

Kane County Regional Planning Commission

Glenn Morgenroth, Chair
Sue Harney, Vice Chair
Steve Arnold
Joseph Slawek
Ian Lamp
Steve Persinger
Tom Armstrong
Joe White
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County Government Center
Geneva, Illinois 60134

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday, January 9, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.

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

AGENDA

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Minutes: October 10, 2018 (attached)
4. Regional Update (as needed)
5. Kane County Planning Cooperative Updates – Land Use
 - a. Kane County Farm to School Program Updates (Development)
 - b. Fabulous Fox! Water Trail Initiative Updates (Development)
 - c. A Year in Review: Kane County Food and Farms (Development)
 - d. Bike & Pedestrian App and Division Updates (Transportation)
6. *Resolution*: Celebrating the 25th Anniversary and Affirming the Validity and Soundness of the Conceptual Land Use Strategy for Kane County (attached)
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**

October 10, 2018

The Kane County Regional Planning Commission held a meeting on Wednesday, October 10, 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, Joseph Slawek, Steve Persinger, Ian Lamp, Joe White

Commissioners absent:

Commissioner Steve Arnold

Development and Community Services staff attendees:

Director Mark VanKerkhoff

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

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 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

The roll was called and a quorum was established with eight (8) voting members.

3. Approval of Minutes: July 11, 2018

The July minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Armstrong. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

4. Regional Update

a. Local Technical Assistance Project with CMAP on Transfer of Development Options

Director VanKerkhoff provided a recap of the recent CMAP ON TO 2050 launch event hosted at Millennium Park, attended by Kane County staff and elected officials. He proceeded to discuss Kane County's focus the Local Technical Assistance (LTA) project approved by CMAP to study the development of a regional Transfer of Development Rights (TDR) program to help sustain Kane County's Farmland Protection Program. CMAP expressed enthusiasm at the idea of supporting a region-level LTA project following the completion of the ON TO 2050 Plan. VanKerkhoff noted some of the other regions around the county implementing unique versions of a TDR program including Pennsylvania, Washington State, and California. CMAP will facilitate collaboration among key stakeholder groups including Openlands, the Urban Land Institute, development and financial sectors to shape a framework for a regional TDR program. Kane County will be in a position to use its existing pipeline of Farmland Protection Program candidates as an input for lands protected under a new system.

Commissioner White asked how the timeline for the LTA project will play out. VanKerkhoff indicated that the scope of work still needs to be completed and a draft a memorandum of understanding that will need to be adopted by the County Board. He was hopeful that the LTA project partners would convene in January or February, which could be an opportunity for the core group of partners to receive some orientation of TDR systems from a national expert.

5. Kane County Planning Cooperative Updates – Land Use

a. Kane County Farm to School Program (Development)

Planner Tansley provided updates on the USDA-funded Farm to School Program that is launching at the Kane County Juvenile Justice Center (JJC). The project originated as a small-scale garden demonstration pilot, which will be expanded to include new program areas using the USDA grant. The new focus areas will include strategy development for how the JJC sources food for its cafeteria, and enhancing the JJC school curriculum with farm to school lessons in the classroom.

Referencing slides, Tansley shared an overview of the types of programs that USDA Farm to School grants typically fund including establishing supply chains, student taste tests, school gardens, and sourcing more local foods. Having completed multiple food system plans (e.g. Growing for Kane and Food Hub Feasibility Study) Kane County was positioned to apply for and receive a project implementation grant.

Tansley went on to discuss some of the background activities supporting the JJC Farm to School Program, including a Fit for Kids grant that kicked off the growing program in 2017. In 2018 program volunteers were able to upgrade the temporary planter bags to more permanent raised bed gardens.

Tansley proceeded to outline the three core areas of the Farm to School Program. Grant funds will be used to at least double the capacity of the raised bed gardens currently in use on the JJC grounds. The Illinois Farm to School Network will be playing a pivotal role in connecting JJC teachers and administrators with farm to school curriculum resources that would be appropriate for use in their

classrooms. A key objective of the curriculum will be to draw connections between students' experiences working with the gardens and the lessons they will be learning in class. The Farm to School Network has highlighted curriculum resources touching on Biology, Health Sciences, and other subjects.

