

REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

MAY 22, 2008

Call to Order

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:16 p.m.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Chairman Charlie Eldredge, Bill Swenson, Jerry Davenport, RB Thompson, Dennis Dreher, Craig Hubert, Ron Bauman, Jim McNutt, Nancy Schietzelt and Frank Harrison

Commissioners Absent: Jeremy Shaw

Staff: Maryanne Wanaski, Matthew Hansel and Cindy Sassaman

Also Present: Kathleen Bergan Schmidt, Frank Wedig, Ersel Schuster, Emily Berndt, Kim Willis, Laurie Olson, Sue Low, Brian Sager, Patricia Kennedy, Dan Volkers and Robert Ludwig

Chairman Eldredge apologized for the ending of the previous meeting. He explained that the ruling of a Chair can be overruled by a point of order by anyone on the Commission. He noted that he prefers to run a meeting rather loosely. He explained that a person was running on and not adding any additional information and he has a right to act as he did. If a member of the Commission would seek to overrule him they have a right. It is his view and that of the Commission that to see as many LEAM scenarios as possible as long as the input and output are transparent. It has been the foundation policy of this Commission that everything the Commission does is open, aboveboard and clear. He welcomes the desire of MCCG to assist the Commission in coming up with scenarios and if anyone wishes to run scenarios and has funding he is happy to have those run as well. If they are to be part of the Commissions work they must be transparent. The input must be clear and approved by the Commission and the output must be a public document. He understands that it is MCCG's intention to work closely with the Commission and the Chairman is in favor of this. Chairman Eldredge mentioned that there are some changes; Ms. Ehardt will no longer be working with the Commission. As he understands she is still employed by the County according the County Board Chairman. Chairman Eldredge, Chairman Koehler and John Jung have discussed the need to hire someone to do technical writing for the Commission as soon as possible. The writer will help frame the work, make suggestions. The professional writer would not create policy for the plan.

Chairman Eldredge reported that Brian Sager, Mayor of Woodstock, and President of MCCG wished to address the Commission and invited him to speak at the this time.

Mr. Sager stated that he was here as, Mayor of Woodstock, President of MCCG, and as a resident of the County. On behalf of the City of Woodstock and the Council of Governments he expressed appreciation for the time and commitment that has gone into the planning process and the talents that were so freely shared. He understands how tedious and time consuming the process can be. He also expressed that MCCG recognizes the importance of this project and the necessity for all to come together to bring

the 2030 Plan to fruition. He mentioned that they are a partner and saddened by the characterization that the MCCG and a leadership organization of the Mayor's Caucus of MCCG might be adversely affecting the processes or looked to be endorsing a position of noncooperation. He stated that he is committing, on the behalf of the Council and the Mayors' Caucus, to become partners in this overall process. He said that it may be the easiest path to have one person in an office writing a plan, making a decision that this is the way it's going be that in no way take us to a plan that would provide the nuance and richness that is necessary to uphold the values and the dynamics of this larger community. He mentioned that the Mayors' Caucus has adopted some strong positions; we want to be a partner in the process and be at the table with the Commission, the best decisions are made with the best possible information and they believe the LEAM process with models will provide the best possible information and they believe that one of the models that needs to be looked at is where development occurs predominantly in municipalities. MCCD believes that it is vital to start with the most current information. He would like to use information that is most current not just the 2005 information. However, do not misinterpret that. MCCG is not inflexible or does not want to work with the Commission. He noted that Mayor Low from McHenry and Ms. Olson president of Richmond and Ms. Moller are present to assure that they are collectively and individually committed to a very strong partnership so that together the best possible 2030 Plan becomes a reality for the future of the County.

Chairman Eldredge enthusiastically welcomed the collaboration of MCCG.

Ms. Schietzelt thanked Mr. Sager for his eloquent speech. Ms. Schietzelt asked if she could make a motion to invite MCCG to sit at the Commissioner's table as an ex-officio. Ms. Wanaski clarified for the Commission that the bylaws which only allow one ex-officio (County Board Liaison) are approved by the County Board. Chairman Eldredge stated that he did not know if the Commission had the authority to make them an ex-officio member but the Commission could ask MCCG to sit at the table.

Ms. Schietzelt made a motion, seconded by Mr. McNutt, to formally invite MCCG to site at the table with the Commission and to direct the County staff to take action necessary to change the Commission's bylaws as necessary to allow MCCG to become an ex-officio member of the Commission. Discussion: Mr. Hubert asked why choose one group to sit at the table? Mr. McNutt stated that they represent a majority of the population of the County. Ms. Schietzelt said the Commission had made this recommendation last summer and never followed through with the action. Mr. Dreher noted that most townships are also members of MCCG. Mr. Harrison voted nay, all other members voting aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Harrison explained his vote noting that a year and half has gone by and MCCG has not had the opportunity to participate in all the subcommittee meetings and would not have the same background.

Approval of Minutes

Tabled

Public Participation

John Darger from Crystal Lake has read the Open Space Natural Resource draft and wanted to make a point that there a lot of local resources discussed in the report and energy resources. He spoke about predictions of increased oil prices and a predicted oil production crunch. He urges everyone to take energy seriously.

