



# Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning

233 South Wacker Drive  
Suite 800, Sears Tower  
Chicago, IL 60606

312-454-0400 (voice)  
312-454-0411 (fax)  
[www.chicagoareaplanning.org](http://www.chicagoareaplanning.org)

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To: Gary Clark, Director, Office of Water Resources, IDNR

From: Tim Loftus, NE IL Water Supply Planning Project Director, CMAP

Subj.: Regional Water Supply Planning: Year 1 Progress Report

The focus of this report is on CMAP's activities and progress towards carrying out Task 1: convening, facilitating, and leading the new Northeastern Illinois Regional Water Supply Planning Group (RWSPG). CMAP deliberations of the structure and composition of a new RWSPG began in August, 2006. Strong consideration was given to the composition of Regional Water Planning Groups formed by the Texas Water Development Board as outlined in Texas Water Code, §16.053(c). Special consideration was given to the particular nature of northeastern Illinois. Some consideration was also given to the structure and composition of similar planning entities in nearby states: the Regional Water Supply Planning Advisory Committee of southeastern Wisconsin, and the Metropolitan Council's (Twin Cities metropolitan area), Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee.

Ultimately, CMAP staff in consultation with several regional partners and other entities closely following this activity, and through a process of many meetings, email exchanges, and other communications, settled on a 35 member planning group, including a CMAP-appointed Chairman, with the following structure and composition (number of delegates in parentheses):

1. academia and public interest in regional planning (2)
2. agriculture (2)
3. business, industry, and power (2)
4. conservation and resource management (2)
5. county government (10)
6. environmental advocacy (2)
7. municipalities and municipal water suppliers (10)
8. real estate and development (2)
9. wastewater and nonmunicipal water suppliers (2)

Nonelected interest groups (1-4, 6, 8-9) held caucus-group meetings in December from which delegates were elected. These meetings were a follow-up to a public-launch event, an Open Forum, held in November, 2006, during which attendees participated in CMAP-facilitated roundtables for purposes of initiating caucus-group formation and beginning to identify issues of interest and concern.

Executive staff at CMAP requested of each county in the planning region that either the county board chair or a board member join the RWSPG as a County Government delegate. Similarly, CMAP executive staff worked through the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus and the many subregional Council of Governments (COG) for delegate appointments to the Municipalities and Municipal Water Suppliers interest group. The CMAP-appointed Chairman of the RWSPG is also a county board chair. Thus, an accommodation has been made for all 11 counties in the water-supply-planning region to have representation with full voting rights.

Currently, the RWSPG is composed of 31 delegates plus the Chairman with two vacancies still to be filled for County Government (Cook County, Grundy County) and one vacancy to be filled for Municipalities and Municipal Water Suppliers (Kankakee, Grundy, and Boone counties that do not belong to any COG).

The RWSPG held their inaugural meeting on January 23, 2007 and have since met an additional two times through the month of March. RWSPG meetings are scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of each month with ten meetings scheduled during 2007. The RWSPG will take a "summer break" in August and "holiday break" during December. The 2007 meeting schedule is made available at the end of this report.

RWSPG meetings have been well attended and productive. It is the opinion of the CMAP Project Director that the RWSPG is committed and fully engaged in the process thus far. There is great interest among the RWSPG in "tackling" the issue of water supply planning.

During the January meeting, two subcommittees were formed with one designed to fashion Operational Guidelines that will codify the RWSPG system of governance. As of this writing, good progress has been made and a second draft is expected to be made available in April with a request for a vote to approve during the April meeting. The other subcommittee is charged with developing goals and objectives to guide the work of the RWSPG as guided by both the Governor's Executive Order 2006-1 and CMAP's contract obligations to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Presently, there are no early regrets or second guesses in the approach taken or in decisions made thus far in the formation and facilitation of the RWSPG. As for evaluating the Office of Water Resources (OWR), the Project Director wishes to acknowledge the ample support provided by IDNR OWR staff and staff with both the Illinois State Water Survey and Illinois State Geological Survey. The multi-party planning effort has been truly collaborative thus far. There is a healthy amount of curiosity, however, regarding the state commitment to statewide water supply planning and ongoing support for the initial regional water supply planning processes now underway. Related questions might include: Is the current regional planning process simply a three-year demonstration or experiment or the first step in a long-term state commitment to enable state and regional coordinated authority for guiding and/or supporting a planning entity and for implementing plan recommendations? Will state guidelines for regional planning and plans be developed, and if so, when? Is there a

state map of projected water planning regions with a timeframe for launching other regional planning processes? By way of comparison the Texas Water Development Board was formed in 1957 and Senate Bill 1 was signed in 1997, both as substantive precursors to initiating and supporting “bottom up” regional water planning processes.

Feedback from the general public has been positive; an indication of sorts of both an interest in and understanding of the issue. It appears to be an appropriate time in the history of the region to launch this type of initiative.

Except for a few RWSPG vacancies that remain to be filled, there is every indication that Task 1 has been achieved on time and with success. Furthermore, CMAP is within budget through the first three quarters of year one and expects to remain so throughout the balance of the first year. Budget expenditures were expected to be greater during the first year, for example, due to an expectation that water-demand projections (Task 2) would be in a more advanced state. Some of the expense associated with this task will simply shift towards year two of the project.

As for Task 2, CMAP has entered into an intergovernmental agreement with Southern Illinois University Carbondale. A final report is expected by April 30, 2008. Dr. Benedykt Dziegielewski, Principal Investigator, gave a presentation to the RWSPG at the March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting and is scheduled to make quarterly progress presentations thereafter.

Beyond the collaborative effort to develop and print the “State and Regional Water-Supply Planning in Illinois pamphlet last November, Task 4 has been progressing through conventional communication outlets served by NIPC / CMAP. Additionally, new outlets for Outreach and Education are starting to emerge among delegates to the RWSPG. It is anticipated that a more robust report on Task 4 will be made available during the next progress report.

Additional information is available at  
<http://chicagoareaplanning.org/watersupply/default.asp>

The 2007 meeting schedule follows on the next page.

**Northeastern Illinois  
Regional Water Supply Planning Group (RWSPG)**

*2007 Meeting Schedule*

<i>date</i>	<i>time</i>	<i>location</i>
January 23, 2007	10:00 - Noon	CMAP - Chicago
February 27, 2007	10:00 - Noon	CMAP - Chicago
March 27, 2007	10:00 - Noon	CMAP - Chicago
April 24, 2007	10:00 - 1:00	Woodstock, IL*
May 22, 2007	10:00 - 1:00	Deerfield, IL**
June 26, 2007	10:00 - Noon	CMAP - Chicago
July 24, 2007	10:00 - 1:00	Sycamore, IL***
<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>SUMMER</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
September 25, 2007	10:00 - Noon	CMAP - Chicago
October 23, 2007	10:00 - 1:00	Geneva, IL****
November 27, 2007	10:00 - Noon	CMAP - Chicago
<b>DECEMBER</b>	<b>HOLIDAY</b>	<b>BREAK</b>

1) Meetings are scheduled for the fourth Tuesday of each month.

2) End times for meetings scheduled for outlying locations are tentative and subject to extension as agendas and venues are finalized.

\* April meeting to be held at McHenry County Administration Bldg. 667 Ware Rd. Conf. Rm. A

\*\* May meeting to be held at Ryerson Woods Welcome Center. 21950 N. Riverwoods Rd.

\*\*\* July meeting venue to be determined

\*\*\*\* October meeting to be held at Kane County Government Center. 719 S. Batavia Ave.