



Community Advisory Forum

Thursday, August 21, 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 Chelsey Glatz at 3:34 PM.

2. Roll Call

Members present:

☒	A3 Environmental Consultants	☐	NAACP Rockford Chapter
☒	AGHL Law	☒	Natural Land Institute
☐	Belvidere Chamber of Commerce	☐	NICNE
☒	Boone County Conservation District	☐	Ogle County
☐	Boone County Health Department	☐	RAMP Disability Resources & Services
☐	Boone County Soil & Water Conservation	☒	Rock Valley College
☐	Boys & Girls Club of Rockford	☐	Rockford Consulting & Brokerage, Inc.
☐	Cliffbreakers	☒	Rockford Park District
☐	Climate Reality Project (Northern Illinois)	☐	Rockford Public Library
☐	Comprehensive Community Solutions	☒	Rockford Regional Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
☐	IL Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity	☒	Severson Dells
☒	Goodwill Industries of Northern Illinois	☐	Sierra Club Northwest River Valleys Chapter
☐	Highland Community College	☐	Stateline Mass Transit District
☒	Hope Fellowship (3:53)	☐	Temple Beth-El
☒	I Bike Rockford	☒	The Workforce Connection
☐	Ignite Change Solutions	☐	UW Health SwedishAmerican
☒	Illinois REALTORS	☒	Veterans Assistance Commission of Winnebago Co.
☐	Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful	☐	Winnebago & Boone County Housing Authority
☐	Lifescape	☒	Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation
☐	McHenry County	☒	Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau
☐	Midland States Bank	☐	Citizen - Dyanna Rose Walker
☐	Muslim Association of Greater Rockford	☐	

Other attendees: ComEd: Hannah McGoldrick, Chris Khalid, Tiffany Winding, and Melvin Nicks

3. Public Comment

There were none present who wished to address the forum.



4. Action Items

a. *Approval of June 2025 Meeting Minutes*

Motion by Veterans Assistance Commission of Winnebago County, seconded by Winnebago County Soil & Water District, to **approve** the Action Item.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

5. Discussion Items

a. *GRIP & LCI update – Tim Verbeke, Director of Planning*

LCI (Livable Communities Initiative): At the next CAF meeting, the forum will hear presentations from the three neighborhoods that submitted applications for Round 2. Applications were received from neighborhoods at Ridge Avenue, Signal Hill, and Midtown. As an update from LCI Round 1, the Keith Creek neighborhood voted at their last meeting to approve a flood park and planning/implementation will begin immediately.

GRIP (Grid Resilience and innovation partnership program): Has recently started up again, after having been placed on hold for most of 2025. R1's team will immediately reconvene work on this project.

There were no questions.

6. Agency Reports

a. *US EPA Brownfield Coalition Grant*

Eric Setter provided an update on brownfield assessment activity. Phase 1 and 2 assessments have been conducted in Rockford, Rockton, and South Beloit and Mr. Setter asked that forum members inform R1 of any potential brownfield sites in their localities that may qualify for an assessment.

Mr. Setter also mentioned that the Community Health Assessment, now in progress, will incorporate housing and how brownfields may affect community health/environmental factors that may be affecting mental health/homelessness issues.

b. *2026 Greenways Plan*

Lauren Kleve, Associate Environmental Planner, described the 2026 Greenways Plan R1 is in the process of compiling. This plan will have strategies to improve the regional greenways network, as well as a map of local paths. Forum members provided feedback on additional map features or data that they would like to see incorporated in the greenways map,



suggested greenway improvements, and listed additional groups that R1 should reach out to for feedback on the plan.

Public engagement will begin in early fall and the forum will receive more information on those opportunities as they are announced.

c. *Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board - Grassroots Funding*

Jason Holcomb presented on the new grassroots funding opportunity available through the Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board. This is funding specifically targeted at small, community-based organizations that deliver mental health and/or substance use services. The intent is to boost these organizations that may have difficulty receiving funding from other sources. The WCCMHB will accept Letters of Intent through September 12; information on submitting letters is available on the website.

WCCMHB is also asking for grant management mentors. This is a way for organizations who may not be eligible for funding to support this initiative by helping grassroots organizations with other grant application and management.

d. *Winnebago County Community Mental Health Board - Data Dashboard*

Seth Boswell, Lead Data Analyst, demonstrated recent upgrades to the WCCMHB data dashboard. These improvements were made as a result of CAF and other community feedback. The team added a dark mode, mobile-friendly layout, additional metrics, and navigation improvements.

7. **Other Business**

a. *ComEd - Community of the Future*

Hannah McGoldrick, presented on ComEd's Community of the Future (CoF) initiative in Rockford. The Community of the Future has a Community Advisory Council to help collaborate and inform projects and initiatives. A number of activities have already been completed, including smart HVAC installation, educational programs, and air quality sensor data collection. ComEd is requesting CAF assistance with additional members for its Community Advisory Council, and partners for its various projects.



Melvin Nicks, presented A solar-powered lighting sculpture in Brown Park incorporating symbols contributed by local youth. The process was facilitated by the Rockford Area Arts Council and the artist.

Tiffany Winding, presented the Solar Smart Flower opportunity of installing agrid-connected, decorative solar array shaped like a sunflower to power smart charging stations. Working to identify project site partners and locations. Another opportunity is the Solar Flood Light Program that aims to distribute solar flood lights to customers within the CoF footprint.

Chris Khalid, presented on the Sunbolt Solar Tables that aims to deploy several off-grid solar powered charging stations. They are Looking for additional sites and a local installer. The Zipcar rideshare pilot in Rockford that has seen high use. There are promotions available.

8. Meeting Takeaways

- a. Chelsey Glatz highlighted the takaways as contact Eric Setter for the Brownfield grant. Please share the Greenways plan in September when it is sent out later. Promote and share the WCCMHB Grassroots Funding. Reach out to ComEd if interested in their projects.
- b. The next meeting will be the LCI (Livable Communities Initiative) Presentations where the CAF has an important role in scoring.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 16th, 2025 from 3:30–5:00 PM

10. Adjournment

Motion by Illinois REALTORS, seconded by Rock Valley College, to **adjourn**.

Motion **approved** unanimously by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 5:01 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.