

**REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 10, 2008**

Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Chairman Eldredge, Bill Swenson, Jeremy Shaw, Jim McNutt, Nancy Schietzelt, Jerry Davenport, RB Thompson, John Jung, Jr., Frank Harrison, and Craig Hubert

Commissioners Absent: Dennis Dreher, Ron Bauman and Jim Coughlin

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

Also Present: John Heisler, Barb Wheeler, Mary Donner, Ken Koehler, Julie Richardson, Tammy Valentine Garza, Brian Sager, Lisa Haderlein, Pat Kennedy, Pete Austin, Kim Willis, Anna Bicanic Moeller, Dan Ryan, Anna May Miller, Bob Miller, Kathleen Schmidt and Robert Ludwig

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were reviewed for approval. Motion by Mr. McNutt, seconded by Mr. Harrison to approve the minutes with the correction of Ms. Moeller's name. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

Public Participation

John Heisler, Supervisor of Nunda Township, presented his township's Proposed Open Space Plan. Copies were provided for the Commission. He reported that Nunda Township is one of 1400 townships in Illinois with an adopted open space plan. He showed the Commission a water use chart which indicated that many McHenry County townships are consuming more water than they are recharging. The Nunda Township Plan proposes preservation of 1500 acres for water recharge by possibly using purchase of development rights. Ms. Schietzelt asked for an explanation of purchase of development rights. Supervisor Heisler gave a brief explanation. He stated that he has read the McHenry Council of Governments plan and approves of it. He also noted that he placed the Commission's findings from the Water Resource Subcommittee on the township's website. The Commission asked that he note that the document is a draft only and has not been endorsed by the full Commission.

Julie Richardson read a letter from the Mayors' Caucus of the McHenry County Council of Governments that was circulated throughout municipalities in the County. She applauded the efforts of the Commission.

Lisa Haderlein from the Land Conservancy thanked the Commission for the opportunity to speak. She reported that there were two surveys completed in the County. In 2006, the Imagine McHenry County Survey was completed and the Healthy Community survey that was completed by United Way. She commented that the Imagine McHenry County Survey responders noted that top priorities were clean water and preservation of natural resources in their community. The Healthy Community Survey has the highest percentage of positive responses that indicated open space was as important as commercial development.

Kim Willis expressed her concern with the water consumption and recharge. She noted that Lake Michigan water is not an option for the County. "Preservation of open spaces should weigh heavily in our minds as there is no other option."

Director's Remarks

Ms. Ehardt said that there are subcommittee minutes that have not been accepted. She will e-mail them to the Commission and ask that they be approved at the next regular meeting. This will allow staff to post all subcommittee minutes on the website.

Ms. Ehardt requested that if the public has comments to provide them in writing and they will be attached to the minutes.

Last month Mr. Harrison requested Plat Books for the Commission. Ms. Ehardt reported that a new version will be released in April at a cost of \$80 per book. She would prefer purchasing one or two copies for Commissioners to use during the meetings.

Ms. Ehardt attended a County Planning Directors meeting two weeks ago. Kane County spoke about a potential development in the midsection of their county. Ms. Ehardt provided a copy of the proposed Serosun Farms Development.

Old Business

LEAM Models – Ms. Ehardt reported that staff is scheduled to meet with IDNR on April 21st and will address the possibility of adding another template to the overall LEAM proposal. She will provide any other information that is needed. LEAM plans on presenting initial modeling results to the Commission in May. From the response to the presentation in May, the Commission will decide whether to proceed in the same direction or change direction and request different templates to model.

Water Resources

Water Resources will be continued to the April 24th meeting.

Open Space Draft

Ms. Schietzelt gave a short PowerPoint Presentation. A copy of the draft and a copy of the glossary terms were provided. Mr. Swenson asked what Ms. Schietzelt meant by the word "development".

After some discussion Ms. Schietzelt requested Mr. Swenson to write out his definition. Review began with highlighting areas of concern throughout the proposed draft. The Commission then reviewed through page 5 and made changes based on discussions between the Commission members and recommendations from staff.

The next meeting will be the continuation of the Water Resources Chapter.

Several Commissioners noted they will not be able to attend the next meeting. Staff will follow up with Commissioners that are absent today to verify their attendance at the next meeting.

Mr. Harrison asked about getting his questions to the Commission when he is not able to attend meeting. Chairman Eldredge suggested that he submit his concerns to him and he will have the issue addressed at the meeting. Ms. Ehardt also said that a phone call addressing the concern is acceptable.

Mr. Davenport mentioned that the population projections should be reviewed and any concerns relayed to CMAP in order to get a response since they are reviewing the figures. He asked that a task force or subcommittee be formed to complete the review. After a brief discussion the planning staff will work with Chairman Eldredge, Mr. Swenson and Mr. Davenport on the population projections. Mr. Davenport reported that there were a few municipalities that did not respond to their surveys. Ms. Moeller asked for a list of the municipalities that did not respond.

Mr. Davenport said that it appears in the Water Resources review the hydric soils map may not be accurate and asked for staff to review the numbers.

Subcommittee Reports

None

MCCG

None

Members Comments

Mr. Harrison stated that the Commission has been operating as a 12 member Commission(13 with County Board Liaison. He asked if it is necessary for two new people to be appointed only to have to get newly appointed commissioners up to speed with a year and half of work already completed. Ms. Ehardt said that the Chairman of the Planning & Development Commission posed this same question and wanted to get the Commissions input. After some discussion the Chairman suggested working with the current number of Commissioners.

Ms. Ehardt mentioned that she had not received a resignation letter from Mr. Coughlin.

Motion by Mr. Harrison seconded by Mr. Swenson to recommend the McHenry County Regional Planning Commission continue with its current membership until the plan update is complete with the appropriate modifications to the ordinance. Motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Action Items

- Recommendation to the Planning & Development Committee regarding membership.
- Review population numbers and report to Commission during second meeting in May.

Public Comment

Kathryn Schmidt from Crystal Lake stated that she does not like a smaller Commission and the smaller quorum. She feels community involvement is important.

Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.