

**MCHENRY COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 8, 2007**

Call to Order

Chairman Eldredge called the meeting to order at 6:11 p.m.

Roll Call

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

Commissioners Absent: Jerry Davenport and Frank Harrison

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

Minutes Approval

Mr. Swenson made a motion, seconded by Mr. McNutt to approve the minutes of February 8, 2007. Mr. Dreher noted that in the Director's Comments, second paragraph, "Water Resource meeting" should read "Conservation Development Workshop". Also, page 4 under Water Resources the words "water quality" should be replaced with "supply, stormwater and flooding". The motion carried with the noted corrections; 10 ayes and 1 abstention.

Public Participation

None

Director's Remarks

Ms. Ehardt reported that staff has created a matrix of goals and objectives as seen up to this point. Copies of the matrix were provided to the Commission. She also requested the subcommittees start thinking about their work program. Staff will be creating a series of benchmarks and timelines.

In order to save meeting time, Ms. Ehardt asked that any grammatical errors on minutes, agendas, etc. be emailed to staff for correction.

Presentations

Marc McLaughlin, Planner, from the Department of Planning and Development gave a presentation of the new website for the Commission.

Mr. Hubert arrived at 7:18 p.m.

Mr. McLaughlin was asked about the "coming events" notice on the website. He explained that items that are noted in the box are directed by the Commission. It

was also noted that links to certain maps can also be added. The Commission commended Mr. McLaughlin.

Chairman Eldredge explained that he wanted to be able to get as much public input as possible through the website.

Mr. Dreher explained that he would like to invite the public to join in on subcommittee meetings. A note will be added on the website above the meetings date to that affect.

Old Business

Goals and Objectives – All subcommittee goals and objectives are attached to these minutes.

The Agriculture Subcommittee presented their goal(s) to preserve the most productive farmland based on the LE portion of the LESA system. The subcommittee will be studying and analyzing a “score” determination for soils. Motion by Mr. McNutt, seconded by Mr. Dreher to accept the goals and objectives of the Agriculture Subcommittee and forward to the Planning and Development Committee. Mr. Thompson asked for clarification, if this included productive soils or the most productive soils. Mr. Bauman stated it would be the most productive. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Dreher read minor grammatical changes to the Communications Subcommittee goals. Motion by Mr. Coughlin, seconded by Mr. Culbertson to accept the goals and objectives of the Communications Subcommittee and forward to the Planning and Development Committee. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Coughlin to accept the goals presented for the Community Character Subcommittee. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Swenson explained that the Economic Development Subcommittee is still working on goals. One goal has been noted, but after the next subcommittee meeting additional goals will be created. Mr. Swenson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bauman to accept the goals with the understanding that additional goals will be created and added in the future. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

The Water Resources Subcommittee goals were previously reviewed. The fourth objective noted a class B rating. The Commission asked that this be put in layman’s terms. Mr. Dreher explained that streams are rated from A-E, with A being the best and E the worst. Motion by Ms. Schietzelt, seconded by Mr. Coughlin to accept the goals of the Water Resource Subcommittee and forward

to the Planning and Development Committee. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion by Mr. Culbertson, seconded by Mr. Coughlin to accept the goals of the Infrastructure Subcommittee and forward to the Planning and Development Committee. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Motion by Mr. Swenson, seconded by Mr. Coughlin to forward the goals of the Intergovernmental Coordination Subcommittee to the Planning and Development Committee with the understanding that additional goals could be added in the future. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

It was noted that any modifications to the goals and objectives by the Planning and Development Committee would be forwarded to the County Board, prior to being returned to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Coughlin made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bauman to forward the goals of the Open Space & Environmental/Natural Resources Subcommittee to the Planning and Development Committee. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Base Year Determination - Mr. Eldredge requested the Commission establish a base year. He would like to use the most current year available. It was noted that 2005 is the most reliable for each segment of data. The base year cannot be a movable feature. Mr. Schietzelt made a motion, seconded by Mr. McNutt to establish 2005 as the base year. The motion carried on a unanimous voice vote.

Scope of Work: LEAM Modeling – Staff provided a graph which depicted the scope of work by tasks. Each task also has the cost noted. Ms. Wanaski asked the Commission to review for the next meeting. She explained that LEAM will need 4 – 5 months for turnaround time. She also noted that she will clarify with LEAM that the year 2001 noted in the scope of work should now read 2005.

