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**NOTICE OF MEETING**

**Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)  
Stakeholders Working Group**

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**Tuesday, April 26, 2011 – 1:30 p.m.  
MPO Meeting Room**

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**TENTATIVE AGENDA**

- I. Call To Order**
- II. Approval of Agenda**
- III. Approval of the Stakeholders Working Group’s January 11, 2011,  
Meeting Minutes ..... Page 3**
- IV. Discussion Items**
  - A. *Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Update* ..... Page 6
  - B. Sustainable Planning Conference ..... Page 6
  - C. Brownfields ..... Page 7
- V. Informational Item**
  - A. Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriations ..... Page 7
- VI. Other Items of Interest**
- VII. Next Meeting Date – To Be Determined**
- VIII. Adjournment**

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**Meeting Minutes**  
**Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**  
**Stakeholders Working Group**  
**January 11, 2011 – 1:30 p.m.**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room**

**Representatives Present:**

Tom Armstrong, Chair, City of Grimes  
Linda Gobberdiel, 1000 Friends of Iowa  
Jane Clark, Central Iowa Group of the Sierra Club  
Mindy Moore, City of Des Moines  
Jordan Vaughan, Clean Cities, Iowa Office of Energy Independence  
Stefanie Toftey, Des Moines Area Regional Transit Authority  
Linda Kinman, Des Moines Water Works  
Creighton Cox, Home Builders Association of Greater Des Moines  
David Dougherty, Howard R. Green Company  
Catharine Fitzsimmons, Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Adam Hammes, Kum & Go  
Holly Gettys, Rain Barrels Iowa  
Jan Hollebrands, Transition Des Moines  
Margaret Weiner, Transition Des Moines

**Staff Present:**

Bethany Wilcoxon, Associate Transportation Planner

**I. Call to Order**

Stakeholders Working Group Chair Tom Armstrong called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

**II. Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:** Linda Gobberdiel moved approval of the Stakeholders Working Group's January 11, 2011, agenda. Seconded by Catharine Fitzsimmons.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**III. Approval of the Stakeholders Working Group's October 12, 2010, Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Linda Gobberdiel moved approval of the Stakeholders Working Group's October 12, 2010, meeting minutes. Seconded by Catharine Fitzsimmons.

**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### **IV. (A.) Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Update**

MPO staff explained that they continue to work with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to finalize the project budget and the terms of the *Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant*. The MPO staff has submitted the preliminary project workplan to HUD. The MPO released the Request for Qualifications on December 6, 2010, and responses were due on January 6, 2011. With assistance from a review committee, staff will make a recommendation to the Regional Plan for Sustainable Development (RPSD) Steering Committee at its January 13, 2011, meeting, regarding which consultants to solicit proposals from.

The MPO Policy Committee approved amendments to the MPO's 28E agreement at its December 16, 2010, meeting.

Discussion ensued.

#### **IV. (B.) Rain Barrel Program**

MPO staff noted that 1000 Friends of Iowa is launching a rain barrel fundraising initiative.

Linda Gobberdiel noted that rain barrels provide clean water for outdoor uses, conserve water and other natural resources, decrease the magnitude of a flood, minimize the effects of drought, and decrease water pollution contribution.

Holly Gettys of Rain Barrels Iowa then made a presentation regarding rain barrels.

Discussion ensued.

#### **IV. (C.) Electric Vehicle Infrastructure**

Adam Hammes of Kum & Go made a presentation regarding electric vehicle infrastructure. He also noted that the first Iowa Plug-In Electric Vehicle Stakeholders Group meeting will be held on January 21, 2011.

Discussion ensued.

#### **IV. (D.) Sustainable Planning Conference**

MPO staff explained that planning efforts continue for the next sustainable planning conference, which will be held on June 28, 2011, in Perry. The preliminary agenda includes discussions of changing weather patterns, coalition building, alley usage, central Iowa's regional plan for sustainable development, and aging in place.

#### **V. (A.) Livable Communities Act Update**

MPO staff noted that Congress is considering the *Livable Communities Act*. The bill would establish the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities; establish the Interagency Council on Sustainable Communities; establish a comprehensive planning grant program; and, establish a sustainability challenge grant program.

The bill is a companion to the *Livable Communities Act of 2009*. On Thursday, September 23, 2010, the House Financial Services Committee held Perspectives on the *Livable Communities Act of 2010*. The House Financial Services Committee received testimony from various experts. The testimonials discussed the impact of the *Livable Communities Act* on federal policy as well as its possible effects on regional, state, and local planning decisions across the United States.

#### **VI. Other Items of Interest**

Linda Gobberdiel noted that the smart planning legislation passed during the 2010 Iowa legislation may be removed from law.

Chair Armstrong noted that City of Waukee Mayor Bill Peard will take over as the Chair of the Stakeholders Working Group at the next meeting. Chair Armstrong thanked attendees for their participation with the group and noted his enjoyment in working with them.

Chair Armstrong also noted that a new Executive Director has been hired for the MPO. Todd Ashby will begin his work at the MPO by the end of January 2011.

#### **VII. Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting date will be set at least one month in advance.

#### **VIII. Adjournment**

Chair Armstrong adjourned the meeting at 2:37 p.m.

#### IV. (A.) *Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Update*

##### **Discussion Item**

The MPO staff:

- Continues to work with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to move forward with the *Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant*;
- Notes that a consultant team led by Wallace Roberts & Todd has been selected for the project;
- Submitted the project workplan to HUD earlier this month;
- Anticipates that the first public event related to the grant will occur in July 2011; and,
- Will provide further updates at the April 26, 2011, meeting.

Staff Contact: Bethany Wilcoxon, [bwilcoxon@dmampo.org](mailto:bwilcoxon@dmampo.org);  
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#### IV. (B.) *Sustainable Planning Conference*

##### **Discussion Item**

The MPO staff:

- Is collaborating with 1000 Friends of Iowa, the Rebuild Iowa Office, the Iowa League of Cities, the Iowa Department of Public Health, and Transition Des Moines to host a second sustainable planning conference, entitled “Planning Iowa Sustainably – Building on What We Have;”
- Notes that the conference will be held on Tuesday, June 28, 2011, in Perry;
- Anticipates that registration for the event will open on May 1, 2011;
- Notes that exhibitor space will be available at the event; and,
- Recognizes that the preliminary agenda features representatives from the City of Perry, the Iowa Flood Center, Iowa State University’s Climate Science Program, the Environmental Protection Agency, Iowa State University’s TownCraft, the Iowa Department of Economic Development, and the MPO.

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#### IV. (C.) Brownfields

##### **Discussion Item**

The MPO staff:

- Notes that brownfields are “abandoned, idled, or under-used industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination;”
- Recognizes that the redevelopment of brownfields can create many benefits for local communities, including:
  - Job creation;
  - Reduced stormwater runoff;
  - Increased residential property values; and,
  - The promotion of area-wide planning
- Notes that representatives from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and Impact 7G, Inc., will offer a presentation and facilitate a discussion regarding brownfields at the April 26, 2011, meeting.

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#### V. (A.) Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriations

##### **Informational Item**

The MPO staff:

- Recognizes that the *Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act, 2011* (Act) continues funding for the Partnership for Sustainable Communities grants;
- Notes that \$70 million will be available for regional planning grants, while another \$30 million will be available for community challenge grants; and,
- Notes that the Act also includes the U.S. Department of Transportation’s TIGER grants, at an amount of \$528 million for fiscal year 2011.

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