

**MINUTES
CITY OF ST. CHARLES
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING
RALPH GRATHOFF, CHAIRMAN
JULY 9, 2020**

Members Present: Angela Churchill, Tom Galante, Ralph Grathoff, Suzi Myers, Loren Nagy; present via WebEx: Ryan Johnson, Claire Norman, Pam Otto

Members Absent: Kathy Brens, Andrew Diorio, Heather Goudreau, Lee Haggas, Jillian Leturno

Others Present: Chris Adesso, Marcelline D'Argento AJ Reineking

Visitors Present: Jack Jordan, Frank Wanderlich, Bryan Wirball

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was convened by Chair. Grathoff at 7:02 p.m.

2. Introduction of Visitors, Comments and Concerns

Mr. Jordan, an intern at the city's Public Works Department, was in attendance in support of the Natural Resources Commission [NRC] and to offer his assistance to the Commissioners.

Mr. Wanderlich was in attendance, as a private citizen and resident of St. Charles, to voice his support of plastics reduction and offer his assistance to the Commissioners.

Mr. Wirball was in attendance to observe the meeting as a potential new Commissioner of the NRC.

3. Minutes Review and Approval

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the March 12, 2020 NRC meeting. Motion by Comm. Galante, second by Comm. Nagy to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:04 p.m.

4. Old Business

A. Greenest Region Compact II

Chair. Grathoff reported he and other members of the NRC participated in some of the webinars offered through the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning [CMAP]. The focus of the webinars was adapting to the impacts of climate change and building on the framework of the Greenest Region Compact [GRC]. Chair. Grathoff noted there are many stakeholders including local, regional and state representatives. Comm. Myers reported she gained a better understanding of climate change mitigation. The Mayors Caucus and CMAP information is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Adesso confirmed the city's Community & Economic Development and Public Works Departments have completed applicable sections of the Greenest Region Compact [GRC] spreadsheet with the current status as staff understands it to be. The Energy/Electric section of the GRC will be completed by staff and the document will then be distributed to all members of the NRC for review and next steps.

B. Curbside Composting

Citywide curbside composting began on April 6, 2020. The level of residential participation will be difficult to measure, however.

5. **New Business**
 - A. **Plastics Reduction**

Please see Committee Reports below.
 - B. **Potential New Commissioner**

Mr. Wirball was in attendance to observe the meeting as a potential new member of the NRC. Mr. Wirball introduced himself to all present and expressed his support of the NRC's mission and activities. His letter of interest has been submitted to Mayor Rogina.
 - C. **Fall Tree Planting for Arbor Day**

The city's annual Arbor Day event was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the state of Illinois' response, which included a shelter-in-place order during the month of April. The Arbor Day Foundation waived the Arbor Day observance requirement for the city's continued Tree City USA status [St. Charles has been a Tree City USA community for the past 22 years]. To continue the city's annual tradition, Chair. Grathoff proposed planting a tree this fall in honor of Arbor Day 2020. The NRC and city will determine where the tree will be planted.
6. **Committee Reports**
 - A. **Education Committee**

Comm. Myers reviewed the upcoming articles the Commissioners are writing for *The Den*.
 - B. **Langum Woods Clean-Up Committee**

None.
 - C. **New Committee**

None.
 - D. **Single-Use Bag Committee**

Comm. Nagy confirmed the Single-Use Bag Committee is ready to move forward and requested suggestions from staff as to next steps. Mr. Adesso suggested the Committee contact the St. Charles Business Alliance and the city's Director of Community and Economic Development to obtain information and guidance. The Committee members could also meet with their aldermen to express their position on this topic as private citizens. Additionally, the Committee could plan to make an informational presentation to the city's Committee of the Whole.
7. **Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports February 2020**

Motion to approve and place into the public record the Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports for the months of March, April and May 2020. Motion by Comm. Myers, second by Comm. Nagy to approve the reports. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:35 p.m.
8. **Additional Items**
 - A. **Commissioners**

Chair. Grathoff inquired as to the status of the Student Commissioners' participation with the NRC. Ms. D'Argento explained some of the students have graduated from high school, and staff will contact them to determine if they will continue to participate as members of the NRC.