A portion of the USDA grant will cover the cost of contract positions that will carry out various aspects of the program. The Program Coordinator will oversee all major functions of the grant program, guiding the efforts of each core partner and reporting to the Development Department. The Program Coordinator will also have a supervisory role in working with the other contract staff, particularly the Garden Coordinator. The Garden Coordinator will be responsible for the installation and care of the JJC gardens. Additional contractors will be recruited to assist with program evaluation and publishing lessons learned in a project guidebook.

Tansley referenced a slide with each of the organizations partnering to implement the Farm to School Program. He noted the early role played by the University of Illinois Master Gardeners in starting the garden program at the JJC and the continued support and expertise they would provide moving forward. The Master Gardeners recently designated the JJC as an official Master Gardener site which will allow for more volunteer resources to be directed towards the care and maintenance of the gardens.

The program budget is most heavily weighted towards contract staff. The positions are part time and will be funded for the remaining duration of the 2-year grant period, which may necessitate JJC and ROE staff filling gaps of responsibility that may arise. The grant program is intended as a starting point, and as the benefits become clear it is hoped that the JJC and ROE will adopt changes allowing program elements to continue. Tansley concluded his presentation with a photo displaying the current configuration of the JJC garden area.

Commissioner White asked how many JJC youth are currently involved in the JJC garden program. Tansley indicated that it was likely less than a dozen. One of the limiting factors of the site area was that it did not meet the security criteria that would allow all JJC youth to access the area and participate. The fenced area of the garden will eventually be upgraded which will allow all JJC youth secure access to the garden area.

White asked where the total population of the JJC currently stands. Tansley replied that it typically falls near the range of 25 to 30; but given the high pace of turnover at the JJC they can have as many as 1000 youth moving through the JJC over the span of a year.

b. Mill Creek Watershed Plan (Development)

Planner Miller discussed the development of the Mill Creek Watershed Plan, an effort supported by a Clean Water Act planning grant from the Illinois EPA. CMAP initiated the development of the plan in October 2017 in partnership with Kane County Development and Environmental Resources, Fox River Ecosystem Partnership, Fox River Study Group, local municipalities and districts, and community stakeholder groups. The purpose of the plan is to work with local stakeholders to develop planning, policy, and on-the-ground project recommendations to improve and protect water quality in the Mill Creek watershed. In the past year CMAP had created a Water Resource Inventory, which includes data on population and demographics, physical and natural features, land use, water resource conditions, pollutant resources, and land management practices.

A public open house was hosted recently at Peck Farm where the public and various stakeholder groups were invited to share what they considered to be strengths and challenges of the watershed. The event attracted around 40 individuals.

Miller referenced a slide illustrating the projected timeline for completing the plan. A draft of the plan is expected to be completed by August of 2019; a process that will continue to receive community input. The plan is anticipated to support many of the goals listed in the Kane County Green Infrastructure Plan and Kane County 2040 Plan. Any public comments on the plan can be submitted to Holly Hudson with CMAP at hudson@cmmap.illinois.gov.

Commissioner Armstrong asked if the Mill Creek Watershed Plan was the first plan of its kind or if it was an update to a previous watershed plan. Miller noted that this would be the first plan to be completed for the watershed.

Director VanKerkhoff mentioned that the watershed plan should raise some important consideration by the Regional Planning Commission and Kane County Board as it relates to Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) in the area. VanKerkhoff highlighted the Fox / Mill PUD, which now resides within Campton Hills, but was originally created by Kane County and informed then by the 2020 Plan. He also noted the Settlements of La Fox, a PUD more recently approved by the County Board, but still pending development. The PUD continued the County's priority of focusing development away from the creek and include land dedications along Mill Creek to preserve water quality. The preservation of land areas along the creek was a collaborative effort between the Kane County Forest Preserve and Geneva Park District.

c. Fabulous Fox! Water Trail Initiative

Miller provided an update on the Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative, which is being marketed as the "Fabulous Fox Water Trail!" This included an unveiling of a logo for the Water Trail. The project team had hired a consultant to design the logo, supported by a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and an anonymous donation. The consultant will be developing promotional print materials that will be used to build awareness for the initiative. They will also be developing an interactive map denoting the various access sites throughout the Water Trail and the various amenities available. This information will also be made available on the Water Trail website.

