling words. There will be a joint meeting with the Economic Development Subcommittee on June 25th at 6:30 p.m. at McCann's Berry Farm. Items of interest at this meeting will be specialty growers, crops, horse farms and agribusiness.

Communications – Mr. Dreher reported that there was not a quorum. He met with staff and discussed the listserv. He requested that everyone identify groups to be added to the listserv and also be able to identify links for the website.

Community Character/Infrastructure – Mr. Coughlin reported that the subcommittee met with the Regional Superintendent of Schools and Veterans Affairs. Items that were mentioned in the meeting were mega campuses versus smaller campuses and school bus issues. Veterans Affairs discussed the new needs of the military personnel that will be returning to the area. Jack Schaefer from Metra will be at the next meeting on July 27th.

Economic Development – Mr. Harrison reported that they met with Chris Manheim from the EDC and Catherine Jones from the Shah Center. They also met with the

gravel/trucking industry which was very informative. Mike Eesly, CEO of Centegra will be at the next meeting on June 25th to discuss planning for healthcare. Mr. Harrison noted that since many downtown areas are trying to revitalize they will be meeting with Tim Clifton, Dave Nelson and Sue Lowe about whether or not the projects in their respective communities have been successful. They will also meet with Kit Kartsen to talk about the river walk in McHenry. Mr. Eldredge suggested meeting with Peter Bell who has the largest farm development in the last 5 years.

Water Resources – Mr. Dreher reported that there was an outside speaker on wastewater and alternatives. They discussed options and alternatives and would like to look at more innovative choices. The next meeting is June 27th and there will be presentations from the several watershed groups including, Boone Creek and Kishwaukee.

Intergovernmental Coordination- John Schmidt from the Village of Algonquin attended the meeting and reported municipalities are very interested in working with the County. The subcommittee is waiting for their first round of surveys to be returned. The survey could possibly be extended to Townships, and neighboring County's.

Open Space- Mr. Dreher reported for Ms. Schietzelt that Ders Anderson spoke at the last meeting about greenways and trail planning. This would be an opportunity for the county to work with municipalities. NIPC has a Regional Plan that could be updated. For example Winnebago County had adopted a greenway plan. This could be recommended as the next step after the land use plan is approved and grant funds could be applied for under ecotourism.

MEMBERS COMMENTS

Mr. Harrison voiced his concern that he did not get a satisfactory answer on using the real estate market information on some of the LEAM models. Ms. Wanaski did not feel that information was readily available and not necessary to include in the model but perhaps best used as a comparison with the model's result. After some discussion, Mr. Harrison noted that he disagreed and had no further comment.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

1. Prepare for August County Board Meeting.
2. Return Timeline to Commission with subcommittees noted
3. Items to be prepared
 - Presentation for next meeting on existing land use and LESA
 - Power Point presentation for August County Board Meeting
 - Staff to continue work on community profiles
 - Update listserv
 - Press releases for June 27th and July 27th
 - Clarification on nursery/sod farms

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Dreher made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hubert to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

