



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 23, 2019 – 4:00pm – 5:00pm
Regional Design Center – 315 N. Main St.

ATTENDEES: Michael Stubbe, RMTD; Sean Von Bergen, Winnebago County; Ashley Sarver, Gary W Anderson Architects; George Bellovics, DNR; Dan Kane, Boone County Conservation District; Tim Bragg, Rockford Park District; Dennis Anthony, Winnebago County Soil & Water Conservation District; Cynthia Hall, Winnebago Health Department; Beverly Moore, Citizen; Harlan Johnson, NAACP; Erin Scheffler, Zion Development; Jodie Schwaiko, Winnebago County; Colin Belle, Jon Paul Diipla, Allen Mills, Margaret Campbell, Region 1 Planning Council.

Call to Order: Ashley Sarver called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTION

- a) **Attendee Introductions/Sign-in:** Attendees introduced themselves.
- b) **Approval of March 28, 2019 meeting minutes:** Ms. Sarver entertained a motion to approve the March 28, 2019 meeting minutes. First motion was made to approve by George Bellovics, DNR and seconded by Dane Kane, Boone County Soil & Water Conservation District. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
- c) **RPC Board Meeting Recap:** Colin Belle recapped the RPC Board Meeting. A survey was taken by the board to discuss future and current priorities of the RPC.

2. UPDATES

- a) **WELCOME** Allen Mills, Land-Use Planner, to the R1PC Planning Staff!
Allen Mills was introduced as the environmental and land-use planner that will be the ETC liaison for RPC. Mr. Mills will split time between Boone County and the RPC.
- b) **Update – 3D Groundwater Model Grant Submitted by Parks & Conservation Foundation of Boone County**
Dane Kane reported Coca-Cola is reviewing the application. Since the model covers parts of Winnebago, Boone, and other counties it is important that the integrated data is seamless. A study produced by the University of Illinois – Champagne has shown areas within the proposed study area to be within a cone of depression. This application will set up a baseline water quality analysis to show where the starting point is for future work. Ms. Sarver asked what the process for the grant application entailed and how the submitters worked together. Mr. Kane said Colin Belle was on the Boone County Water Board, they had created some local documents that are ready to move to next steps.
- c) **Update – Keith Creek Planning and Bee Branch Creek Project Presentation on 5/10/2019**
Erin Scheffler presented the proposal for the Keith Creek project and recapped the Bee Branch Creek Project Presentation. Various local stakeholders for Keith Creek were at the Bee Branch Creek Project Presentation. Ms. Scheffler says there is a National Park Service System grant that can be applied for by non-profits or cities for the project. Colin Belle asked if there is anything the group can do to assist. Ms. Scheffler said they want to create a land parcel database to show project area parcels; this will require GIS work. Ashley Sarver mentioned the Winnebago County Hazard Mitigation plan needs updating. Allen Mills is currently working on the plan.

3. LARGE GROUP SESSION

a) Report Out from Each Working Group On Project Progress

Biodiversity Group reported that they have not met formally but Dennis Anthony's workplace is planting several rain gardens and butterfly plantings. Energy Group reported that the NAACP is sponsoring a trip to the 30th Annual Energy Fair in Wisconsin. Health Group reported that Rockford is working to become a trauma-informed community. Infrastructure Group reported they are helping with the Keith Creek project. George Bellovics said they are rebuilding a section of Rockcut Park road; this is being done in phases including bridge work and paths. They are adding a five-foot shoulder on to the road for biking. Drainage is being added and the roadways are being reinforced over the next few years. This work will begin after July due to bird nesting in the area. Beverly Moore informed the committee that the Natural Land Institute will be hosting wildflower walkabouts on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 6pm until June 26, 2019. Michael Stubbe informed the committee about RMTD ordering five hybrid buses (able to run fully electric in areas). These will arrive in January 2020 as part of an initiative for RMTD to go fully electric.

4. ADJORNMENT

a) Next Environmental Committee Meeting **July 25th, 2019** at 4:00pm in the Regional Design Center

b) Meeting Adjournment

Sean Von Bergen moved to adjourn, Dan Kane seconds. Meeting ended at 4:50pm.

5. WORKING GROUP SESSION

a) Work on group projects after meeting if necessary

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

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