

# Kane County Regional Planning Commission

Glenn Morgenroth, Chair  
Sue Harney, Vice Chair  
Steve Arnold  
Joseph Slawek  
Ian Lamp  
Steve Persinger  
Tom Armstrong  
Joe White  
Esther Steel



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County Government Center  
Geneva, Illinois 60134

## REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, October 10, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.

Government Center, Building A  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room  
719 S. Batavia Ave.  
Geneva, IL

## AGENDA

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes: July 11, 2018 (attached)
4. Regional Update
  - a. Local Technical Assistance Project with CMAP on Transfer of Development Options (Development)
5. Kane County Planning Cooperative Updates – Land Use
  - a. Kane County Farm to School Program (Development)
  - b. Mill Creek Watershed Plan (Development)
  - c. Fabulous Fox! Water Trail Initiative (Development)
  - d. Oak Ecosystems Recovery Plan (Development)
6. Discussion – 25 Anniversary of the 2020 Conceptual Land Use Strategy
7. Other Business (as needed)
8. Planning Division Monthly Report (attached)
9. Public Comment
10. Adjournment

**Minutes of the  
Kane County Regional Planning Commission Meeting**

**Kane County Government Center  
719 S. Batavia Avenue, Building A  
Fourth Floor Conference Room, 7:00 p.m.  
Geneva, Illinois 60134**

**July 11, 2018**

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The Kane County Regional Planning Commission held a meeting on Wednesday, July 11, 2018, at 7:00 p.m., in the Kane County Government Center, Building A, Fourth Floor Conference Room.

Regional Planning Commissioners in attendance:

Chairman Glenn Morgenroth, Vice Chairman Sue Harney, Commissioners Tom Armstrong, Esther Steel, Steve Arnold, Ian Lamp, Joe White

Commissioners absent:

Commissioners Joseph Slawek, Steve Persinger

Development and Community Services staff attendees:

Director Mark VanKerkhoff

Planners Janice Hill, Karen Miller, Matt Tansley, Chris Toth

Intern Mark Clough

Health Department staff attendees:

Community Health Planner, Stacy Zeng

Transportation Division staff attendees:

N/A

Guest Attendees:

N/A

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chairman Morgenroth called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

The roll was called and a quorum was established with six (6) voting members. Commissioner Arnold joined the meeting shortly after the roll was called bringing the number of attending commissioners to seven (7).

### **3. Approval of Minutes: April 11, 2018**

The April minutes were approved on motion by Armstrong, seconded by Harney. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

### **4. Regional Update**

#### **a. CMAP Draft ON TO 2050 Plan Overview**

Director VanKerkhoff gave Intern, Mark Clough, the opportunity to introduce himself to the Commissioners. VanKerkhoff proceeded to provide an update on CMAP's ON TO 2050 Plan development process. Referencing a timeline slide, VanKerkhoff noted that the planning process was initiated in 2015. Early in the process, Kane County planning staff had been involved in the development of a select number of preliminary reports as well as assisting in the public outreach and input gathering process. The draft plan is currently out for public review with and is set for final approval on October 10, 2018. The commissioners were invited to attend the public unveiling of the final plan at a special event in Millennium Park. Kane County had previously hosted an open house event to solicit input on the draft plan and other supporting CMAP publications. To date, the Kane County open house was the best attended.

VanKerkhoff reviewed some of the statistical and demographic findings summarized in the draft plan including key housing, economic, and population indicators. He highlighted the increasing proportion of development occurring in areas that are highly supportive of infill projects. This strategy has been promoted through Kane County's planning policies for many years. Balancing transportation costs against transportation-related revenue streams has and will continue to be a challenge.

VanKerkhoff touched on the high-level themes of the ON TO 2050 Plan: Inclusive Growth, Resilience, and Prioritized Investment. He went on to discuss some of the key goal categories of the plan including Community, Prosperity, Environment, Governance, and Mobility. Plan implementation will focus on capacity building for local units of government with limited resources to conduct planning processes. CMAP will continue its Local Technical Assistance program, which has benefited Kane County communities and others around the region looking to bolster their capabilities for completing planning projects.

