



## Region 1 Planning Council Board

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 11, 2025  
127 N Wyman St, Ste 100, Rockford, IL 61101

#### 1. Call to Order

With a quorum present, the meeting was called to order by Mayor Jury at 8:00 am.

#### 2. Roll Call

A quorum was present. Attending members included:

|                                     |                                      |                                     |                                           |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Boone County (8:01)                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | McHenry County                            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Chicago Rockford Int'l Airport       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | McHenry Economic Development Association  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | City of Belvidere                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Nicor / Southern Co                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | City of Freeport                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Northern Illinois University              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | City of Loves Park                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Northwestern Illinois Building Trades     |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | City of Rochelle                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | North Park Public Water District          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | City of Rockford (left 8:48)         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Rochelle Economic Development Corporation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | City of South Beloit                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Rockford Mass Transit District            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | ComEd (8:06)                         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Rockford Park District                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Community Advisory Forum Chair       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Rock Valley College                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Four Rivers Sanitation Authority     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Stephenson County                         |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Greater Freeport Partnership         | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Village of Cherry Valley                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Greater Rockford Chamber of Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Village of Machesney Park                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Growth Dimensions                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Village of Roscoe                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Highland Community College           | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Winnebago County                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | McHenry Community College            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The Workforce Connection                  |

#### 3. Public Comment

There were none present who wished to address the Board.

#### 4. Approval of May 15, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

**Motion** by City of Rockford, seconded by Village of Machesney Park, to **approve** the minutes.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

#### 5. CEDS Update – Isaac Guerrero

Mr. Guerrero gave an overview of the CEDS and its purpose in providing a five-year plan for regional economic development. He encouraged everyone to ensure a member of their staff attends R1's regular CEDS Steering Committee meetings. Being a part of those meetings will give jurisdictions access to funding for projects.

#### 6. Vote on RESOLUTION 2025-17 Adoption of 2026-2030 CEDS

**Motion** by City of Rockford, seconded by Rockford Mass Transit District, to **approve** RESOLUTION 2025-17.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

**7. Action Item: Vote to add nominees to Regional Data Advisory Committee (Park District RVC)**

**Motion** by City of Rockford, seconded by Greater Rockford Chamber of Commerce, to **approve** the Action Item.  
Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

**8. Transportation Update – Tim Verbeke**

Mr. Verbeke highlighted several of the Planning team's 41 projects in progress. Plans featured include the Housing Coordination plan, CAP engagement, Livable Communities Initiative, Main Street Corridor and Rockford Parks Traffic Study, ADA self-evaluation and Transition Plan, and GRIP.

**9. Community Development Update – Eric Setter**

Mr. Setter gave results of the recent Land Bank sale and projects planned on former school sites. His team is seeking recommendations for properties that could receive US EPA Brownfield Grant environmental assessments. Jimmy Westenberg, Housing Counselor, spoke on R1's new housing counseling services, which began in August. R1 is a HUD-approved housing agency and is now providing services in Winnebago, Boone, and Stephenson counties. He has been reaching out to area organizations to build a referral network and sees many opportunities for future expansion.

**10. Executive Director's Report and FY25 Financial Results**

Mr. Dunn invited Martesha Brown, Community Advisory Forum Chair, to speak on the positive momentum that group is making in encouraging community-wide feedback and engagement. Mr. Dunn gave a high-level explanation of where each team's progress for 2025. He spoke on COG membership, COG engagement on biometric privacy/data center policy, the CEDS, Land Bank sales site, and passenger rail. Mr. Dunn announced that the region has been appointed as a cohort in piloting AI functionalities for transportation planning, and transportation and AI opportunities for transportation planning, and that R1 was named an APEX Accelerator Regional Intermediary.

Everyone is encouraged to attend the R1 Open House on September 25 from 3-5.

Mr. Dunn reported that financials for FY25 are overall positive and R1 ended the year in the black.

Mayor McNamara proposed that members of this group and other key stakeholders meet with IDOT to discuss the current status of passenger rail. Mr. Dunn will look into scheduling that meeting.

**11. Other Business**

There was no other business.

**12. Adjournment**

**Motion** by ComEd, seconded by Greater Rockford Chamber of Commerce, to **adjourn**.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 am.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, November 13, 2025**

Meeting minutes prepared by: Amy Salamon  
Minutes approved by action of the Board: \_\_\_\_\_