

## MINUTES

### McLEAN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (MCRPC) Meeting

WEDNESDAY, September 1, 2021, 4:00 P.M.

McLean County Law & Justice Center

104 W. Front St, Bloomington, Illinois

Room 702 and Virtual

#### **Members Present:**

In-Person – John Burrill, Vice-Chairperson; Bart Bittner; Jennifer Langley; Jim Fruin; Stan Gozur; Michael Pettorini

Virtual – Dr. Charles Irwin; Mary Kramp, Chairperson

#### **Members Absent:**

Carl Olson; Carl Teichman

#### **Others Present:**

MCRPC Staff – Katie McShane; Alyssa Cooper\*; Lauren Gibson; Jennifer Sicks; Raymond Lai; Tessa Ferraro; Cassidy Kraimer

Others - Mercy Davison, Town of Normal\*

\*Attended Virtually

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#### **1. Call To Order:**

Mr. Burrill called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and noted the presence of a quorum.

#### **2. Attendance:**

See above

Mr. Lai explained that the Open Meetings Act allows Ms. Kramp to attend virtually because there is a quorum (6 Members) present in-person for voting. All present Commission members agreed that Ms. Kramp could attend the meeting virtually.

#### **3. Public Comment:**

None

Mr. Lai introduced the new MCRPC staff members Katie McShane as the Office Manager/Executive Assistant and Cassidy Kraimer as the new ISU Stevenson Fellow. Ms. McShane and Ms. Kraimer each spoke about their background to the members of the Commission.

#### **4. Consent Agenda:**

- A.** Minutes of the July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Commission meeting
- B.** Financial Reports
- C.** MCRPC Staff Report

Mr. Burrill called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Bittner moved for approval. Mr. Pettorini seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

#### **5. Regular Agenda:**

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

None

- b. Approval of Proposed FY2022 Overall Work Program (OWP)

Mr. Lai provided a background of the Overall Work Program (OWP), including the five fiscal years the McLean County Regional Planning Commission (MCRPC) works with. The MCRPC staff created the Unified Work Program (UWP) for the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), which was approved in June 2021 by the Transportation Policy Committee. The MCRPC has created the annual OWP for the purposes of the County budget process.

Mr. Lai referenced the OWP document and the budget summary table and pie chart providing for the breakdowns of the proposed MCRPC budget. He stated that MCRPC Work Elements and projects are entirely local, state, and federal funded. The overall proposed budget for FY2022 OWP is \$944,422, about 7.9% drop from that for FY2021 (\$1,025,871). Mr. Lai explained this drop is not a budget cut. It is due primarily to completion of two grants (Vision Zero and Rural Planning) awarded by IDOT.

Mr. Lai explained that the proposed OWP was recommended for approval by the MCRPC Executive Committee. The next steps in the approval process for the proposed FY2022 OWP is a recommendation by the MCRPC, then the County Board Executive Committee, and to the full County Board for final approval.

[At 4:13 P.M., Dr. Charles Irwin joined the meeting virtually and meeting one of the exceptions allowed by to the Opens Meetings Act.] Mr. Burrill welcomed Dr. Irwin to the meeting and had him tell everyone a little bit about himself.

Mr. Gozur ask if the Rural Planning Grant has run out. If yes, is there still work that needs to be completed. Mr. Lai explained that that grant has expired, but work will continue and be funded through other funding sources.

Mr. Burrill called for a motion for a recommendation to approve the proposed FY22 Overall Work Program. Mr. Bittner moved for a recommendation of approval. Mr. Pettorini seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

[At 4:18 P.M., Ms. Langley left the meeting.]

**6. Items of Information or Discussion:**

a. Regional Housing Initiatives update

Ms. Gibson explained that in July, \$436,000 in housing assistance was provided locally, with a grand total of \$4.35 million provided since May 2020. Ms. Gibson also stated the Federal eviction moratorium expired but the state moratorium is still in place through September 18<sup>th</sup> and will likely be extended. The State has announced an additional round of rent/mortgage assistance will be available in Fall 2021.

Ms. Gibson noted that the biannual update to the McLean County Housing Data Dashboard is complete and is available on our website.

Ms. Gibson advised that the preliminary data on LIHTC has had some gains and losses. Between 2020 and 2021, two LIHTC properties became inactive, these two properties had a total of 219 units. The County gained one LIHTC property with a total of 56 units. MCRPC has drafted a research brief and presentation on the recently passed State HB 2621, which provides for a reduction in assessed valuation for affordable housing construction and rehab. Although this doesn't go in effect till next year, MCRPC staff wanted to provide information in advance.

Ms. Gibson also advised that MCRPC has received and executed our 2022 CDBG Town of Normal contract for \$24,000.

Mr. Bittner asked if there will be an issue because the Federal and State are at odds about the moratorium. Ms. Gibson answered that State guidelines would be followed.

Mr. Pettorini asked about an ISU Redbird property that is on Shelbourne that has been vacant for some time. Ms. Gibson answered that we are not involved in the conversations about that vacant property.

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

Ms. Sicks explained the PASER grant is underway, the first stage of the process is complete. The second stage is 75% complete, the third stage is 10% complete.

Mr. Gozur asks if this will be completed by the winter season. Ms. Sicks answers yes, by the end of the year, but the grant was extended till Spring 2022.

c. Bloomington-Normal Wireless Infrastructure Guidelines (5G) Project update

Mr. Lai provided an update on the project. He explained the Consultants are expected to finish their report by Fall 2021. They are currently meeting with the different service providers on the reports.

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

Mr. Lai noted that MCRPC staff will be presenting the Go:Safe plan to the full County Board in the middle of September. In early October, the MCRPC Staff and Consultants will be presenting the Go:Safe plan at the American Planning Association Illinois State Chapter planning conference in Normal.

e. That which may arise

None

**7. Adjournment:**

Mr. Burrill called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Fruin moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Bittner seconded the motion, which passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katie McShane  
Office Manager/Executive Assistant