



Community Advisory Forum

Thursday, February 26, 2026, 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 Tim Bragg at 3:30 PM.

2) Roll Call

Members present:

<input type="checkbox"/>	A3 Environmental Consultants	<input type="checkbox"/>	NAACP Rockford Chapter
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AGHL Law (3:32)	<input checked="" 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"/>	RAMP Disability Resources & Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Boone County Soil & Water Conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rock Valley College
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Boys & Girls Club of Rockford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rockford Consulting & Brokerage, Inc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cliffbreakers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rockford Park District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Climate Reality Project (Northern Illinois)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rockford Public Library
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comprehensive Community Solutions	<input 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"/>	Stateline Mass Transit District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hope Fellowship	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Temple Beth-El
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I Bike Rockford	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The Workforce Connection
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ignite Change Solutions	<input type="checkbox"/>	UW Health SwedishAmerican
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Illinois REALTORS	<input type="checkbox"/>	Veterans Assistance Commission of Winnebago Co.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Winnebago & Boone County Housing Authority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lifescape	<input type="checkbox"/>	Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	McHenry County (3:41)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau (3:34)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Midland States Bank	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Citizen - Dyanna Rose Walker (Dorothy Reddic)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Muslim Association of Greater Rockford		

3) Public Comment

There were none present who wished to address the forum.





4) Action Items

a) *Approval of December 2025 Meeting Minutes*

Motion by The Boys and Girls Club, seconded by Climate Reality Project, to **approve** the Action Item.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

5) Discussion Items

a) None

6) Agency Reports

a) **MPO Attributable Funds**

Tim Verbeke, R1 Director of Planning, described projected MPO funded projects. These have been approved by the MPO Technical Committee and go to the MPO Policy Committee in March for final approval. They will then be appropriated in the fiscal year indicated in the meeting packet.

There were questions about specific transportation projects.

b) **Food and Transportation Access Study**

Brandon Rucker, Megan Mech, and Ellie Sander gave an overview of the Food and Transportation Access Study. This study analyzes the state of food accessibility in the region, focusing on transportation access. Once complete, it will provide decision-makers with strategies and recommendations to enhance access to food sources.

c) **Bicycle and Pedestrians Safety Program**

Chloe Barnes gave an overview of the School Zones Safety Program. This is an IDOT award of \$500,000 to implement a safety initiative modeled after the Safe Routes to School program. R1 will conduct school-centered activities to provide education around safety, collect and analyze data of travel patterns and infrastructure conditions, and provide a customized school zone action report to participating schools. One elementary school per district will receive an implementation project. This will take place from February 2026 - October 2027.

Time was provided for questions.



d) **Watershed Education (Section 319)**

Eric Tison gave a wrap-up on the Watershed Education program, which closed in the fall of 2025, and the Forum provided feedback on various stages of the project. Plants will be fully mature in two more years. The public is welcome to visit the sites, since they are on Rockford Park District-owned property.

Time was provided for questions.

e) **North Main Street Corridor Study**

Eric Tison described this special project, which provided an implementation strategy report and toolkit identifying parcels along North Main that could be redeveloped for housing. The City of Rockford, with assistance from R1, is responsible for developing a strategy to implement the recommendations.

Time was provided for questions.

f) **Southwest Parks Traffic Study**

Eric Tison described this special project, which analyzed internal traffic circulation at Levings Lake and Clarence Hicks Sports Complex. The study will be used by the Rockford Park District to identify opportunities that improve traffic circulation and to understand the neighborhood impact around these two facilities.

There were no questions.

g) **Regional Water Quality Study**

Eric Tison described this special project, which provided information on the quality of surface and groundwater in Boone, Ogle, and Winnebago counties. It included data on pollution, impaired waterways, demands, and current projects, with the goal of simplifying data so that stakeholders can take action to improve and maintain clean waterways.

Time was provided for questions.



7) Other Business

a) Share Outs

Chelsey Glatz announced that, at future meetings, there will be a place for members to share out with the Forum. Mrs. Glatz shared the annual NAMI Building Bridges event, which will be held on May 14th.

8) Meeting Takeaways

a) Chelsey Glatz showed the project contacts.

9) Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 23, 2026, from 3:30–5:00 PM

10) Adjournment

Motion by Illinois REALTORS, seconded by Temple Beth-El, to adjourn.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 4:41 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.