The project team has continued collecting letters of support as is required to receive a water trail designation by the National Park Service. The Kane County Board recently passed a resolution in support of the Water Trail. McHenry passed a similar resolution of support along with each of the 4 participating counties in Wisconsin. The project team is also looking to secure support from the state legislatures, municipalities, forest preserves, park districts, and other organizations throughout the watershed.

Morgenroth inquired about the continued pervasiveness of flooding as an issue along the Fox River. Miller mentioned that the recent rains have elevated the river water level. She noted that a group of her data collectors who paddled a 200-mile length of the river identified significant challenges portaging around the St. Charles dam with their kayaks. These challenges would have been exacerbated by the recent flooding. The planning process for the Water Trail Initiative is expected

to make recommendation for safer portaging at key points along the river. Morgenroth mentioned that the City of St. Charles recently commissioned a feasibility study on the removal of the city's dam, which might lead to recreational improvements.

Miller added that the Illinois Paddling Council will be hosting the first-ever Illinois Water Trails Conference on October 15 in Channahon, IL. The conference will focus on the benefits of water trails, the National Park Service Water Trail Program, and how communities can be engaged to support their formation. There are about 5 different water trails represented at the conference, and Miller will be presenting on the Fox Water Trail.

d. Oak Ecosystem Recovery Plan (Development)

Miller announced that Oaktober, the annual month of recognition for the ecological benefits of oak trees, was underway. The white oak is the Illinois State Tree, of which there are many throughout Kane County. These trees clean the air and water while supporting over 600 different species of native wildlife. They also reduce ambient air temperature, energy use, and flooding. On October 6th the Morton Arboretum hosted a tree identification seminar. On October 14th the Kane County Forest Preserve District will be giving a presentation on the natural history of oaks at LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve, and a fall tree identification event at the Bliss Woods Forest Preserve.

The Oak Ecosystem Recovery Plan was adopted in 2015, which recognized serious threats faced by remnant oak ecosystems, ranging from individual trees to entire landscapes. The plan includes multiple strategies for protecting oak ecosystems, including partnerships with private landowners which account for more than 70% of area oak trees.

The Kane County 2040 Plan and Kane County Green Infrastructure Plan both include a Remnant Oak Woodlands Map, developed by Tim Mescher with Kane County and staff at the Morton Arboretum. The staff team was able to track changes in area oak ecosystems by reviewing historic aerial maps. Multiple counties contributed to the formation of the Oak Ecosystem Recovery Plan and each participating county designated committees to identify the Oak Ecosystem Priority Areas within their county. The Kane County committee focused on the area surrounding Big Rock which includes a large collection of oak remnants. Kendall County chose to focus on an area near Big Rock, which presents the opportunity for preserving an even larger collection of oaks in this area. The implementation process would involve reaching out to private landowners with 10 or more acres of prime oak woodlands who would be invited to attend a kickoff event to educate them on the project, the importance of their oak trees and different management tools at their disposal.

Commissioner White asked if there were any incentives available to help landowners maintain the groves. Miller indicated that education could play a role, noting that trees contribute important stormwater management benefits. Woodland fieldtrips also offer the opportunity for landowners to learn about some of the management practices that are being employed by their neighbors.

White inquired if any of the groves are in danger of destruction. Miller said that it was unclear at this point if that was the case. She mentioned that there are several large estates in the area, many of which include oak woodlands. Commissioner Steel added that woodlands can contribute to improving a property's resale value. VanKerkhoff mentioned that many landowners may be employing various woodland protection methods, but may not have a full understanding of which methods are most effective. Miller added that one key is to educate landowners on the function of

oak ecosystems and how other plant and animal species benefit from healthy oak trees.

Commissioner Armstrong asked if the Oak Ecosystem Recovery Plan included strategies for planting new oak trees. Miller responded that it does and that the Kane County working group has looked to model some strategies off of the Project Quercus Program led by the Conservation Foundation in McHenry County that engages schools and other community groups to participate in restoration activities.

e. Fox River Testimony (new item)

Miller discussed a new effort to bring attention to the ecological benefits of the Fox River through artwork. The Conservation Foundation has partnered with Joel Sheesley, a retired professor at Wheaton College and artist, to host an exhibit of his artwork of the Fox River. The Foundation will also host a series of events promoting the artwork at Aurora University. Karen Miller will speaking about the Fox River Water Trail Initiative at one of the upcoming events held at the University.

f. Health Department Updates (new item)

Health Planner Zeng announced that the Health Department was preparing to host an upcoming symposium launching the Kane Health Counts Community Improvement Plan beginning in 2019. The symposium will focus on chronic disease issues and it is hoped to be continued as an annual event focusing on different priority areas.

