



## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

### Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 29, 2018 – 4:00pm  
Regional Design Center – 315 N. Main St.

**ATTENDEES:** Casey Chatterjee, Students for Responsible Environmental Sustainability; Dennis Anthony, Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District; Sherry Branson, Boone County Board; Rebecca Quirk, Rockford Coalition for a Sustainable Future; Dan Kane, Boone County Conservation District; Chet Kolodziej and Brad Roos, Sustain Rockford; Ian Linnabary, Reno and Zahm; Kerry Leigh, Natural Land Institute; Tom Lind, Rockford Park District; Amanda Mehl, Boone County Health Department; Michael Stubbe, Steve Ernst, Rockford Mass Transit District; Sean Von Bergen, Winnebago County Highway Department; Leo Medrane, SwedishAmerican Hospital; Tom Hartley, Forest Preserves of Winnebago County; Tim Bragg, Rockford Police Department; Mark Stockman, Rockford Public Works; Scott Capovilla, Zoning and Land Use Administrator; Ashley Sarver, Gary W. Anderson Architects; Rebecca Olson, KREP; Colin Belle, Margaret Campbell, Dhawal Kataria, and Sydney Turner, Region 1 Planning Council.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Ian Linnabary called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- a) **Attendee Introductions:** Attendees introduced themselves.
- b) **Approval of the September 27, 2018 Meeting's Minutes:** Mr. Linnabary entertained a motion to approve the September 27, 2018 meeting minutes. First motion made to approve by Chet Kolodziej, Sustain Rockford and seconded by Rebecca Quirk, Rockford Coalition for a Sustainable Future. The Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
- c) **RPC Board Meeting Recap:** Colin Belle briefly recapped the October 25, 2018 RPC Board meeting. Margaret Campbell provided a brief overview of the draft Title VI and Environmental Justice Considerations document and draft Limited English Proficiency Plan, which are out for public comment from November 16<sup>th</sup> to December 17<sup>th</sup>.

### 2. ACTION ITEMS

- a) **2019 EPC Meeting Schedule:** Mr. Linnabary entertained a motion to approve the 2019 EPC Meeting Schedule. First motion made to approve by Brad Roos, Sustain Rockford and seconded by Amanda Mehl, Boone County Health Department. The Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### 3. UPDATES

- a) **Boone County Comprehensive Plan – Draft Comment Period Open House:** Mr. Belle reported there is the first of several Boone County Comprehensive Plan comment period open houses tonight. There was a brief discussion about the Comprehensive Plan and the changes since the previous version.
- b) **Land-Use Planner Position with RIPC:** Mr. Belle presented the land-use planner position with RIPC that is currently open for applications.

### 4. RELEVANT OPPORTUNITIES

- a) **Great Plains Institute Update:** Mr. Linnabary reported he has spoken several times with Doug Scott since the last meeting. Mr. Scott said they are still working to secure funding for the project. There have been a couple of opportunities through traditional funding cycles they are pursuing along with exploring one-time grants. Mr. Linnabary said there is also the option to try to raise the money locally. After discussion there was a decision to give Mr. Scott more time to secure funding and to have him come in to meet with the group for further discussion. Rebecca Olson arrived at 4:21 pm.
- b) **ICLEI & ClearPath Update:** Brad Roos reported there is a version of the ClearPath software to measure greenhouse gas emissions that will be expiring at the end of the year. They will no longer be supporting the software after that point, but this version will be free. They applied for a grant with the Community Foundation, which would include the purchase of the next version of the software along with technical assistance. Chet Kolodziej was able to get 2008 greenhouse gas inventory that was performed by the City of Rockford to be able to upload into the new version of ClearPath software as base data. Mr. Roos said it would be best to wait until there is more staff and data available to dedicate to the project.
- c) **Grant Opportunities/Discussion**
  - 3D Groundwater Model: Mr. Belle reported they are finalizing the application for the end of the year after meeting with the board last month. They have requested letters of support from individuals but only a few are confirmed. There was a brief discussion on the scope of the study and the organizations involved. Mr. Roos requested a synopsis of the application/project for the letters of support. Mr. Roos spoke about a recent water and energy conference in Marquette with relevant information to share.
  - Exelon Community Impact Grant: Mr. Belle reported the Exelon Community Impact Grant will be assigned to a working group to be further explored. The website will be down for an extended period of time but the information will be shared with the group. There was a discussion on assistance for grants and the ownership of the work.

## 5. LARGE GROUP SESSION

### a) Working Group Reports

Water Resource Group: Dennis Anthony reported that FEMA and Illinois are commissioning a state water survey of the Kishwaukee River watershed. The interactive study map is open for public comment until December 12, 2018.

Land Use Group: Mr. Belle reported that the working group has not done a significant amount with the brownfields recently. They have located a GIS file with the brownfields data but there hasn't been time to work with it. Mr. Belle spoke with Eric Setter about the new Land Bank and how that might link into the work of the Land Use Group. There was a discussion on what information is available from different sources such as the EPA or the City of Rockford.

There was a discussion on the state revolving loans funds and water projects. Illinois Environmental Council is considering rewriting the regulations to include other soft projects.

Education & Culture Group: No Report.

Energy Group: Chet Kolodziej reported that Athena Gore has partnered with a company to do an energy study. He said there are new solar energy subsidies available through Solar for All. Brad Roos said Sustain Rockford will be hosting two informational community meetings on Thursday, December 6, 2018 at Katie's Cup to discuss energy incentives.

Transportation Group: No Report.

Biodiversity: No Report.

Infrastructure: Ashley Sarver reported the City of Rockford with other local and federal partners is working on the Keith Creek project. ZION Development is attempting to bring an AmericaCorp VISTA to work on the project for a year.

## 5. ADJORNMENT

Mr. Linnabary entertains a motion to adjourn. Motioned by Chet Kolodziej, Sustain Rockford and seconded by Mike Stubbe, Rockford Mass Transit District. The Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 P.M.

*Opportunities for public comment will be afforded on all agenda items.  
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