

**Land Use Committee Meeting
May 14, 2009
NIRPC Auditorium
Minutes**

Members & Visitors

Chuck Oberlie, A J Monroe, Marge Hefner, Dale Engquist, Mark Reshkin, Bob Thompson, John Pugh, John Crist, Jenny Orsburn, Shawn Pettit, Charlotte Read, Sergio Mendoza, John Beckman, Craig Phillips, Sandy O'Brien, Kevin Breitzke, Ken Dallmeyer,

NIRPC Staff

Gabrielle Biciunas, Bill Brown, Eman Ibrahim, Kathy Luther, Ryan Hicks, Mary Thorne, Steve Strains, Tom Vander Woude, Lauren Rhein

Newly appointed Chairman Shawn Pettit called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. Charlotte Read asked that the minutes be amended to reflect the Portage Lakefront Park and Riverwalk is a National Lake Shore and Regional Development Authority venture. On a motion by Dale Engquist and a second by Bob Thompson, the March 11 minutes were approved as amended.

Chicago Wilderness Special Spring Issue "Discover Calumet"

Dale Engquist said the magazine put out this edition about the Calumet Region. Tens of thousands of the magazine as well as the insert was made possible by funding from the Donnelley Foundation. 300,000 acres of park and preserve are managed by Chicago Wilderness members. The mapping scenarios for preservation were a vision started by Chicago Wilderness for metropolitan 2020 planning for Northeast Illinois Planning Commission which is now CMAP. The map shows resource protection areas. It also contains various strategies to project and identify most important natural resource areas for preservation of biodiversity and smart planning. A presentation may be given at the next Land Use Committee meeting.

Burns Harbor Comprehensive Plan – *Placemaking 2020*: Presentation

AJ Monroe presented on the town's draft comprehensive plan. There has been a lot of residential growth in the last five years since the town's sewers came on line in 2003. A form-based zoning ordinance for the town is being developed, in developing two sub-area plans for the Marquette Greenways Trail as well as one for their downtown district vision and a corridor plan to build through the 12/20 Transportation Corridor Plan. The town received funding through the Lake Michigan Coastal Program as well as the Northwestern Indiana Regional Development Authority and the town's 25% contribution. Smart growth planning framework was implemented and land use policies were developed including redevelopment. There will be a Form Based Zoning Ordinance presentation on June 2, 2009 at the Town Complex. Discussion followed the presentation relative to sewage treatment, Mittal-owned acreage, sub-area planning and future US 20-SR 149 intersection developments. For more information, go to www.burnsharbor.org.

Local and Regional Updates

Regional Land Use/NWI Zoning Map

Eman updated the committee on the 41-community zoning done to date and future comparisons to be done between existing and future development. The map will be emailed to all municipalities and the three counties for updating. Zoning data is complete for Lake County. In LaPorte County, Michigan City needs converting to GIS from AutoCAD. Porter County is 75% complete, with data missing from 3 of the 15 municipalities. Some parcel data for portions of Lake County is needed as well. Vacancy data is now being collected and an infill map will be created in the future. LaPorte has 12,000 acres available for business development, Porter has over 1500 acres and Lake County has over 2000 acres. Employment concentrations are being studied including those in Hobart, Merrillville, Hammond and Highland. A suggestion was made to contact NIPSCO who has a land development/acquisition team to see if they could share their data, as well as Workforce Development. Overlays to locate wetlands and flood hazard areas have been developed in conjunction with NIRPC's Comprehensive Regional Plan.

Salt Creek Watershed Plan

Shapefiles used to create the map came from the study of the watershed by Save the Dunes staff. Critical areas were identified in order to limit practices along the area. Priority areas have good water quality protected areas are desired. The recommendations from other studies will be incorporated in our Comprehensive Regional Plan. It was pointed out that the legend should identify the Lake Michigan and the Salt Creek Watershed.

Comprehensive Regional Plan

Steve Strains reported on the plan's progress. The first issue of a quarterly newsletter on the process was available. Goals and strategies will now be developed through a weekly series of six working group sessions beginning May 20. A core group attending all six sessions is desirable as each session will build upon work completed in the previous sessions. In addition to land use, other elements of the plan to be involved in include transportation, economic development, and environment with a social equity component reflected in each of the elements. Technical analysis by the staff will be studied by the various committees to consider the implications for future growth.

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Community Updates

- Merrillville plan commission agenda items are down and two meetings were cancelled. Developmental spending is down due to the economy.
- The Indiana APA Chapter wants an article written about what are planning departments doing now that development is down? Planning? Retooling? Communities are moving towards the retooling and comprehensive plan processes.
- Porter County and LaPorte Counties have met on an ordinance for wind energy conversion which will have huge implications as a renewable resource.
- A component for park and recreation will be addressed in the Comprehensive Regional Plan through work by the Ped, Pedal & Paddle Committee as well as through the Greenways Blueways Plan.
- A resolution will be presented on marketing existing approaches on wetland management.

Announcements

- The web-based environmental planning workshop will be held on June 10 from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Calumet Conference Center at Purdue University Calumet in Hammond.
- The goal setting work shop sessions will begin May 20 at NIRPC from 9:00 a.m. to noon. A handout of the sessions and registration was provided.
- The second Congestion Management Process sub-committee meeting will be held on May 27 at 9:00 a.m. at the Borman Traffic Management Center in Gary to expand performance measures for volume to capacity ratios and time travel and select a new chairman. A brochure was provided.
- Marge Hefner commented on how our lands will be used in the future relative to climate change.

The next Land Use Committee meeting will be Wednesday, July 8, 2009 at 10:00 a.m.

Chairman Pettit adjourned the meeting at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Thorne
Planning Secretary
Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

