

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
McHenry County Government Center – Administration Building
667 Ware Road – Conference Room A
Woodstock, IL 60098

Minutes of Tuesday, August 5, 2008

Barbara Wheeler, Chairman	
Randy Donley	Mary L. Donner
Jim Heisler	Peter Merkel
Marc Munaretto	Virginia Peschke

Chairman Wheeler called the Planning and Development Committee meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. The following members were present: Barbara Wheeler; Mary Donner; Jim Heisler; Virginia Peschke; Randy Donley; and Marc Munaretto. Peter Merkel was absent. Also in attendance: Planning and Development Department staff members; Peter Austin, County Administrator; Dennis Dreher and Nancy Schietzelt - Representatives from the Regional Planning Commission; interested public; and the press.

MINUTE APPROVAL: Mr. Heisler made a motion, seconded by Ms. Donner, to approve the regular session minutes of the July 17, 2008 Planning and Development Committee meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted with a unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Pat Kennedy commented that it is difficult for the public to attend a meeting that begins at 8:00 am since access to the building is denied until 8:00 am.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Regional Planning Commission Review of Chapters: Mr. Dreher provided a power-point presentation on the Water Resources Sub-Committee's Chapter. It was noted that previous plans did not include a water section. Addressing relevant water resources issues including groundwater and related water supply; water quality; and, stormwater and flooding are current issues that need to be identified in the wise use of land and development decisions. The goal of the proposed chapter on Water Resources is to help preserve and enhance existing surface and groundwater resources. Objectives were identified and various outside water resources experts provided input for consideration. Members questioned if they should be reviewing the chapter as reviewed by the full Plan Commission or the one that was not reviewed by the Plan Commission. It was noted that the version that was not reviewed was one that was edited by Mr. Dreher and the significant change included a section on open pit mining operations (Page 4 of that version). Chairman Wheeler asked that the Committee review the chapters that had been reviewed by the full Planning Commission. It was noted that this is only a draft document that will eventually be reviewed again and rewritten as necessary. As part of the process, the Planning Commission wanted to make sure that the Planning and Development was involved and provided their input as each chapter is drafted and that proposed concepts are supported by the County Board. Ms. Donner questioned how the County could encourage intergovernmental agreements with municipalities and townships for groundwater issues. Mr. Dreher noted that such issues are currently being addressed through the work of the Groundwater Task Force and CMAP. Mr. Munaretto commented that the document must take a large view of the issues and that words such as "direct", "demand", or "required" appear to be misapplied in the document. He suggested that the word "encourage" should be used more often. Mr. Dreher stated that the proposed document is a plan basis and sets the basis for regulations to follow. He noted that a number of the recommendations in the proposed document were taken directly from the stormwater plan and the Ground Water Task Force. He stated the sub-committee members are coordinating closely with the Task Force and will be adopting a class three groundwater protection plan as part of the overall document. A section on water recharge will also become part of this chapter. Ms. Schietzelt provided a copy of the August issue of *Scientific America* which addressed the freshwater crisis worldwide. It was also noted that many of the yellow highlighted sections would need to be readdressed / revisited for additional information and/or clarification.

Approved: 8/7/08

Ms. Schietzelt then gave a presentation on the Open Space and Environment/Natural Resources Sub-Committee's Chapter. Mr. Munaretto questioned if there was wording to reference allotment for public open space operated by municipalities. Ms. Schietzelt responded that such open space is included in the map but she would need to review the wording to see if it is included. Mr. Munaretto stated the section on open space becomes misleading to the reader when numbers do not appear to bear out the statements made. He noted it was unfair to compare McHenry County, which is fairly young, with other counties that are fairly along in the process (DuPage County). Mr. Munaretto went on to state that he is uncomfortable anytime reference is made to Chicago Bio Diversity Plan in our documents and noted it is important to clarify what exactly our County is being asked to support in such documents. He noted that on Page 19 reference is made to the "McHenry County Conservation Department" and pointed out that the County does not have such a department, adding that perhaps this was reference to the McHenry County Conservation District. It was noted that the word "tenants" appears to also be a typo and should be changed to "tenets" on page 19 of the document. Mr. Munaretto questioned the proposed creation of an Open Space/Land Dedication Ordinance as noted on Page 13 paragraph 2. He stated that the County is not empowered to establish such a mechanism and by doing so it would be crossing over the line with the McHenry County Conservation District. Ms. Schietzelt stated she agreed with this observation and that this section does need to be reworded.

Chairman Wheeler reported that the Agriculture Sub-Committee completed their report last evening and a draft will be submitted for the Committee's review at a future meeting. She asked Mr. Munaretto how much impact does open space have on the economy. Mr. Munaretto noted that tourism accounts for approximately 190 million dollars, noting that tourism is a component of economic development.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE, AS APPLICABLE: None.

MISCELLANEOUS: None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Donner made a motion, seconded by Ms. Peschke, to adjourn at 8:55 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION: