



Community Advisory Forum

Thursday, August 22, 2024, 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 Chelsey Glatz, Staff Liasion at 3:34 PM.

2. Roll Call

Members present:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AGHL Law (3:36)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ogle County
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Belvidere Chamber of Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Parks Chamber
<input type="checkbox"/>	Boone County Conservation District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rock Valley College (3:47)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Boone County Health Department	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rockford Consulting & Brokerage, Inc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Boone County Soil & Water Conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rockford Park District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Boys & Girls Club of Rockford	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rockford Public Library
<input type="checkbox"/>	Comprehensive Community Solutions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rockford Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
<input type="checkbox"/>	IL Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity	<input type="checkbox"/>	Severson Dells
<input type="checkbox"/>	DLM Manufacturing / SOAR Radio / Think Big	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sierra Club Northwest River Valleys Chapter
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eliminate Racism 815	<input type="checkbox"/>	Stateline Mass Transit District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Workforce Connection
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Highland Community College	<input type="checkbox"/>	U of I Extension
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ignite Change Solutions	<input type="checkbox"/>	UW Health SwedishAmerican
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wesley Willows
<input type="checkbox"/>	LULAC, Winnebago/Boone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Winnebago & Boone County Housing Authority
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	McHenry County	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Midland States Bank	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dyanna Rose Walker
<input type="checkbox"/>	Milestone	<input type="checkbox"/>	Steph Gaspers
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natural Land Institute	<input type="checkbox"/>	Members of the public

3. Public Comment

There were none present who wished to address the forum.





4. Action Items

a. *Approval of June 2024 Meeting Minutes*

Motion by Belvidere Chamber of Commerce, seconded by Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful, to **approve** the Action Item.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

5. Discussion Items

a. Renewing Agency Membership

Ms. Glatz will send out a survey asking if each agency would like to renew their 2 year membership in the CAF. The survey will also ask for recommendations on changing the date and time of the meeting, if a different date or time would improve attendance.

6. Agency Reports

a. Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Housing Counseling

Sarah Renicker, R1 Grant Compliance Specialist and Housing Coordinator, presented on HUD housing counseling services that R1 will provide to the community. A new R1 service, counseling falls into the following categories: pre-purchase services, post-purchase services, renter services, foreclosure/eviction, home improvement options, fair housing, and equity. Following a one-year period of providing these services, R1 will become a HUD-approved Housing Counseling Agency.

b. Housing Coordination Plan

Clara Romeo, R1 Sustainability Principal, presented the regional housing coordination plan that R1 is currently putting together. The completed plan is intended to be a playbook of regional actions that preserve, improve, and expand housing stock in Northern Illinois. There will be multiple engagement opportunities available soon through the Engage R1 site. Discussion followed.

c. Livable Communities Initiative (LCI) Application Reminder

Marc Hooks, R1 Community Impact Coordinator, gave an update on the LCI program. R1 has connected with eight target neighborhoods, several of which have received technical assistance and are putting together their applications. Applications are open now and will be accepted until September 13. At the October CAF meeting, applicants will present their ideas and the CAF will discuss and score all applications following presentations. Discussion followed.



d. RECUPERAT Survey Results

Juliana Charlebois-Berg, R1 Sustainability Research Analyst, presented preliminary results on the recently completed RECUPERAT energy needs survey. There was a total of 104 responses received, with 50% of those from the targeted census tracts. Selected questions and responses are in the attached PowerPoint presentation. The CAF input was used to develop the questions used in this survey.

e. Watershed Education and Outreach

Eric Tison, R1 Project Coordinator, gave an update on the Watershed Education and Outreach project. Planting for the bioretention basin at Ken Rock Park is complete. 3200 plant plugs planted. Construction at the second project location – a bioswale at the Park-Er-Woods park – has been delayed and is expected to begin in September. Planting is targeted for Spring 2025. R1 can provide site visits; contact Eric Tison at etison@r1planning.org to schedule. This grant aims to demonstrate best practices for collecting pollution, ultimately improving groundwater quality in major watersheds in Winnebago County.

This grant also provides technical support for any property owner within the Buckbee Creek and South Fork Kent Creek watersheds to install a rain garden on their property. Olson Ecological Solutions will provide an evaluation at residents' homes and advise on the best location, ideal size, and types of plants to use in a personal rain garden. Financing and planting the garden are to be covered by the homeowner. If you are not eligible for grant-provided technical assistance but would like assistance with creating your own rain garden, help may still be available. For more information or to schedule a consultation with Olson, contact Estelle Adiaba at eadiaba@r1planning.org.

f. Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board (WCCMHB)

Jason Holcomb, R1 Director of Community Impact, gave an update on WCCMHB activities. The board approved core program grants to 38 programs for the next three years, a change from its previous structure of taking proposals and awarding grants every year.

WCCMHB staff also completed a study comparing service providers' offerings and perceptions since the WCCMHB was formed in 2020. Of note was the shift toward providing more mobile community services instead of the traditional office setting, providing more flexibility for mental health services.



Mr. Holcomb also discussed the WCCMHB Accelerator Awards. There was a surplus of funds over the first three years (10 million) due to workforce shortages. To put this money back into mental health services in Winnebago County, the board developed the Accelerator Award program, with one-time injections of capital to improve system capacity in order to provide value beyond the award period. Ten awards have already been made, totaling \$7 million (\$700,000 average award), but there is still funding left. CAF members are encouraged to pass along referrals to organizations who might be interested in applying for this financial program. Contact Marc Hooks at mhooks@r1planning.org to refer or to apply. Discussion followed.

7. **Other Business**

There was no other business.

8. **Next Meeting**

Thursday, October 24, 2024 from 3:30 – 5:00 pm

9. **Adjournment**

Motion by McHenry County, seconded by Belvidere Chamber of Commerce to **adjourn**. Meeting adjourned at 4:38 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.