6. Discussion: 25th Anniversary of the 2020 Conceptual Land Use Strategy

Director VanKerkhoff announced that 2019 will mark the 25th anniversary launching the 2020 Conceptual Land Use Strategy. At the time, the drafting of the Strategy was the first step towards the adoption of the 2020 Plan. The Conceptual Land Use Strategy would subsequently be updated two more times, revised to reflect boundary changes and planning policy revisions. This occasion should be viewed as an opportunity to communicate the value and successes of the Conceptual Land Use Strategy to the County Board, municipalities, and regional partners.

Chairman Morgenroth reflected on the process utilized to build support among the public and leaders for the last iteration of Conceptual Land Use Strategy, which was viewed favorably. VanKerkhoff continued that today the County has far more tools at its disposal for communicating with the public, including Kane County Connects. He invited the commissioners to share any thoughts on metrics that should be communicated about the Strategy.

7. Other Business (as needed)

Director VanKerkhoff noted that the County Board Office has been working with the IT Department to streamline the process for applying for and serving on one of the County's many boards and commissions. There is now a process in place by which interested candidates can use the County website to view and apply for positions on a board or commission.

8. Planning Division Monthly Report

Director VanKerkhoff highlighted a recent event sponsored by the Chicagoland Food and Beverage

Network at the FONA Headquarters in Geneva. He noted that the County looks for opportunities to promote events such as this that would be of benefit to Kane County businesses.

9. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

10. Adjournment

Commissioner Lamp issued a motion to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Steel. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

Executive Summary

This resolution, as recommended to the Kane County Board by the Kane County Regional Planning Commission, celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the Conceptual Land Use Strategy and affirms the strategy as being valid and sound public policy for health, transportation and land use planning for Kane County. The Regional Planning Commission has initiated a reflective review to be conducted during 2019 in order to report and communicate the effectiveness and impacts of the 25 years of the Conceptual Land Use Strategy for sound land use planning and vision casting for Kane County, its municipalities, and other units of government as well as to prepare for their next recommendations regarding updates to the 2040 Conceptual Land Use Strategy for the future.

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY AND AFFIRMING THE VALIDITY AND SOUNDNESS OF THE CONCEPTUAL LAND USE STRATEGY FOR KANE COUNTY

WHEREAS, 55 ILCS 5/5-14001 states that “whenever in the judgment of the county board of any county, a portion or all of said county as a region, should have a plan made for the general purpose of guiding and accomplishing a coordinated, adjusted and harmonious development of said region, and of public improvements and utilities therein, and which plan will in the judgment of the county board, in accordance with the present and future needs of the region of the State, best promote health, safety, morals, order, convenience, prosperity, efficiency and economy in the process of development and the general welfare of said region, the county board is hereby empowered by resolution of record to define the boundaries of such region and to create a regional planning commission for the making of a regional plan for such region so defined”; and

WHEREAS, the Kane County Board established a Regional Planning Commission to guide development within the county, and in 1967 adopted a five-point general development policy recommended by the Regional Planning Commission, which lead to the adoption of a Generalized Land Use Plan for Kane County in 1976; and

