



CLIMATE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES - FINAL-REVISED

Thursday, April 25, 2024

1:00 PM

Cook County Conference Room
433 West Van Buren Street, Suite 450
Chicago, IL 60607

Members of the public who attend in-person can pre-register for a visitor's pass at info@cmap.illinois.gov until April 24, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. or should plan to arrive early to check-in with the building's information desk for access.

You can also join from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89759069337?pwd=BpylnaSJHAKGLaFDvakMQjhztAG4Z.1>

CMAP provides the opportunity for public comment. Individuals are encouraged to submit comment by email to info@cmap.illinois.gov at least 24 hours before the meeting. A record of all written public comments will be maintained and made publicly available.

The total cumulative time for public comment is limited to 15 minutes, unless determined otherwise by the Chair. Public comment is limited to three minutes per person unless the Chair designates a longer or shorter time period. Public comments will be invited in this order: Comments from in person attendees submitted ahead of time; comments from in-person attendees not previously submitted; comments from virtual attendees submitted ahead of time; and comments from virtual attendees not previously submitted.

To review CMAP's public participation policy, please visit <https://www.cmap.illinois.gov/committees>.

If you require a reasonable accommodation or language interpretation services to attend or join the meeting, please contact CMAP at least five days before the meeting by email (info@cmap.illinois.gov) or phone (312-454-0400).

1.0 Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Durnbaugh called the meeting to order 1:04pm and reminded the audience that the meeting is being recorded and provided virtual meeting logistical announcements for the Zoom platform.

Principal Policy Analyst Nora Beck called the roll.

Present: Aaron Durnbaugh, Deborah Stone, Jack Chan, Naomi Davis, Samira Hanessian, Elizabeth Kocs, Thomas Maillard, Edith Makra, Raed Mansour, Mary Nicol, Matthew Santagata, and Ethan Kimbrel

Absent: Elena Grossman, Paul May, and Vanessa Ruiz

Noting a physical quorum of the Committee, Chair Durnbaugh announced a request from Member Elizabeth Kocs and Member Deb Stone was received to participate remotely in compliance with Open Meetings Act requirements. A vote is needed to approve virtual attendance.

A motion was made by Member Edith Makra, seconded by Member Raed Mansour, to allow Elizabeth Kocs and Deborah Stone to participate virtually in the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Aaron Durnbaugh, Jack Chan, Naomi Davis, Samira Hanessian, Thomas Maillard, Edith Makra, Raed Mansour, Mary Nicol, Matthew Santagata, and Ethan Kimbrel

Absent: Elena Grossman, Paul May, and Vanessa Ruiz

Not Present: Deborah Stone, and Elizabeth Kocs

Chair Durnbaugh asked secretary to note in minutes that they are present and available to participate in the meeting.

Staff Present: Aimee Lee, Alexis McAdams, Blanca Vela-Schneider, Elizabeth Ginsberg, Holly Hudson, Jennie Vana, Karly Cazzato, Katie Piotrowska, Mitch Hirst, Ryan Thompto, Teri Dixon, Isaura Velez

Others Present: Bill Koehl, Brian Larson, Brian Daly, Drew Duffin, Elizabeth Kocs, Garland Armstrong, George Kandathil, Joe Surdam, Michael Sewall, Mshuja, Renee Patten, Susan Hickey

2.0 Agenda Changes and Announcements

2.01 Requests for agenda changes

There were no changes made to the agenda.

2.02 CMAP Updates

Bill Barnes, Deputy of Regional Policy and Implementation, shared an update on the committee's new member, IDNR Deputy Ethan Kimbrel who replaced Chris Young. Deputy Barnes shared an update on the 2023 annual report that was shared with the CMAP board and communities as required by the Illinois Regional Planning Act. The report highlighted progress on the regions' shared vision of the ON TO 2050 Plan goals to make the region is a stronger and more resilient place to live.

The CMAP budget and workplan was introduced to the CMAP board and the MPO policy committee in January 2024. This is for the fiscal year starting July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. It was adopted by the

CMAP board in February 2024. Deputy Barnes shared that the UWP Budget Book, that details more information on money granted to partner agencies was shared with the Transportation committee on March 1, 2024 and approved by the MPO Policy committee March 14, 2024. CMAP will coordinate with IDOT on the detailed budget and draft agreements for the fiscal year start of July 1, 2024.