Mr. Dreher questioned if CDBG funding was granted if the project could start prior to receiving actual CDBG funds. Mr. Hansel explained that the project should not begin until funding has been approved. Working in phases could help to eliminate this issue.

New Business

Communications Subcommittee Tagline, press release – Mr. Shaw noted that the tagline that was created, “Imagine Your County in 2030, together, working for tomorrow” could be confused with “Imagine McHenry County”. Mr. Dreher explained that they wanted to invite the public to attend and create the feeling of working together. Another suggestion to avoid confusion was to use the word “envision” in place of the word imagine.

Motion by Ms. Schietzelt, seconded by Mr. Shaw to recommend, "Envision your County in 2030, working together for tomorrow. Roll call vote, aye: Eldredge, Dreher, McNutt, Bauman, Culbertson, Hubert, Jung, Schietzelt, Shaw. Nay: Thompson, Coughlin and Swenson. The motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Swenson, seconded by Mr. Coughlin for a unanimous vote. The motion passed on a unanimous vote.

Sub-Committee Reports

Agriculture – Mr. Bauman noted the subcommittee is up to date. March 7th at 7:00 p.m. the subcommittee will be meeting with the Farm Bureau's voting members. The April meeting will be with Soil and Water and Open Spaces.

Communications – The press releases were discussed. The Subcommittee would like to be proactive rather than reactive. A tiered approach is being used; the first release was regarding the diversity of the Commission, the second release explained that formation of subcommittees and engaging people in the planning process and the third related to the new website. Mr. Dreher said that this procedure would focus the communication through a central point and keep the message positive and consistent. He also requested each subcommittee provide a brief description of their topics/issues etc. for the website. Ms. Schietzelt asked if a press release announcing the March 22nd meeting with Baxter and Woodman could be sent out. Press releases for the website were provided to the Commission.

Intergovernmental Coordination – The survey has been completed. Members plan to start with municipalities, then townships and McHenry County Council of Governments. The survey is meant to engage communities. It was also suggested that the survey be sent to village boards and also mayors. The communications subcommittee asked member to hold off on the survey until a welcoming letter from the Regional Planning Commission Chairman and County Board Chairman could be sent. In addition other subcommittees have questions/issues they would like to submit on survey questions.

Community Character – The past meeting was focused on the website profile. The next meeting time will be dedicated to developing a working agenda for the next year.

Economic Development - Mr. Swenson explained that they did not want to talk about jobs which would be similar to the Northwest Herald's feature. The Subcommittee has invited the MCEDC to speak. Chris Manheim will speak on April 4th. There will also be a speaker from the MCC workforce at an upcoming meeting. After the next meeting, they will come back to the Commission with a definition of "Economic Development".

Water Resources – Outside experts have been invited for data, assessments, current issues, problems and threats. Mr. Dreher noted there are unique threatened areas. On March 22nd at 6:00 p.m. Larry Thomas, the “water czar”, Tim Loftus with CMAP the water resource supply planning component of the newly formed agency will be speaking. The Infrastructure Subcommittee is invited to attend this meeting. Chairman Eldredge suggested speaking with John Hueman regarding stormwater, flooding and wastewater.

Infrastructure – The website profile will be finished by the next Commission Meeting. The next subcommittee meeting will focus on outside resources.

Intergovernmental Coordination – Mr. Shaw noted the primary focus is to take into account all comments and incorporate them and move on.

Open Space – Ms. Schietzelt emphasized Ed Collins points on McHenry and Lake Counties having the highest number of endangered species and the 1989 current list of biggest risk to be the best of the best natural areas. The best way to preserve is to stitch those areas together such as using greenways, environmental greenways, abide by soil maps. The Agricultural Subcommittee was invited to participate on this subject.

Members Comments

Mr. Shaw would like everyone to rely on the Subcommittees. The Commission will be able to accomplish more.

Chairman’s Comments

Chairman Eldredge felt that a great deal was accomplished at the meeting. He thanked everyone for the subcommittee reports and noted we are moving forward. He asked Mr. Culbertson to work with Jason Osborne from MCDOT. The website will be complete and the press release will be sent out announcing the site is open for viewing.

Subcommittee Chairs were reminded to complete their profiles for the website.

Motion by Mr. Dreher, seconded by Mr. McNutt to adjourn the meeting. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Approved April 12, 2007