B. City Staff

None.

C. Visitors

Chair. Grathoff encouraged Mr. Wanderlich to continue to attend NRC meetings with regard to his interest in plastics reduction.

D. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Comm. Myers, second by Comm. Nagy to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 8:04 p.m.

DRAFT



Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning



U.S. Climate
Resilience Toolkit

May 19, 2020

Dear Mayor and Community Leader,

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and CMAP are [leading a regional climate planning effort](#) in partnership with the *Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy* and need your input. Please join us for a [series of webinars](#) focusing on *adapting to impacts of climate change*.

We kicked off this year-long effort last fall with a successful workshop focused on actions to mitigate climate change by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases in the region. Our approach is to build on the Greenest Region Compact Framework and connect local actions for strategic regional impact. The next step is to approach climate adaptation strategies the same way.

We seek to engage our members and stakeholders online through four online climate adaptation workshops, co-hosted by CMAP and NOAA. Local leaders and national experts will share information to help us understand potential impacts from climate change and use that information to adapt in our region and in our own communities. Our final webinar will be a workshop format in which we seek your input to shape regional and local adaptation strategies to be included in the regional climate plan.

Please join us. Staff, elected officials and citizen commissioners are welcome to participate.

1. A Chicago Regional Climate Plan - Overview and Adaptation Introduction

May 22, 2020, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

This session will recap the

[Regional and Metro-Scale Climate Leaders](#) project, the

role of MMC and CMAP, and the objectives of the regional

climate planning project. Experts from NOAA will introduce the US Climate Resilience Toolkit and Steps to Resilience. Mayors will discuss impacts on our communities.

Register [here](#).

2. Climate Impacts & Hazards

May 29, 2020, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

Climate scientists from Argonne National Laboratory and University of Illinois will present information on climate trends, models and the impacts of extreme weather events on our region. Experts from NOAA will guide us through the first Step to Resilience by exploring these hazards.

Register [here](#).

3. Climate Risk and Vulnerability

June 5, 2020, 1:00 – 2:30 pm

A panel of local experts and leaders will discuss our region’s climate-related risks from flooding, and extreme temperatures, and the damage they cause. They will discuss impacts on public health, infrastructure, operations and the economy. NOAA will help us assess these vulnerabilities and risks.

Register [here](#).



4. Regional Climate Adaptation Planning & Prioritization Virtual Workshop

June 12, 2020, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

This last webinar will engage all participants in exercises to prioritize and plan adaptation strategies that address our greatest threats and protect our communities and our region. The strategies will build on the [Greenest Region Compact](#) (GRC) and utilize NOAA's [Steps to Resilience](#). Register [here](#).



We invite your partnership and participation in this important endeavor.

More about the Regional Climate Plan

The [MMC Environment Committee](#) and CMAP are building a Chicago regional climate action plan anchored in the GRC. It builds on foundational work done by [CMAP to inventory greenhouse gas emissions](#) in the region. With support from the [Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy](#) we are building a plan that joins our GRC Communities with 10,000 global cities and 131 countries working to build sustainable and livable cities. Our region is [one of four selected](#) to demonstrate regional climate planning in the US.

The climate action planning process begins with an inventory of all the ways in which fossil fuels are used, a greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory identifies the most significant sources of pollutants contributing to climate change. A climate action plan then looks to address ways to reduce the use of carbon-based (fossil) fuels and sets a meaningful target for reduction. Our regional climate plan will also assess the risks associated with the impacts of climate change, like flooding and excessive heat, and propose strategies to protect our communities.



While climate change is an overwhelming, existential threat, municipalities of all sizes and strengths can make decisions and take actions that reduce risks and slow climate change. Through collaboration, all communities can join together to create a regional

climate plan that guides future policies, actions and investments for a sustainable, vibrant region. Contact Edith Makra at emakra@mayorscaucus.org for more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KB', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Kevin Burns
Mayor, City of Geneva
Environment Committee Chairman, MMC