



Rockford Metropolitan Agency For Planning

RMAP POLICY COMMITTEE RETREAT
MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 16, 2017
(Regional Design Center – 315 N. Main Street, Rockford)

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Mike Chamberlain, City of Belvidere; Chairman Frank Haney, Winnebago County; Chairman Karl Johnson, Boone County; Mayor Tom McNamara, City of Rockford; Mayor Steve Johnson, Village of Machesney Park; Mayor Greg Jury, City of Loves Park

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: IDOT District #2, RMTD.

1. **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL AND REPRESENTATION:** Meeting was called to order by Mayor Chamberlain with a quorum present at 10:40 AM.

2. **COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:**
None.

3. **COMMITTEE MEMBER INTRODUCTIONS**
Elected Officials introduced themselves individually.

- Mayor Mike Chamberlain, City of Belvidere Mayor and RMAP Chair
- Chairman Frank Haney, Winnebago County Chairman
- Mayor Steve Johnson, Village of Machesney Park Mayor
- Mayor Thomas McNamara, City of Rockford Mayor
- Chairman Karl Johnson, Boone County Chairman
- Mayor Greg Jury, City of Loves Park Mayor

4. **STAFF INTRODUCTIONS**

Mr. Dunn welcomed the Policy Board members and introduced the Region 1 Planning Council staff as follows:

- Dana Northcott, Executive Director of Economic Development District of Northern Illinois
- Thomas Bona, Research & Information Director
- Colin Belle, Metropolitan Planner
- Sydney Turner, Metropolitan Planner
- Anna Ma, Metropolitan Planner
- Ben Rohr, Land Use Planner
- Marlana Dokken, Regional Grants Program Manager
- Ivy Hood, Research Associate
- Becky Gibas, Grant Writer

our future, our goals, our map

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Mayor Mike Chamberlain
City of Belvidere, RMAP Chair

Mayor Greg Jury
City of Loves Park

Mayor Tom McNamara
City of Rockford

Gary L. Merzoretti, Board Chair
Rockford Mass Transit District

Chairman Frank Haney
Winnebago County

Mayor Steve Johnson
Village of Machesney Park

Chairman Karl Johnson
Boone County

Deputy Director Kevin Marchek
Illinois Department of Transportation
Region 2

5. STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Dunn welcomed the Policy Board members and introduced the Region 1 Planning Council staff as follows:

- Dana Northcott, Executive Director of Economic Development District of Northern Illinois
- Thomas Bona, Research & Information Director
- Colin Belle, Metropolitan Planner
- Sydney Turner, Metropolitan Planner
- Anna Ma, Metropolitan Planner
- Ben Rohr, Land Use Planner
- Marlana Dokken, Regional Grants Program Manager
- Ivy Hood, Research Associate
- Becky Gibas, Grant Writer
- Christina Washington, Executive Assistant/Office Manager

Other RMAP Policy Retreat attendees introduced themselves:

- Dan Jacobson, City of Loves Park Public Works Director
- Todd Cagnoni, City of Rockford City Administrator
- Mick Gronewold, Fehr Graham
- Joe Vanderwerff, Winnebago County Highway Department Engineer
- Ken Terrinoni, Boone County Administrator
- Doug DeLille, IDOT District #2 Metropolitan Planning Manger
- Tim Savage, Village of Machesney Park Administrator

Mr. Dunn stated that Jon Paul Diipla is the Director of Metropolitan Planning Organization. Gary McIntyre recently retired and Michael Hren is finishing up his last few weeks as he moves on to a new position he's accepted in California.

5. OVERVIEW OF MPO, EDD & RPC OPERATIONS

Mr. Dunn stated that he was brought in a few years ago to replace Mr. Steve Ernst and assist in moving the organization forward to an RPC organization. Mr. Dunn referenced the acronym list which was provided to the members and provided a brief summary of each acronym.

Mr. Dunn stated that during his first year he researched whether the region needed an organization such as an RPC. Mr. Dunn provided a brief summary on the primary goals of an RPC, MPO and EDD organization.

RPC – a Regional Planning Council (RPC) is an organization that provides streamlined tech assistance on projects to procure, in conjunction with a legislative advocacy board, larger state and federal investment back to the area. These services include grant writing, transportation modeling, economic/data analysis, and comprehensive planning. An RPC represents member local governments within a defined region and can also be referred to as a regional planning commission, regional council or council of governments.

