



Climate Resiliency Forum

Tuesday, March 26th, 2024 – 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM
Region 1 Planning Council

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm

2. **Roll Call**

Members Present: Colin Belle, City of Rockford Planning and Zoning; Jeremy Mitchell, City of Rockford Public Works; Dick Rundall, Eliminate Racism 815; Neely Erickson, Illinois REALTORS; Alan Branhagen, Natural Land Institute; Orlando Toatley, Rockford Mass Transit; Brad Roos, Sustain Rockford; Jeff Bailey, West Gate Coalition; Todd Marshall, Winnebago County Health Department; Dennis Anthony, Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District

Staff Present: Lauren Kleve, Clara Romeo, Vanessa Mauries, Juliana Charlebois-Berg, Sydney Turner, Eric Tison, Estelle Adiaba, Autumn Carlson

3. **Public Comment**

- a. No Public Comment

4. **Action Item: Approval of the Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2024**

- a. Motion by City of Rockford Planning and Zoning, Seconded by West Gate Coalition, Minutes Approved

5. **Presentation: Climate Action Plan – Progress Update**

- a. R1 staff gave a presentation on the current progress of the Climate Action Plan (CAP). Progress updates included an overview of the chapters and technical reports of the plan. Additionally, R1 staff discussed updates made to the plan's goals, strategies, and tactics based on previous Climate Resiliency Forum feedback.

6. **Discussion: Climate Action Plan – Action Items**

- a. A discussion was held on the final three goals and their respective strategies drafted within the CAP.
 - I. Promote Sustainable Waste Management Practices and Technology



- i. Forum members mentioned areas for opportunity regarding waste management practices. One member shared a grant opportunity with Patagonia and an update on a recycling presentation by Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful.
 - II. Support Water Resource Management
 - i. Forum members asked for a tactic within strategy 6 to be removed. Members opposed a water impact fee and provided reasoning for their opposition.
 - ii. Winnebago Soil & Water Conservation District noted there are no reservoirs in the region but, instead, an aquifer recharge.
 - iii. Discussion was held regarding the water quality and education opportunities related to water conservation.
 - III. Support Communities and Businesses in Preparing for the Effects of Climate Change
 - i. Forum members highlighted issues in disaster preparedness and infrastructure. They emphasized the lack of education and resources that are needed while also mentioning future opportunities due to the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act (CEJA) legislation.
 - ii. Illinois REALTORS emphasized current community support and education on affordable clean energy, specifically solar energy. They noted the importance of highlighting all possible outcomes regarding residential solar panels.
 - b. Lauren Kleve, R1 Environmental Planner, asked forum members to provide additional feedback via email and to share any engagement opportunities for Round 2 of the CAP.
7. **Staff Reports**
- a. Eric Tison, R1 Project Coordinator, presented on Section 319 Watershed and Education Outreach, provided an introduction to the project, and shared volunteer opportunities for members and their networks.
8. **Agency Reports**
- a. Sustain Rockford has sponsored a Solar Expo to help increase solar usage within the Rockford Region. This expo is scheduled for July 18, 2024 at the Embassy Suites in Rockford.



9. **Other Business**

- a. No other business

10. **Adjournment**

- a. Meeting was adjourned at 5:21 pm

Meeting minutes prepared by: Vanessa Mauries

Minutes approved by action of the Forum:

5/28/2024