Deputy Barnes shared that CMAP is working to align the committees meeting schedule with CMAP's fiscal year starting in July 1st through June 30th, with the next meeting being tentatively scheduled for July 25, 2024. A preview of the agency's climate action planning work in conjunction with the Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus was provided as input is required and may require a formal meeting of the committee before July 25th given the deadline. Deputy Barnes reported that the committee's liaisons are Jason Navota, Director of Regional Policy and Implementation, Nora Beck, Principal Policy Analyst of Regional Policy and Implementation, and Michael Brown, Interim Deputy of Planning.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

3.01 Minutes from July 25, 2023

[23-450](#)

Attachments: [Climate Minutes July 25, 2023](#)

A motion was made by Mary Nicol, seconded by Jack Chan, that the agenda item be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Aaron Durnbaugh, Deborah Stone, Jack Chan, Naomi Davis, Samira Hanessian, Elizabeth Kocs, Thomas Maillard, Edith Makra, Raed Mansour, Mary Nicol, Matthew Santagata, and Ethan Kimbrel

Absent: Elena Grossman, Paul May, and Vanessa Ruiz

4.0 Approval of 2024 meeting schedule

4.01 2024 Meeting schedule

[24-201](#)

Attachments: [Approval of 2024 meeting schedule](#)

The agenda item was approved.

Aye: Aaron Durnbaugh, Deborah Stone, Jack Chan, Naomi Davis, Samira Hanessian, Elizabeth Kocs, Thomas Maillard, Edith Makra, Raed Mansour, Mary Nicol, Matthew Santagata, and Ethan Kimbrel

Absent: Elena Grossman, Paul May, and Vanessa Ruiz

5.0 New Business

5.01 Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan (TRIP)

[24-202](#)

Attachments: [Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan Memo](#)

Kate Evasic, Senior Planner, provided an update on the Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan (TRIP). The goal of the project is to identify opportunities to improve the resilience of the transportation network to extreme weather and climate change. This work started in February, 2023 and is expected to be completed by December 2025.

Senior Planner Evasic shared that CMAP is looking at physical infrastructure, service operations and user experience to identify impact of climate to drivers, those who use transit, walking and biking. Senior Planner Evasic shared the four objectives of TRIP included identifying and prioritizing major

vulnerable transportation assets, understanding what investments are needed to build resilience and reduce climate impact, proposing equitable and inclusive resilience investments, and informing transportation planning and decision making.

The first phase of TRIP is to identify priority hazards which are flooding, extreme heat and severe storms. The second phase is to identify a risk score assessment to prioritize locations for different sets of assets and hazards. The next steps are a stakeholder workshop to vet results and discuss use for prioritization within the TRIP planning process and also to inform CMAP and other transportation agencies long range planning and decision making. This is scheduled to be completed June 2024.

Senior Planner Evasic sought feedback from the committee.

Chair Durnbaugh referenced the memo provided to committee members related to Senior Planner Evasic's presentation is informative and provides valuable insight into development of the planning.

The agenda item was discussed.

5.02 Regional Climate Action Plan

[24-203](#)

Attachments: [Regional Climate Action Planning Memo](#)

Nora Beck, Principal Policy Analyst of Regional Policy and Implementation, provided an update on the USEPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program. Principal Beck shared the objectives of this federal program are to develop ambitious plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fund transformative projects that have been identified in those plans. These objectives are needed to advance the goals of the Justice 40 initiative. This program has \$5 billion dollars of funding through the Inflation Reduction Act. The first phase are none competitive planning grants, and the second phase is the implementation phase that is about \$4.6 billion in competitive implementation grants to states and local governments participating in the process.

The first phase of CPRG is currently underway with USEPA providing formula grants to all states and largest metropolitan statistical areas to complete the Climate Action Plans. The states of Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin all agreed to participate with Illinois EPA being the lead applicant for the state lead plan. Principal Beck shared that Member Edith Makra with the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC) in partnership with CMAP and NIRPC responded for our region. Applications for CPRG Implementation Phase 2 have been submitted. Kate Evasic, Senior Planner, shared an overview of the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP). Senior Planner Evasic noted that CMAP is leading the CCAP in partnership with MMC and NIRPC. The project includes identifying solutions to address all significant Greenhouse gasses sources and sinks and develop reduction estimates, emission scenarios and implementation targets. This plan is due to the USEPA by July 2025. Senior Planner Evasic shared eight sectors that need to be addressed to truly have the plan be comprehensive to meet the goals of the USEPA program. Senior Planner Evasic shared the 2020 Chicago MSA Greenhouse Gas Inventory that was built using national tools and datasets. She shared in 2020 the 14 counties in the Chicago MSA produced approximately 160 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent with the inventory revealing the prominent emission sector being buildings. She shared with the committee the GHG emissions building sector, industrial sector and transportation sectors graphs.

Senior Planner Evasic engaged the committee in a discussion.

