



## Community Advisory Forum

Thursday, May 1, 2025, 3:30 PM

Region 1 Planning Council  
127 N. Wyman St., Ste 100, Rockford, IL 61101

### Minutes

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Martesha Brown at 3:35 PM.

#### 2. Roll Call

Members present:

|                                     |   |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | AGHL Law                                      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Natural Land Institute                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Belvidere Chamber of Commerce                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NICNE   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Boone County Conservation District            | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Ogle County                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Boone County Health Department                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Olson Ecological Solutions (3:40)               |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Boone County Soil & Water Conservation        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | RAMP Disability Resources & Services            |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Boys & Girls Club of Rockford                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Rock Valley College                             |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Cliffbreakers (3:46)                          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Rockford Consulting & Brokerage, Inc.           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Climate Reality Project (Northern Illinois)   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Rockford Park District                          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Comprehensive Community Solutions             | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Rockford Public Library                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | IL Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Rockford Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Severson Dells                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Highland Community College                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Sierra Club Northwest River Valleys Chapter     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Hope Fellowship                               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Stateline Mass Transit District                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | I Bike Rockford                               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Temple Beth-El                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Illinois REALTORS                             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | The Workforce Connection                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Ignite Change Solutions                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | UW Health SwedishAmerican                       |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Veterans Assistance Commission of Winnebago Co. |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Lifescape                                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Winnebago & Boone County Housing Authority      |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | McHenry County                                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Midland States Bank                           | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Muslim Association of Greater Rockford (3:52) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Dyanna Rose Walker                              |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | NAACP Rockford Chapter (3:38)                 | <input type="checkbox"/>            |   |

#### 3. Public Comment

There were none present who wished to address the forum.



#### 4. Action Items

##### a. *Approval of February 2025 Meeting Minutes*

**Motion** by Rockford Consulting & Brokerage, seconded by Climate Reality Project, to **approve** the Action Item.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

#### 5. Discussion Items

##### a. *LCI: Livable Communities Initiative – Round 2*

Chloe Barnes, R1 Planner, gave an overview of LCI and changes for round 2. LCI provides funds for Rockford middle neighborhoods to improve and stabilize their communities. There are two separate components of the initiative: technical assistance to create plans for neighborhood improvement and implementation funds for projects included in the plan. Keith Creek West was the recipient of technical assistance through LCI Round 1. R1 is now accepting applications from neighborhoods for technical assistance for Round 2. See the website for links to the application, a timeline, and additional information. The CAF is asked to help reach out to applicable neighborhoods. The CAF will also review and select a winning applicant later in 2025.

R1 is now holding community meetings in Keith Creek to understand their concerns and priorities in order to develop an improvement plan. Ms. Barnes answered questions from forum members.

#### 6. Agency Reports

##### a. *State of the Trails*

Nathan Larsen, R1 Associate Planner, gave a description of the State of the Trails grant and mapping project R1 will begin in May. IDOT Statewide Planning and Research grant. This data collection project will map trails and their current pavement conditions in Boone and Winnebago Counties in order to prioritize and find funding for trail maintenance. In order to collect pavement condition data, R1 has assembled a data bike that will be ridden along each county's public trails throughout the summer to gather a variety of information on their conditions. The bike was on display for participants to view. Collection begins on Wednesday, May 7. At conclusion of this project, R1 will produce a report of its findings and brochures with trail maps. Mr. Larsen answered questions and took comments from forum members.



b. Community Broadband Planning

Davis Quarles, R1 Economic Development Planner, gave a presentation on the regional broadband planning efforts that R1 is currently undertaking. These efforts are evaluating current infrastructure and digital equity matters. There is a live survey that R1 is requesting help with communicating and getting responses. The survey will show where broadband gaps exist and R1 will then put together a report identifying the gaps and offering recommendations for improvement. Mr. Quarles took questions and comments from the forum.

c. Watershed Planting Days

Eric Tison, R1 Project Coordinator, spoke on the Project 319 Water Improvement grant. This grant covers community education on mitigating watershed pollutants to improve water quality (look at slides) and provides for two best management practice sites. There is already a bio retention basin in Ken Rock Park. There is a planting day for a bioswale (commonly known as a rain garden) this Saturday, May 3 at Park-Er-Woods. R1 is also able to provide guidance at no charge for people and organizations wanting to implement water pollution solutions on their properties. This is available until May 12.

7. **Other Business**

Tim Verbeke, R1 Transportation Principal, presented on upcoming public engagement opportunities for MPO plans. There will be one combined open house for the three plans the MPO is federally required to gather public feedback. Dates and locations for these open houses is included in meeting updates.

a. IAP2 (International Association for Public Participation) Membership Update

Chelsey Glatz, R1 Community Engagement Coordinator & CAF Staff Liaison, mentioned that R1 is part of the IAP2 and gave a presentation on engagement best practices. R1 will use IAP2's guidelines when conducting its public engagement in the future.

Martesha Brown, CAF Chairperson, asked the forum to submit nominations to her or Chelsey for the open Vice-Chair position on the CAF.

Building Bridges to Hope, a NAMI Northern Illinois and Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board (WCCMHB) annual mental health community event, will be held on May 21 at Cliffbreakers.



8. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, June 26, 2025 from 3:30–5:00 PM

9. **Adjournment**

**Motion** by Comprehensive Community Solutions, seconded by Climate Reality Project, to **adjourn**.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Opportunities for public comment. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact the Region 1 Planning Council at 815-319-4180 at least two working days before the need for such services or accommodations.