What is included:

- Transportation planning, including a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- Economic development planning, research and grant writing through an Economic Development District (EDD)
- Other services to be determined

MPO – The RPC would include a Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which is an agency created by federal law to provide local elected officials input into the planning and implementation of federal transportation funds to urbanized areas above 50,000 population. MPOs must plan for regional transportation planning expenditures and are responsible for the continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive transportation planning process for their urbanized area. The Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning is the MPO for the Rockford urbanized area. That function would remain with the RPC. In addition, MPO staff would be able to provide other transportation planning services to partners outside the Rockford urbanized area.

EDD – The RPC would include an Economic Development District (EDD), an agency that oversees a federally recognized regional economic development plan required for certain federal grants. The EDD provides a forum for public and private sector partners to plan regionally significant economic development initiatives and partner with the federal government. The EDD can also provide research, technical assistance, and grant writing services to local governments, economic development organizations, and eventually a regional economic development marketing organization. The Economic Development District of Northern Illinois is the EDD for Boone, McHenry and Winnebago Counties. That function would remain with the RPC. In addition, EDD staff would be able to provide economic development research and grant writing service to other member governments.

An RPC

- saves taxpayers \$ by reducing duplication in government
- is open to participation and aligns existing functions
- is a platform for governments to handle regional issues

An RPC is NOT

- a new layer of government
- replacing existing organizations
- able to overrule local government authority

A brief discussion took place among members regarding a Regional Planning Council.

Mr. Dunn stated that the following are Open Action Items in progress and Next Steps for Regional Planning Council:

- Joint County resolution creating County-formed RPC through Illinois State Statute
- Transition of WinGIS to RPC
- Fiscal Agency from City of Rockford to independent operation with third-party providers
- Facility improvements with new City of Rockford lease and understanding of “Design Center” oversight and role
- Creation of COG Legislative Function and partner building with government leaders outside of Winnebago/Boone

Current agenda for Regional Planning Council

- Joint County resolution creating County formed RPC through Illinois State Statute.
- Transition of WinGIS to RPC (next step)
- Fiscal Agency from City of Rockford and independent operation with third-party providers.
- Facility improvement with City of Rockford lease and understanding of
- Creation of COG

Mr. Dunn provided a brief summary of WinGIS Integration over the next year.

February/2017

- Co-location
- Shared Work Elements/Work Projects

November/2017

- Shared Financial Service & One Membership Fee Structure

January/2018

- Shared HR/Organization Chart

Summer/2018

- Shared Governance Structure

A brief discussion took place among members regarding WinGIS Integration.

6. EXAMPLES OF PAST & CURRENT PROJECTS

Mr. Dunn asked the RPC staff to provide a brief summary on their past and current projects.

Marlana Dokken, Regional Grants Program Manager

- ICJIA

Anna Ma, Metropolitan Planner

- Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)
- Management and Operations Plan (M&O)

Sydney Turner, Metropolitan Planner

- Bicycle Pedestrian Plan
- STBDG (send criteria to Policy members)

Ben Rohr, Land Use Planner

- Variety projects from MPO based to RPC based and assists the City of Belvidere two (2) days a week.
- Focusing on Comprehensive planning for Belvidere, Poplar Grove and Winnebago County
- Greenways / working to make a digitally interactive Greenways map which is requested frequently by the public
- Starting an Environmental Committee

Colin Belle, Metropolitan Planner

- Greenways Plan
- REMI (Regional Economic Modeling Inc.) / Travel Demand Model

Dana Northcott, EDDNI Director

- Manages grant writing team / Criminal Justice (ICJIA)
- Regional Innovation Strategies Grant through the EDA

Becky Gibas, Grant Writer

- Focuses time on grant writing and grant research
- ICJIA

Thomas Bona

- CEDS / Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- Regional Qualified Sites Program Website (QSP) Analytics and Data

Ivy Hood, Research Associate

- Data gathering and Research Analysis
- HSTP Update
- Backup assistance for REMI project

7. DISCUSSION AND FEEDBACK ON RPC NEXT STEPS

Mayor Chamberlain provided a few comments regarding the outstanding staff that Mr. Dunn has put together and thanked them for their hard work.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

None

9. ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business, City of Loves Park made a motion to adjourn, seconded by the Village of Machesney Park. Approved unanimously (6-0). The meeting was adjourned at 12:33 P