Member Samira asked what the vision is for the plan handoff, whether it is an agency or coalition handoff. Senior Planner Evasic shared that CMAP is continuing work on the CPRG program with the task of a deliverable status report to the EPA.

Jared Patton, Senior Planner of Regional Policy and Implementation, shared an update on the engagement approach. Senior Planner Patton shared the engagement goals include having regional representation, content experts and community voices and preparing for the implementation. He shared that public engagement would include leveraging existing public input from recent climate action plans and implementing new strategies focused on impacted communities. Senior Planner Patton shared that stakeholder networks will be asked to help broadcast to key audiences such as public and private implementers, impacted communities and workers and finally the sector and decarbonization experts. Senior Planner Patton shared a draft of the engagement structure and responsibilities, with CCAP steering committee leading the engagement structure. The role of the steering committee will be responsible for guiding the overall process and providing feedback on how the plan is developing. The role of the working groups is to provide insight and expertise on assigned sectors. Senior Planner Patton shared the role of the Climate Committee is to provide feedback on the process throughout the project's lifecycle with specific focus on natural resources. A timeline of key engagement milestones was shared, noting working groups would begin meeting July 2024.

Senior Planner Patton engaged the committee in a discussion.

Member Mary Nichol asked to what extent does the CCAP address the impact of daily business such as the type of materials used to fill potholes or impacts of redesigning North DuSable Lake Shore drive. Senior Planner Evasic shared that the waste sector includes materials management. The committee engaged in discussion.

The agenda item was discussed.

5.03 Legislative Update

[24-204](#)

Attachments: [Legislative Update Memo](#)

Kasia Hart, Senior Specialist of Legislative Affairs shared an update on the Regional Planning Act Appropriations Bill. The objective of the bill is to appropriate \$5 million dollars in funding to CMAP to carry out the agency's broader regional planning objectives that are set forth in the enabling statute of the Regional Planning Act. Senior Specialist Hart shared that funding primarily comes from the US DOT, which limits work that can be done, to primarily focus on the transportation sector. To complete non-transportation related work, such as climate work, CMAP often needs to seek external funding from state and federal grants and philanthropic resources. Senior Specialist Hart shared that a state appropriation would further help advance and invest in programs and projects that are either not transportation related or indirectly transportation related. The goal is to incorporate the bills into the FY25 budget.

An update on the RPA Modernization Bill was shared highlighting the updates to the enabling statute. The primary change would allow a simple majority vote by the CMAP Board on a limited number of operational items. Senior Specialist Hart noted that currently concurrence of four-fifths of board members in office is required for the board to take any action on items. Senior Specialist Hart also highlighted the elimination of the requirement that CMAP establish a wastewater committee, noting

that the committee has not convened for nearly 10 years. CMAP is able to advise stakeholders on these matters in its capacity as the state designated area-wide water quality management planning agency.

Senior Specialist Hart shared an update that both bills have advanced in their respective chambers, the House bill has passed to the House floor and the Senate Bill has passed the Senate floor, with continuing progress through the legislative process. Staff is working to get a subject matter hearing to raise awareness of the need for this legislation and to get it included in a future state budget. CMAP is following legislative bills related to amendments to the Open Meetings Act. Staff, working with the Illinois Municipal League, has proposed amendments to the Open Meetings Act that would allow greater flexibility for Board members to participate virtually under certain parameters.

A legislative update was provided.

6.0 Committee Member Updates

Member Thomas Mailard shared an update that the City of Waukegan was one of 24 national communities that were part of the Inaugural America Freshwater Challenge.

7.0 Other Business

There was no other business before the committee.

8.0 Public Comment

This is an opportunity for comments from members of the audience.

Garland Armstrong from Des Moines, Iowa, advocated for informing the ADA community on climate challenges including fresh drinking water. He also advocated for the use of translation services in providing educational materials.

Heather Armstrong from Des Moines, Iowa, expressed concern regarding the number of communities experiencing flooding and advocated for communities to modernize their storm sewer infrastructure.

Steven Warmuski, communications coordinator with Agroecology and Innovation Matters, submitted a written public comment, urging the committee to not forget about agriculture when planning for water sheds. When farmers and landowners adopt conservation agricultural practices, they sequester carbon as they build up organic compounds in their soil and healthy soil helps with storm water management. He shared a tool that can be shared with the committee that is a great way to advance these conservation practices.

9.0 Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Climate Committee will occur on Thursday July 25, 2024 at 1:00pm.

10.0 Adjournment

Chair Durnbaugh adjourned the meeting at 2:38 pm.

Minutes prepared by Isaura Velez.

