

MINUTES

McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MCRPC) Meeting

WEDNESDAY, May 4, 2022, 4:00 P.M.

McLean County Law & Justice Center

104 W. Front St, Bloomington, Illinois

Room 702 and Virtual

Members Present:

John Burrill, Chairperson; Carl Teichman, Vice-Chairperson*; Bart Bittner*; Stan Gozur; Dr. Charles Irwin; Jennifer Langley; Jim Fruin; Carl Olson; Tony Morstatter*

Members Absent:

Michael Pettorini

Others Present:

MCRPC Staff – Raymond Lai; Cassidy Kraimer; Tessa Ferraro; Jennifer Sicks; Greg Huss; Tania Barreto; Ana Mendoza; Katie McShane*

Others – Randy Stein, BNWRD; Caitlin Kelly, TON*; Gretchen Monti, LWV*

*Attended Virtually

1. Call To Order:

Mr. Burrill called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and noted the presence of a quorum.

2. Attendance:

See above

3. Public Comment:

None

4. Consent Agenda:

A. Minutes of the April 6, 2022 Commission meeting

B. Financial Reports

C. MCRPC Staff Report

Mr. Burrill called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Olson moved for approval, Mr. Fruin seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

5. Regular Agenda:

a. Items removed from the Consent Agenda (if any)

None

6. Items of Information or Discussion:

a. Presentation: Bloomington & Normal Water Reclamation District (BNWRD)

Mr. Lai introduced retired BNWARD Executive Director, Randy Stein.

Mr. Stein presented a PowerPoint on the Water Reclamation Districts. [PowerPoint presentation is available for review at the office]

Mr. Gozur asked where the lagoon was. Mr. Stein answered near West Washington Street.

Mr. Olson asked about generating methane and if there was a sufficient volume of methane to look at cogeneration. Mr. Stein answered that it would cost more to maintain the methane burning generators than the electricity they were generating.

Mr. Irwin asked about the tree farm and the sludge. Mr. Stein stated they make the sludge then run it through a process called anaerobic digestion, which will make it useful on farms, such as wheat and corn. The tree farm was developed so they could grow crops and trees with the sludge instead of landfilling it. So BNWRD has been supplying fertilizer to crops in McLean County, about 300 acres a year. BNWRD trucks and spreads the fertilizer.

b. Regional Housing Initiative update

Ms. Ferraro explained that applications for the Illinois Emergency Homeowners Assistance Fund will close on May 31. Ms. Ferraro advised that the March 2021-April 2022 annual housing initiative report was presented at the April Staff Committee meeting. MCRPC staff also submitted a Research in Illinois to Spur Economic Recovery (RISE) grant application to the IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. This application requested funds for a plan to assist households who were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. It will evaluate, coordinate, and expand housing assistance options.

c. Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) Project update

Ms. Sicks explained the PASER project is in the final phase with the consultants working on the final report. Some items are not fully completed yet for the final report like the final budget scenarios and recommendations for pavement treatments. Town of Normal is hoping to present the final report to the Town Council on June 6 or June 20.

d. Vision Zero/Go:Safe McLean County Action Plan Project update

Mr. Lai explained that MCRPC staff recently submitted two grant applications to IDOT. Staff should hear back by July 1 on one of those two grant opportunities and in the fall for the other. Staff were made aware of a federal grant program called Safe Streets For All (SS4A). This grant would be a competitive grant opportunity. Staff will study more information about the grant program as it is released.

e. Metropolitan Long-Range Transportation Plan (MLRTP) update

Mr. Lai explained the MLRTP project is on-going. Staff is currently working on public outreach to get more input from the public. Staff have received over 300 survey responses but hoping to get more response over the next 2 months. Staff have been holding monthly Project Steering Committee Meetings and several focus group meetings. Mr. Lai explained that the approval process for the MLRTP project will go through the Technical and Policy Committees, but staff will keep the Commission up to date on the project.

Mr. Burrill also mentioned that the survey is available on the MCRPC website.

f. That which may arise

None

7. Adjournment:

Mr. Burrill called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Olson moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Gozur seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Katie McShane
Office Manager/Executive Assistant