

MINUTES
KANKAKEE COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING
COMMISSION
LAND USE/TRANSPORTATION SUBCOMMITTEE
MARCH 12, 2009

IN ATTENDANCE

Members:

Rich Howell, Chad Miller, Mel Blanchette, Loretto Cowhig, George Washington, Jeff Jarvis, Ralph Paarlberg, Bud Bates, Bill Bukowski, Mayor Payton, Craig Blanchette and Dave Bergdahl

Others:

Mike Lammey, Del Skimerhorn and Jim Greenstreet, Kankakee County; Leigh Marcotte

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Howell called the meeting to order at 9:37 A.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MINUTES

Mr. Miller moved approval of the January 22, 2009 Minutes. Mr. Mel Blanchette seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

GREENWAYS AND TRAILS

Mr. Skimerhorn stated that the Greenways and Trails Committee had been meeting to discuss the changes needed in the 1999 Plan. He stated that staff had held meetings with the Villages of Manteno and Bourbonnais, and with Will County, in order to learn their plans and to tie paths together.

Mr. Skimerhorn discussed individual paths and the reasons for them being included, and answered a number of questions from Subcommittee members about individual trails and preferences of communities. Mr. Skimerhorn stated that the next meeting of the Greenways and Trails Committee would be on March 26 at the Community Foundation.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

Mr. Lammey presented the current situation on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) impact on Kankakee County. He stated that funding is available for transit, both rural and urban, and detailed the projects that are being requested for both. He stated that the Kankakee Urbanized Area will receive \$2,111,598 in highway funding, and that the only "shovel ready" project is Burns Road in Bourbonnais, between Career Center Road and US Route 45,

which has a current estimate of \$4,000,000. He detailed some of the options that are being discussed for the funding for the Urbanized Area. Subcommittee members asked questions about various aspects of the ARRA program, and expressed their views on the options presented.

Mr. Lammey detailed projects that the State of Illinois had given as being on their program, and stated that the Armour Road project between US Route 45 and Illinois Route 50 is rumored to be an ARRA project, but that this has not been confirmed.

WIND FARM

Mr. Skimerhorn stated that the Kankakee County Board approved the plan for the K4 Wind Farm, which proposed to place 88 wind towers in Pilot and Otto Township. He stated that building permits for the towers are expected to be issued in the summer.

Chairman Howell asked if the K4 group had found a way to tie into the power grid on the east end of the proposed Wind Farm, and Mr. Skimerhorn stated that the answer to that question had not been yet divulged. Mr. Paarlberg asked about the tax issue, and Mr. Skimerhorn explained the state law on assessment and tax, and the fact that it would expire in 2011. Mr. Washington explained that Kankakee County officials believe that the current law will be extended beyond 2011, so that this will not continue to be an issue.

LONG-RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Mr. Lammey stated that the ARRA issue had limited the amount of time spent on the Long-Range Transportation Plan, and that this issue will move forward by the next Subcommittee meeting.

ZONING REDUCTION PROJECT

Mr. Skimerhorn stated that this project will have action by the end of the year, but that the Wind Farm issue had occupied his time recently. Mr. Paarlberg stated his concern over 5 acre lots that become miniature junkyards. Mr. Skimerhorn asked that any such properties be brought to the attention of the Planning Department.

LAND MANAGEMENT RESOURCE PLAN ADOPTIONS

Mr. Skimerhorn reported that no communities have adopted the County Comprehensive Plan since the last Subcommittee meeting.

TRAFFIC CRASH REPORTING

Mr. Lammey stated that the raw data for 2004 has been turned over to the Highway Department, but that privacy issues continue to surface. He stated that these issues will be addressed.

LESA

Chairman Howell stated that he still wanted to work on this issue, but had not been able to do so as yet.

OTHER BUSINESS

Chairman Howell asked about the Manteno-DeSelm Road project announced by Manteno and

Kankakee County, and wondered about the interface between that project and the improvement to the Interstate 57 interchange, especially the impacts on 80,000 pound truck traffic. Mr. Craig Blanchette and Mr. Jarvis discussed their understanding of the project.

NEXT MEETING

Chairman Howell stated that the next meeting would be March 19, 2009, and that the location would be the County Administration Building.

Chairman Howell stated that he would welcome a motion cancelling the proposed July 23 Subcommittee meeting, and Mr. Washington moved the cancellation. Mr. Craig Blanchette seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Bates adjournment, and Mr. Craig Blanchette seconded. Chairman Howell adjourned the meeting at 10:34 A.M.