WHEREAS, the Kane County Board, upon the recommendation of the Regional Planning Commission, amended this plan in 1982 with the adoption of the Kane County Comprehensive Land Use Plan, 1982/2000, and in 1989 with the adoption of the Kane County Historic Preservation Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Planning Commission, working with the Development Department Staff, proceeded to prepare the 2020 Conceptual Land Use Strategy that was adopted by the Kane County Board as Ordinance No. 94-29 on February 8, 1994, the 2030 Conceptual Land Use Strategy that was adopted on March 11, 2003, and the 2040 Conceptual Land Use Strategy that was adopted on October 12, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Conceptual Land Use Strategy presented a clear and concise vision for the future and served as the foundation for the unanimous adoption by the County Board of the 2020 Land Resource Management Plan on June 11, 1996, the 2030 Land Resource Management Plan on October 12, 2004, and the 2040 Plan on June 12, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of the three versions of the Conceptual Land Use Strategy has proven to be an effective statement of public policy encouraging reinvestment in the urban corridor and historic downtowns along the Fox River, careful design and development in the Critical Growth Area, and protection and support for the villages and agricultural uses in the central and western part of the County which has enabled the County to pursue an implementation program with the municipalities in order to wisely manage our common land and water resources; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Planning Commission has initiated a reflective review to be conducted during 2019 in order to report and communicate the effectiveness and impacts of the 25 years of the Conceptual Land Use Strategy for sound land use planning and vision casting for Kane County, its municipalities, and other units of government as well as to prepare for their next recommendations regarding updates to the 2040 Conceptual Land Use Strategy for the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Kane County Board that it hereby celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the Conceptual Land Use Strategy and affirms it as being valid and sound public policy for health, transportation and land use planning for Kane County.

Line Item	Line Item Description	Was personnel/item/service approved in original budget or a subsequent budget revision?	Are funds currently available for this personnel/item/service in the specific line item?	If funds are not currently available in the specified line item, where are the funds available?
NA	NA	Yes	Yes	NA

Kane County Development & Community Services Department

Planning & Special Projects Division Monthly Report – December 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.

Farm to School Program

On November 19th Matt Tansley participated in a Farm to School project meeting with Kane County Juvenile Justice Center Staff. The group discussed arrangements for an upcoming training session for JJC teachers on the use of indoor tower gardens; as well as developing a framework for farm to school curriculum to be used in JJC classrooms.

Food Hub Planning Meeting

Mark VanKerkhoff, Janice Hill, and Matt Tansley met with New Venture Advisors and Dream Hub's operations team on November 20th to discuss the food hub's future planning needs. Dream Hub reviewed business planning activities completed to date, while NVA, the consulting team, provided guidance as to how they might enhance Dream Hub's business vision and planning efforts moving forward.

Fabulous Fox! Water Trail

Karen Miller hosted the monthly Core Development Team meeting on November 27 at the Lost Valley Visitor Center in Ringwood, Illinois. The Team continued to plan the sixth Fox River Summit scheduled for March 22, 2019; review the brochure being developed by the consultant, Matt Kania; received quotes on brochure distribution; brainstormed other marketing strategies and possible funding opportunities and presented a letter of support from the Illinois Planning Council.

Fox Valley Sustainable Network

On November 30, Karen Miller attended the Forum at Hickory Knolls Nature Center in St. Charles. The focus of the presentations was the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Greenest Region Compact.

Fresh & Local Rx

On December 4th Matt Tansley participated in an interview with New Venture Advisors, the consulting team conducting the evaluation of the Fresh & Local Rx pilot program. Matt provided input on the program's strengths and weaknesses, as well as recommendations for key program metrics to be assessed.

Jelkes Creek-Fox River Watershed Coalition

Karen Miller was chosen to serve on the Board of the Coalition at the December 3 meeting. The members discussed placing additional signs at creek crossings and the watershed boundary; expanding membership; and activities taking place in the watershed.

Chronic Disease Action Team

Matt Tansley reported to the Health Department's Chronic Disease Action Team working group at the December 6th meeting. Matt provided updates on the food hub and Fresh & Local Rx project partners' efforts to implement a CSA-style prescription produce pilot program; and the first phases of Kane County's Farm to School Program at the Juvenile Justice Center.

Kane County Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

On December 4, Karen Miller attended the meeting at Forest Preserve offices. Attendees discussed progress on implementing the Plan.

Microtrace LLC – Elgin

On December 6th, Chris Toth had a conference call with Metro Chicago Exports and Microtrace LLC of Elgin, a 2017 and 2018 winner of the Kane County Export Grant Program. Microtrace has utilized the county funds to obtain vendor status for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and increase their footprint in the Caribbean. On top of that, the work generated from their growth has caused Microtrace to expand their team with a new full-time Chemist.

Kane County Oak Recovery

Karen Miller hosted the meeting at the KC Government Center on December 10. The committee members continued to plan outreach activities to landowners in the Big Rock oak priority area.

Chicago Region Trees Initiative

On December 18, Karen Miller reported at the Winter Executive Advisory Council on the goals and tactics of the Trees & Green Infrastructure Work Group for the CRTI Master Plan.