



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 21, 2019 – 4:00pm – 5:00pm
Regional Design Center – 315 N. Main St.

ATTENDEES: Ashley Sarver, Gary Anderson Architects; Tim Bragg, Rockford Park District; Tim Holderman; Kyle Saunders, City of Rockford Water; Sean Von Bergen, Winnebago County Highway Department; Brad Roos, 3M Group; Mike Stubbe, Rockford Mass Transit District; Harlan Johnson; Sydney Turner, Colin Belle, Allen Mills, Region 1 Planning Council; Chet Kolodziej, Sustain Rockford; Mark Hunter, Illinois Department of Public Health; Ian Linnabarry, Rockford Park District Board.

1. INTRODUCTION

- a) **Call to Order.** Mr. Ian Linnabarry called the meeting to order at 4:07PM.
- b) **Attendee Introductions/Sign-in.** Harlan Johnson and Mark Hunter arrived after the meeting started.
- c) **Approval of September 26, 2019, 2019 meeting minutes.** Ashley Sarver 1std, Sean Von Bergen 2ndd.

2. UPDATES

- a) **Organization update** – MDJ gave an update regarding the committees' role with the RPC governing board. The expectation is that a member of the committee will present to the RPC board about the goings on of the EPC at least once per year.; MDJ also spoke of next year being a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The CEDS is updated on annual basis and this time is being led by Jay Fieser for the 2020 update.; MDJ also spoke about the Greenways Plan update coming in 2020. MDJ highlighted Allen Mills as the project lead and spoke about the collaboration between the agencies on the EPC list and the RPC.; Finally, MDJ highlighted how the region was home to unifying projects that many organizations can get behind – the example he provided was the Keith Creek Greenway project.
There was a question about calendar invites for the 2020 scheduled meetings from CK, Allen provided the response that calendar invites for the entire year would go out starting in December.
- b) **Update** – Winnebago County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Allen provided an update to the committee about the submission of the plan to IEMA/FEMA for a concurrent review. SVB provided the plans intended adoption date – which is expected to occur on December 19, 2020.
- c) **Update** – CB provided an update to the committee regarding the TAZ updates to the REMI model. The TAZ updates are currently ongoing and expected to be finished by the EPC's January meeting. He briefly covered the building ratings associated with the TAZ and concurrent updates to the associated land use. AM mentioned how this is intended to turn into a full land use map over the coming years. There is an expected presentation date of January 23rd for the updates to the TAZs.
- d) **Update** – CB also provided an update regarding the RPC's launch of an agreement between IDOT and RPC for the use of "Streetlight" data as part of the SPR grant the RPC was awarded. ST clarified that these updates are restricted to the 3 county area (Winnebago, Boone, and Ogle counties + 3-mile boundary). This data consists of SOV, AADT, Truck traffic, and eventually bike and pedestrian data using the cellphones we all carry around to show trips from place to place. BR expressed interest in the data presentation once it is more available.

- e) **Update** – The City of Rockford hosted a bike workshop which was covered by Brad Roos. BR covered how the bike workshop had approximately 50 people attend, it covered where people live, they drew on maps to highlight areas that are obvious disconnects. They also covered routes and safety. People provided input based on these factors. BR’s takeaway was that he was hoping all the input would actually be used by the City of Rockford. He highlighted how there are no specific bike routes in SE Rockford. He noted Harrison avenue specifically as an area of where a gap is. BR also noted how there are different kinds of riders (occasional, recreational, and necessity). For the midtown neighborhoods, necessity riders make up 40 percent. For the Southeast of Rockford, necessity riders make up over 50 percent. AS: thought it was a good exercise and she is interested in seeing the results. ST: Mentioned how RIDE Illinois hosts a semi-annual summit every two years (next up in 2020) and that for those who enjoyed the workshop, they should consider attending.
- f) **Update** – Chet Kolodziej covered how ComEd is studying the “energy/water” nexus; studying the emergence of power saving possibilities and is looking to save over 10 GW of energy in the future through areas such as (nuclear, land use, water use, etc.). Evaluating energy efficiency from a systemic standpoint (i.e. where the water goes). Finally, how energy use impacts almost every area (healthcare costs, transportation, public health, etc.).
- g) **Update** – Brad Roos brought an update on the Illinois Solar for All project. He reminded the committee that the Rockford project beat out all of the other applicants. The 2 MG facility will be located on the Horsman Quarry site. Trajectory Energy will construct the facility which is expected to be operational by late 2020 and will offer low-cost power to the surrounding lower-income communities. His committee (the 3M committee) is interested in making Rockford the solar hub of the state for projects like these. Currently Trajectory Energy is working out details regarding ComEd, who will be providing the power, how their customers will subscribe to the service.
- h) Approval of the six (6) 2020 Calendar Meetings. Meetings will fall on the second to last Thursday of the month. Per Open Meetings Act (OMA) meetings must be approved by the committee for the upcoming calendar year and posted on the RPC website.

<u>ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE</u>
January 23, 2020
March 19, 2020
May 21, 2020
July 23, 2020
September 17, 2020
November 19, 2020

*The Environmental Planning Committee liaison will be asked to give a committee update and report at one of the 2020 RPC Board Meetings. *Date to be announced later.*

3. LARGE GROUP SESSION

- a) Report Out from Each Working Group On Project Progress

4. ADJORNMENT

- a) Next Environmental Committee Meeting **January 23, 2020** at 4:00pm in the Regional Design Center
- b) Meeting Adjournment: at 4:43PM, Mike Stubbe 1std, and SVB 2ndd.

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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