Members Comments

Mr. Harrison asked if we are not using the 2005 data what data will be used. Chairman Eldredge stated we are using 2005 as our baseline, but we can add to this information and make adjustments. Mr. Swenson asked if anything has changed and if 2006 information could be used. Ms. Wanaski explained that LEAM is in the process of inputting the 2005 data. LEAM will provide the Commission and MCDOT with access to view the information via internet and take comments. Two weeks from that date LEAM will open the site to the public and take their comments as well.

Mr. Bauman asked if staff will be providing LEAM with every new land use until the process is completed. Ms. Wanaski stated that staff will provide the information to LEAM as zoning is changed.

Chairman Eldredge provided a copy of a letter and resolution from Seneca Township supporting a letter dated March 17, 2008 from MCCG. He also supplied a copy of an email from Professor Deal, LEAM project leader, requesting that all communications with LEAM be through County staff.

Ms. Wanaski mentioned that County zoning changes are recorded monthly, but most municipal annexations are recorded yearly and proposed municipal zoning changes are not provided. The Commission requested that MCCG provide them with the most recent zoning maps. Mr. Harrison stated that 75% of the zoning maps are already online.

Ms. Schietzelt questioned the deadline for the LEAM comment review. Ms. Wanaski reported that LEAM will be e-mailing password access to the Commissioners and a new review deadline will be established. After the two week review process by Commissioners the public will be able to access the LEAM site via a link on the 2030 website.

Old Business

Open Space Draft

Review began on the Open Space Draft on Page 5. Changes were made based on the comments from Commissioners.

The Commission took a break from 8:00 p.m. to 8:10 p.m.

The Commission stopped the review at page 9 at 9:00 p.m.

Timeline/Future Agenda Items

Ms. Wanaski provided a timeline to the Commission. The yellow line is where the Commission is currently. She explained that if the discussions do not move along faster, more meetings will be necessary. At the current speed another meeting may need to be scheduled in June. She encouraged the Commission not to look at the recommendations and to concentrate on putting the basic material in the plan and to move along. The big concern is to get the foundation for the plan down.

Member's Comments

Mr. Dreher mentioned that the water resources chapter will be revised with all changes made by the next meeting and would like sign off of the document. He noted that the water resource draft chapter is not on website and he suggested that it be on the website.

Mr. Davenport had met with the Ad Hoc Committee regarding population predictions and has some projections. He also mentioned that he has been reviewing the capacities for municipalities with approximately 7 or 8 more until he is finished. Mr. Davenport has been looking at hydric soils and has printed out two areas that he will be sharing with the Commission.

Mr. Hubert asked about the search for a writer and what the possible deadline would be. Mr. Austin stated that the goal is to get the writer on board as soon as possible, but the actual date would be more like the first of July.

Action Items

- Get information on carbon emissions for homes
- Post the water resources draft chapter

Public Comment

Kim Willis recommended that the agricultural committee draft be posted on the website. After a brief discussion it was noted that the draft is not yet written, therefore, not available to be posted. She asked if other drafts were available. No other chapters are available at this time.

Kathy Schmidt informed the Commission that the Imagine McHenry County Survey also had paper copies available at the libraries in addition to the internet surveys

Dan Volkens, McHenry County Farm Bureau, informed the Commission that on page 5 the word "pesticide" is a general term for all "icides" and the Commission may want to consider using pesticides such as...herbacides etc.". He also stated that the amount of crop damage from wildlife annually is around \$944 million dollars nationwide. The Conservation Reserve Program has 90 contracts as of 2006 for 2000 acres. This is significant for wildlife and natural resources. Ms. Wanaski asked for information on the Conservation Reserve Program to include in the plan.

Conor Brown noted on page 6, "Carbon Neutral", and stated that he appreciated the change of wording however the word "residential" was inserted and that may be somewhat limiting. He also encouraged using recycled materials for building materials, a statement taking into account any type of economic feasibility as well as any type of property rights that surround it.

Emily Berendt asked if there would be a newsletter or outreach communication. Mr. Dreher stated that the Communications Subcommittee has not met in the last few months. They plan on getting the information out to the media when the “meat and maps” are ready. Mr. Jung said that he met with a reporter from the Algonquin Township Side and the editor felt the information wasn’t newsworthy yet. Ms. Berendt stated that there is an entire County out there and she would like an insert in a paper or information to put out at the libraries. She asked if there is funding for a newsletter or inserts for the newspaper.

John Darger stated that the public is directed to go the 2030 website for information. He felt the 2030 website has not been very effective. He asked how soon after the Commission receives reports would the public receive the information. Ms. Wanaski stated that the information would be on the website 10 days prior to the meeting in which they will be discussed.

Mr. Volkens noted that the June distribution for the Farm Bureau’s publication would go out to over 9,400 families.

Pat Kennedy said her township newsletter included information on the water resource chapter and the feedback on the water resources chapter was good. She would like to be able to comment when items come up and there could be more collaboration between municipalities and encourage them to go for the higher standards. Ms. Kennedy requested that Ms. Wanaski use a microphone so everyone can hear her. The trees along Algonquin township roads are being cut back because the roads thaw and tree roots destroy the roads. She also mentioned the wildlife photo opportunities are a huge item. She also asked how the ag subcommittee could meet again after being dissolved.

Adjournment

Mr. Swenson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hubert to adjourn the meeting. All members present voting aye. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.