Chairman Morgenroth inquired if there were any significant changes in the ON TO 2050 Plan from GO TO 2040. VanKerkhoff mentioned that there was new focus on the idea of inclusive growth as well as an in-depth look at the continuing demands on our transportation system and its impacts on communities. The new plan also addresses governance best practices, which was not previously a subject of prominence.

Commissioner Harney asked if transportation funding was being increasingly prioritized for either road or transit projects. VanKerkhoff noted that both systems continue to receive funding, but would seek clarification as to whether more or less was being allocated for either system. He mentioned that more Bus Rapid Transit routes are being identified west of Chicago.

## **5. Kane County Planning Cooperative Updates – Land Use**

### **a. Community Health Assessment Updates**

Community Health Planner Stacy Zeng said that her department had recently completed a round of Community Health Assessments, complimenting a more comprehensive assessment completed in 2015 in conjunction with several health partners. These assessments are required to maintain certification with the state health department. In 2015, Kane Health Counts launched as a collaborative entity bringing together Kane County’s healthcare partners to support the Community Health Assessment process. The county is only required to complete a full assessment every 5 years. This round, the Health Department will only be completing a Community Health Needs Assessment and a Forces of Change Assessment.

The Forces of Change Assessment was conducted in April, which reached about 40 key informants including elected officials, social service workers, and other stakeholders with an understanding of community needs. There were five themes identified during the assessment process: Social Cohesion, Mental Health, Access to Healthcare, Immigration, and Policy.

The Community Health Needs Assessment was conducted by PRC, the vendor who conducted the county’s assessment in 2015. The assessment included an online survey of key stakeholders and gathering of secondary data on key health and population metrics. Zeng referenced a slide displaying survey response counts across the northern, central, and southern regions of Kane County. The online population survey results were synthesized into a list of 12 Areas of Opportunity. These areas were identified to ensure that they are being addressed by the Health Department’s action teams. Zeng highlighted poverty rates in Kane County, which fall below the poverty rates for Illinois and the US. The percentage of county residents experiencing “fair or poor” mental health increased from 10.5% in 2015 to 17.8% in 2018. Women aged 13 to 39 was the demographic most likely to experience “fair or poor” mental health. Illicit drug use climbed from 2015 to 2018 by about 4%. In addition, child obesity climbed by about 9% for the same period.

Stakeholders from the Community Health Needs Assessment reconvened to prioritize the 12 Areas of Opportunity based on their severity and the ability to affect positive change within a given area. There were three Areas of Opportunity with the highest ranking in both categories: Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Nutrition, Physical Activity, & Weight. The Executive Committee of the Kane Health Counts Team recommended that the Action Teams of Behavioral Health, Chronic Disease, and Income & Education be continued.

Morgenroth asked if the recent increase in mental health issues is linked with real or perceived issues. Zeng mentioned that respondents also indicated having limited access the mental healthcare resources.

Harney asked if the state had experienced diminished capacity provide mental health services as a result of the budget impasse. Zeng suspected that there was some correlation, but did not have relevant the statistical information.

VanKerkhoff noted that while some of the county’s health metrics have diminished since the prior health assessment, it would be interesting to see how Kane County’s rate of change compares with other counties and the rest of the state.

## **b. Fresh & Local Rx Program Updates**

Planner Tansley proceeded to share updates on the Fresh & Local Rx and food hub projects with the commissioners. Tansley outlined the origin of the food hub project as a recommendation that emerged from the Growing for Kane Health Impact Assessment. He explained generally how a food hub operates as a product aggregation entity for farmers to help bring their grown items to wholesale markets. The county's feasibility study included an assessment of the market conditions in which the hub would operate. These conditions were determined by the county's business consultant to be suitable for a hub to operate successfully. The feasibility study also included a set of strategies by which the food hub could advance some of the county's health equity goals. These included the acquisition of produce processing equipment to reach schools and institutional buyers, as well as the adoption of a prescription produce program.

