



REGION 1 PLANNING COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES / Thursday, May 3, 2018 – 1:30p
(Regional Design Center – 315 N. Main Street, Rockford)

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION: Meeting was called to order by Mayor Chamberlain with a quorum present at 1:37 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Mike Chamberlain, City of Belvidere; Chairman Frank Haney, Winnebago County; Mayor Thomas McNamara, City of Rockford; Mayor Steve Johnson, Village of Machesney Park; Mayor Greg Jury, City of Loves Park; Mayor Owen Costanza, Village of Poplar Grove; Mr. Ken Terrinoni, Boone County; Mr. John Donahue, North Park Water; Mr. Tim Hanson, RRWRD; Mr. Michael Stubbe, RMTD; Mr. Jeff Polsean, Chicago/Rockford Airport; Mr. George Gaulrapp, ComEd; Mr. Ian Linnabary, Rockford Park District; Mr. Lowell Crow, City of Freeport; Dr. Tim Hood, Highland Community College; Dr. Doug Jensen, Rock Valley College; Ms. Rena Cotsones, NIU Rockford.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Village of Cherry Valley, Stephenson County, Growth Dimensions, NIDA, Nicor, RAEDC, The Workforce Connection.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mike Dunn, Christina Washington, Jon Paul Diipla, Ben Rohr, Sydney Turner, Colin Belle, Anna Ma, Dana Northcott, Tretara Flowers, Marlana Dokken, Thomas Bona, Ivy Hood, Jay Fieser, Michelle Vella, RMAP; Steve Gregg, Sarah Stromberg, WinGIS; Doug DeLille, IDOT District #2; Dan Jacobson, Jack Armstrong, Tim Bragg, Rockford Park District; John Donovan, FHWA; Chris Dornbush, Winnebago County; Ryan Brauns, Rockford Consulting Services; J. Hanley, RRWRD; Joe Vanderwerff, Winnebago County Highway Department; Tim Savage, Village of Machesney Park.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

4. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 22, 2018 RPC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve the February 22, 2018 RPC Board meeting minutes was made by the City of Rockford seconded by the Village of Machesney Park. Motion carried unanimously (17-0).

5. ITEMS PRESENTED FOR INFORMATION OR DISCUSSION

A. Education Partners & Workforce Study Update

Dr. Jensen stated that Region 1 Planning Council (RPC) will coordinate and write a report outlining the region's economic and workforce situation and develop an ongoing process for updating and disseminating the data. This project will be in partnership with Rock Valley College, The Workforce Connection, Illinois Department of Employment Security, the Rockford Area Economic Development Council (RAEDC), and Transform Rockford.

The Northern Illinois Coordinated Workforce Report has the following goals:

- To determine the gaps between employer needs for skilled workers and the availability of skills in our regional workforce, particularly in the understudied areas of “middle skills.”
- To better understand what training, certifications, and degrees should be offered by our region’s community colleges and other training providers.
- To build employers’ confidence that the information they provide influences decision-making, and to minimize redundant employer engagement efforts.
- To encourage the region’s workers to seek training in in-demand occupations and skills to improve their economic situation.
- To put into practice a coordinated workforce system for the region.

A brief discussion took place among members regarding the Northern Illinois Coordinated Workforce Report and the process that will be taken to create the report and the goals they wish to accomplish.

B. Presentation – Local Government trends on community health

Mr. Ryan Brauns provided a brief presentation regarding local health care costs and how it affects the region. Mr. Brauns stated that Region 1 Planning Council is the venue to aggregate data, research, coordinate, establish community goals, metrics, and benchmarks. Mr. Brauns indicated that he’d like to see RIPC establish this as a priority and part of the mission.

A brief discussion took place among members regarding health care costs and its effects on the region.

C. Committee Reports

i. Environmental Committee, (incl. new Blackhawk Hills Initiative)

Mr. Rohr provided a brief summary on the discussions that have taken place over the last four Environmental Committee meetings. Mr. Rohr stated they have reviewed and discussed some regional initiatives such as the Northern Illinois Water Ground Study. Mr. Rohr stated that RIPC is participating in the Blackhawk Hills initiative and a survey has been distributed by Blackhawk Hills which has also been shared with RMAP partners.

ii. MPO Policy Committee

Mr. Diippla reported that the RMAP Policy Committee has adopted the FY2019 Unified Work Program (UWP). Mr. Diippla stated that one of the projects that the MPO will be focusing on for FY19 will be the Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) document update. Mr. Diippla also provided a brief report on REMI/Travel Demand Model and TAP.

iii. ICJIA Workgroup

None

iv. Program & Funding Development

Ms. Northcott provided a brief report on program & funding development which is currently at 12 grant awards which are primarily for RIPC partners. Ms. Northcott stated that they are currently in the middle of onslaught public safety grants which they are fielding as fast as they can.

v. **Economic Development Planning**

Mr. Bona provided a brief report regarding the Workforce Study they will be embarking on in partnership with Rock Valley College, The Workforce Connection, Illinois Department of Employment Security, the Rockford Area Economic Development Council (RAEDC), and Transform Rockford.

D. **Executive Director's report**

- i. **Proposed FY19 Budget**
- ii. **Fiscal Agency for RPC Operations Update**

Mr. Dunn stated that RIPC has engaged a CPA and looking at legal counsel as well to assist in the transition for RIPC to be its own fiscal agent. Mr. Dunn stated that he is on track on setting up the budget for FY19 and provided a brief summary on the draft budget he provided members.

5. **ITEMS PRESENTED FOR ACTION**

A. **Resolution for RIPC Participation in IMRF**

Mr. Dunn referenced the draft RIPC Budget he handed out and how a component of that budget is RIPC becoming its own employer. RIPC has been in a year long process with IMRF and the way RIPC has been created through state statute was to make RIPC employer eligible for IMRF. It is a transfer of current IMRF employees from one employer to another. RIPC is now at a stage where a cost study to become an IMRF employer has come back to us and we have two action items in one vote today to finalize the IMRF process. Mr. Dunn stated that his goal is to switch everyone starting July 1, 2018 which is the start of our fiscal year but he will not do so until IMRF has fully approved RIPC. Today's vote will authorize Mr. Dunn to move forward with that process. The vote covers two aspects 1) recognition of what the cost study findings were and its roughly \$80K for a year to IMRF; that number is based on when the cost study was conducted but that cost will go up slightly due to the additional staff RIPC has taken on. 2) is designating an authorized agent for the RIPC to IMRF to deal with IMRF and Mr. Dunn suggested that Ms. Michelle Vella be the designee. The authorized agent discussing matters with IMRF will also attend IMRF meetings and casting a vote.

Mayor Chamberlain asked for a motion to that affect, first motion was made by the City of Rockford, second motion was made by Chicago/Rockford Airport. Motion approved unanimously (17-0).

7. **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Dunn stated that the State of Illinois has asked for a quick turnaround regarding the Land Bank that the RIPC successfully established and received funding for. The request is partially requiring an RIPC Board vote but due to the Open Meetings Act the item was not able to be listed on today's agenda for an RIPC Board Vote. Mr. Dunn stated that an RIPC Board vote is needed in order to get the Land Bank funded and the due is May 28, 2018. Mr. Dunn stated he'd like to propose a 10 minute RIPC Board conference call to vote the ability for RIPC to move forward with Land Bank. RIPC Board members provided their consensus.

8. **ADJOURNMENT:**

As there was no further business, Rockford Park District made a motion to adjourn, seconded by ComEd. Approved unanimously (17-0). The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.