

**APPROVED 10/10/12**

**MINUTES  
METRO PEORIA AD-HOC COMMITTEE  
September 12, 2012  
2:30 P.M.**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT:</b>	Mary Ardapple, Chairperson; Michael Phelan, Ryan Spain, W. Eric Turner
<b>MEMBERS ABSENT:</b>	Andrew Rand, Timothy Riggerbach
<b>OTHERS PRESENT:</b>	Lori Curtis Luther - County Administrator; Kate Van Beek, Mark Rothert - Assistant Co. Administrators; Thomas O'Neill - County Board Chairman; Carol Trumpe, County Board Member; Jenny Fulton - Dir. of Strategic Communications; John Hamann - Rural Economic Development Coordinator; Karen Raitchel, Becca Cottrell - Recycling & Resource Conservation; Chris Setti - City of Peoria; Amy Benecke McLaren - County Highway; Doug Crew - PASS Forward; Micah Williamson - IT Dept.; Anthony Corso - Illinois Central College; Alex Rusciano - WCBU; Tracy Fox, Joyce Harant - Peoria Families Against Toxic Waste

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ardapple at 2:37 p.m.

**Presentation** (*Anthony Corso*)

• **Facilitation of Countywide Sustainability Initiatives**

Mr. Corso gave a presentation on sustainability initiatives and their relevance to Peoria County. He summarized pertinent sustainability goals, identified best available practices and introduced concepts based on local challenges. The most pertinent challenges discussed by Mr. Corso and Committee included CSO water resources/water management, both infra structure and maintenance, sustainable agricultural opportunities for underutilized spaces in urban environment, and revitalization of heritage neighborhoods and the warehouse district. Mr. Corso stressed the importance of emphasizing the natural, agricultural and cultural history of the region, using Portland, Oregon's example of "ecodistricts"; basing redevelopment on the uniqueness of the natural and cultural history of a region. He requested feedback from the Committee on challenges going forward and how to begin to address those challenges under the umbrella of sustainability.

Ms. Ardapple questioned the possibility of creating a sub-workgroup relating to planning, growth and economic development. Committee agreed that sustainability is an appropriate topic for the committee, as sustainability is an economic development tool. Mr. Phelan stated one of the region's greatest natural assets is the Illinois River and its watershed. Mr. Corso summarized best practices as they relate to watershed management. Mr. Turner suggested collaborating on a joint city/county sustainability policy. Ms. Ardapple stated that a joint policy would present a unified statement of action for the Committee. She invited Mr. Corso to attend the November Committee meeting, and tasked Committee members to present recommendations on how best to implement the sustainability topic within the two organizations.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes of July 11, 2012 was made by Mr. Turner and seconded by Mr. Phelan. The motion carried.

## **Discussion**

- **Joint City/County Economic Development Collaboration**

Mr. Rothert stated that there has been discussion at a regional level on how to move forward with economic development. He stated that a priority goal is attracting the 18-44 year old age group, a key demographic that provides many innovations, including those on sustainability.

Mr. Rothert advised that the City is undergoing a transition within its community development department, and the County is cognizant of being a good partner. Several collaborative projects have been undertaken, including attracting a call center to do a retention type project, relocating a business to the downtown area and loan coordination between the two entities. After some discussion, Ms. Ardapple requested an update on maximizing the efficiencies of the City and County GAP Loan programs at the October meeting.

- **Branding/Marketing/Web Development Update**

Ms. Fulton advised that the website, [www.metropeoriagov.com](http://www.metropeoriagov.com), is expected to be completed by the end of October.

Ms. Fulton distributed a draft of a speakers bureau handout for committee review. She advised that a speaking engagement has been scheduled as a part of Illinois Central College's Adult Community Program. The presentation is scheduled for November 1st from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. She noted that future speaking engagements will be coordinated through her office.

- **GIS Consortium Update**

Mr. Williamson updated the committee on the status of the dissolution of Peoria GIS. He advised that a resolution to dissolve the consortium is going before the Boards of the City of Peoria, County of Peoria and the Greater Peoria Sanitary District. The dissolution will allow for a more efficient collaboration between the City and County.

## **Miscellaneous**

Ms. Ardapple advised that Sheriff McCoy has agreed to attend the November meeting to provide an update on a potential collaboration between the County Sheriff's Department and City Police Department.

Ms. Ardapple stated that for broader representation of collaboration between rural and urban communities, an expansion of the committee may be an option. She also recommended that staff explore the option of enlarging the committee to include such representatives as township officials, village trustees, and members of the Peoria Park District and School Board. After discussion, Committee agreed to keep the focus primarily on collaborative efforts between the City and County before broadening the scope, while keeping the option of expansion open to consideration. Ms. Ardapple emphasized the importance of developing relationships with a broader representational group.

Mr. Spain brought up the topic of accountability within city neighborhoods in regards to code violations, and questioned whether there was some means by which the County could assist in better code enforcement.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

*Recording Secretary: Jan Kleffman*