Following the completion of the feasibility study, the project team turned their focus to the recruitment of a qualified food hub operator with whom to collaborate. Kane County would eventually settle on Dream Hub, an Elgin based food business incubator with an interest in expanding into the wholesale distribution market. The county entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Dream Hub, which spelled out the commitments both parties would make in support of the hub.

In partnership with Kane County, the Rush Copley Medical Center received a foundation grant to implement a pilot project for the proposed prescription produce program. The proposal called for Dream Hub to facilitate the distribution of produce between the local growers and hospital. Participating patients would receive cooking and nutrition instruction along with their regular allocation of produce. The first round of classes started in June with produce items from Mighty Greens and Wiltse's Farms. Lazarus House of St. Charles agreed to accept any unused produce as a donation.

Tansley referenced slide photos illustrating the implementation for the Fresh & Local Rx program, including the cooking demonstration classroom and pickup area. He went on to highlight some of the anticipated benefits of the program including feedback that farmers can use to grow items that are in demand, lessons on coordinating harvest schedules through the food hub, increased knowledge among patients on the use of locally grown produce items, and overcoming logistical and operational challenges by the food hub.

Morgenroth asked if the hospital was the food hub's only client for wholesale distribution. Tansley indicated that Rush Copley was the hub's primary client but was actively pursuing vendor opportunities with area restaurants.

Harney pointed out that she was aware of a similar program operating in California that had been linked with lower rates of chronic illness. Tansley noted that Rush Copley's pilot was primarily focused on monitoring behavioral change, but that the hospital would be continually tracking patients' biometrics and may look at specific health indicators more closely in the future.

Morgenroth inquired if other hospitals expressed interest in participating in the program. Tansley said that the county has spoken with other healthcare institutions interested in the program and received commitments from two additional healthcare providers as part of a grant proposal to make

their patient pools available to the program. However, Kane County was not awarded the grant in this instance.

Commissioner Arnold inquired if any health insurance providers or other institutions focused on prevention in healthcare would fund a program like this. Hill noted that Blue Cross has been active in Minnesota where agriculture and local foods intersects with health. There are other insurance providers offering healthy savings cards for redeemable credits to incentivize healthier eating and purchasing.

Arnold asked if training or additional resources were being provided to the hub enabling them to pursue grant opportunities on their own. Janice noted that this is something we have discussed with Dream Hub. Their attention is currently focused on the execution of the pilot program. However, there are other markets in the region that could be tapped and would be profitable once their capacity has risen.

Tansley mentioned that the Food:Land:Opportunity grant has continued to sustain the development of the food hub, primarily through the purchase of food processing equipment.

### **c. Grant Announcement**

Planner Hill summarized a new proposal that Kane County received USDA funding to implement. The proposal addresses the need for providing more nutritious food options for youths detained at the Kane County Juvenile Justice Center. A garden program was piloted last year at the JJC, which introduced a select group of youth to container gardening, in addition to being able to sample fresh produce from local farms and other sources.

Hill described Farm to School as programming as encompassing education, school gardens, and procurement. The JJC project was initially modeled after a gardening program operated by Champaign County's youth detention facility. There was also a focused effort on providing the JJC's chef with the resources she would need to begin incorporating more fresh and local food items. The JJC's science teacher was also able to incorporate elements of the gardening program as lessons taught in the classroom.

Kane County was just one of two USDA Farm to School grant recipients in the state of Illinois. Hill referenced a Minnesota study, which illustrated how farm to school programs keep more food dollars within the local economy.

The county's local foods and farmland protection work is intertwined through initiatives such as this. The county's traditional partners have included the Farm Bureau, the Regional Planning Commission, Farmland Protection Commission, and the Health Department. The county is also pursuing new, non-traditional partners including lenders and philanthropists.

