



## Region 1 Planning Council Board

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 15, 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 Chairman Chiarelli at 8:00 am.

#### 2. Roll Call

A quorum was present. Attending members included:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Boone County	<input type="checkbox"/>	McHenry County
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Chicago Rockford Int'l Airport	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	McHenry Economic Development Association
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	City of Belvidere	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nicor / Southern Co
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	City of Freeport (8:05)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Northern Illinois University
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	City of Loves Park (8:10)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Northwestern Illinois Building Trades
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	City of Rochelle	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	North Park Public Water District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	City of Rockford (8:01)	<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 (8:05)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rockford Park District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Community Advisory Forum Chair	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rock Valley College
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Four Rivers Sanitation Authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stephenson County
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Greater Freeport Partnership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Village of Cherry Valley
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Highland Community College	<input checked="" 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. Vote on RESOLUTION 2025-12 Election of Officers

**Motion** by Boone County, seconded by City of Rockford, to **nominate** Mayor Greg Jury for Chairman of the board.  
Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

**Motion** by City of Belvidere, seconded by City of Rochelle, to **nominate** Chairman Joe Chiarelli for Vice-Chairman of the board.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

#### 5. Presentation: 2024 Financial Audit

*Alison Kmen, Lauterbach & Amen, LLP*

Ms. Kmen completed R1's 2024 audit for Lauterbach & Amen. Overall, the report is positive, with few recommendations that are being addressed.

**6. Vote on RESOLUTION 2025-06 Approval of FY24 Audit**

**Motion** by Village of Cherry Valley, seconded by City of Belvidere, to **approve** the Resolution.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

**7. Presentation: Economic Development Outlook and EDA Reauthorization**

*Tom Baron, Illinois and Wisconsin EDA Representative*

Mr. Baron, R1's Economic Development Administration representative, gave an update on the EDA.

1. **EDA Reauthorization:** Federal agencies periodically undergo this process to update their mission and make adjustments. Reauthorization was approved by Congress in December 2024. There are several impacts to Economic Development Districts: additional metrics to determine grant eligibility, a new Office of Disaster Recovery to provide assistance for long-term economic recovery after a disaster, an increase to the baseline grant rate, and EDA funding now available to small communities. The EDA is in the process of updating documents to reflect these changes.
2. **Disaster declaration:** Winnebago County received a disaster declaration in September 2024, making it eligible for supplemental EDA funding.

The board was encouraged to reach out to R1 with any economic development projects to begin developing project plans and advise on grant opportunities. There were no questions.

**8. Consent Agenda**

a. *Approval of February 6, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes.*

**Motion** by City of Rochelle, seconded by City of Rockford, to **approve** the Consent Agenda.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

**9. Vote on RESOLUTION 2025-07 Reconnecting Communities Feasibility Study RFP**

**Motion** by City of Rockford, seconded by Boone County, to **approve** the Resolution.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

**10. Vote on RESOLUTION 2025-08 Approve New Auditing Firm**

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

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

**11. Vote on RESOLUTION 2025-09 Approve Insurance Provider**

There was one question from the board, to be followed up by Kayla Gipson.

**Motion** by Boone County, seconded by Village of Machesney Park, to **approve** the Resolution.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

**12. Executive Director's Report and Quarter 3 Financial Results**

Mr. Dunn pointed out that R1 staff is doing a great job, especially in the face of significant federal cuts. The organization is looking to end fiscal year in the black for the fourth year in a row. Mr. Dunn highlighted the MPO's Safe Streets grant as a recent accomplishment for the MPO, as R1 was one of first MPOs to complete this study and the only one to complete in-house. The City of Rockford will be conducting a bike/pedestrian study based on the results of the Safe Streets report.

**13. Vote on RESOLUTION 2025-10 Adopt FY26 Budget**

**Motion** by ComEd, seconded by Village of Cherry Valley, to **approve** the Resolution.  
Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

**14. Action Item: Approve Nominations for Regional Data Advisory Committee – Jason Holcomb**

Mr. Holcomb explained the purpose of a newly formed Data Advisory Committee, which is to oversee data management activity and needs evaluations for the region. R1 solicited committee member nominations from the Board and R1 staff, to be approved for a two-year term.

**Motion** by City of Rockford, seconded by Boone County, to **approve** the Action Item.  
Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

**15. Vote on RESOLUTION 2025-11 Adoption of the CAP**

Clara Romeo and Lauren Kleve gave an overview of the region's first Climate Action Plan (CAP). The CAP outlines plans for climate change mitigation and adaptation over the next 25 years. The plan was developed by R1 staff and included a broad range of regional stakeholders during the development process. Ms. Kleve gave an overview of specific findings and recommendations.

Regional agencies are responsible for implementing the recommendations, with support from R1. Any agencies who are not listed as a responsible party for any of the action items and would like to be asked to contact R1 to be added.

**Motion** by Village of Machesney Park, seconded by Village of Cherry Valley, to **approve** the Resolution.  
Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

**16. Other Business**

**17. Adjournment**

**Motion** by ComEd, seconded by Village of Machesney Park, to **adjourn**.  
Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:52 am.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, September 11, 2025**

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