The program at the JJC will continue the hands-on growing activities, provide technical resources to the JJC to achieve local procurement goals, and provide funds for contract staff to oversee and implement major project activities.

The Great Apple Crunch is another farm to school program that will be coming up, drawing the participation of many students around the region who will simultaneously eat apples.

Morgenroth asked if the JJC pilot program would be continued with the new grant opportunity. Janice confirmed that the program would be continued for an additional two years.

VanKerkhoff noted that the presentations by Hill and Tansley cover important items for the Regional Planning Commission to be briefed on as they are a reflection of Kane County's policies for protecting farmland and balancing growth, and other objectives addressed in the county's 2040 Plan.

#### **6. Other Business (as needed)**

VanKerkhoff addressed the benefit of the Grand Victoria Riverboat revenue to the county's economic development fund. Those dollars have provided an important stopgap to keep Growing for Kane projects moving along when the need has arisen.

VanKerkhoff noted that Karen Miller has continued to advance Kane County's Fox River Water Trail initiative to have the Fox River designated as a National Park Service Water Trail.

Morgenroth asked if there was any perceived development pressure on the balance between urban and rural areas of the County. VanKerkhoff replied that it could be difficult for government to predict how the market for development will evolve. In the last decade, the market has shifted toward more multi-family units and developments in closer proximity to desired amenities.

#### **7. Planning Division Monthly Report**

There were no commissioner questions on items listed in the monthly staff report.

#### **8. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

#### **9. Adjournment**

Commissioner Lamp issued a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Harney. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

# Kane County Development & Community Services Department

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## Planning & Special Projects Division Monthly Report – September 2018

*In addition to regular on-going activities, the following are highlights of regional land, agriculture and other Planning Division activities of the past month.*

### **Fresh & Local Rx Program**

Matt Tansley participated in a discussion with the Fresh & Local Rx project team on August 16<sup>th</sup> to review the ongoing implementation of the pilot program. The team examined attendance totals for the most recent session and discussed procurement challenges related to any farm supplied produce items.

### **Chicagoland Food & Beverage Network Event**

On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, in partnership with FONA International and Kane County Development, the Chicagoland Food & Beverage Network hosted a networking event for Kane County businesses. Chris Toth attended along with 85 others from the food manufacturing, marketing, and distribution sectors.

### **USDA Farm to School Grant (\$94,984)**

- On August 8<sup>th</sup> Matt Tansley participated in a training webinar on the use of the Treasury Department's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP). This training was required of USDA Farm to School Program awardees in order to access the grant funds.
- On August 17<sup>th</sup> Matt Tansley and the Juvenile Justice Center participated in an onboarding call with the regional USDA Farm to School Program liaison to discuss the expectations of grant recipients and resources available to encourage successful projects.
- On August 27<sup>th</sup> Mark VanKerkhoff and Matt Tansley joined Juvenile Justice Center staff and other partners for a kickoff meeting of the Kane County Farm to School program. Matt presented an overview of the grant program and the group discussed next steps.
- On August 28<sup>th</sup> Matt Tansley participated in a training webinar for the recipients of a 2018 USDA Farm to School grant. The webinar addressed the grant program's reporting requirements and the various tools used by grantees for gathering data and tracking expenditures.

### **Waubensee Corporate Sales Team**

On August 29<sup>th</sup>, Chris Toth met with Waubensee Community College's new Corporate Sales Team to help generate more workforce development solutions in the county.



### **Food Hub Project**

Mark VanKerkhoff, Matt Tansley, and Karen Miller attended a tour of Dream Hub's facilities in Elgin on August 20. The food hub operations team provided guided tours of two sites in Elgin, their aggregation / shared kitchen (Dream Distributors and Dream Kitchen) and event venue (Dream Hall). The tour also showcased food processing and storage equipment purchased with grant funds secured by Kane County and partners.