

**NORTHWEST MUNICIPAL  
CONFERENCE**



***Celebrating 50 Years of  
Excellence in Local Government Service***

**NWMC BOARD MINUTES  
Wednesday, November 12, 2008  
7:00 p.m.  
Radisson Hotel  
2875 N. Milwaukee Avenue  
Northbrook, IL**

**MEMBERS**  
Antioch  
Arlington Heights  
Barrington  
Bartlett  
Buffalo Grove  
Carpentersville  
Cary  
Crystal Lake  
Deerfield  
Des Plaines  
Elk Grove Village  
Evanston  
Fox River Grove  
Glencoe  
Glenview  
Golf\*  
Grayslake  
Hanover Park  
Harwood Heights  
Hawthorn Woods  
Highland Park  
Hoffman Estates  
Inverness  
Kenilworth  
Lake Barrington  
Lake Forest  
Lake Zurich  
Libertyville  
Lincolnshire  
Lincolnwood  
Morton Grove  
Mount Prospect  
Niles  
Northbrook  
Northfield  
Northfield Twp.  
Palatine  
Park Ridge  
Prospect Heights  
Rolling Meadows  
Roselle  
Schaumburg  
Skokie  
Streamwood  
Vernon Hills  
Wheeling  
Wilmette  
Winnetka  
  
*President*  
Karen Darch  
Barrington  
  
*Vice-President*  
Gerald C. Turry  
Lincolnwood  
  
*Secretary*  
Jill Brickman  
Northfield Township  
  
*Treasurer*  
James H. Norris  
Hoffman Estates  
  
*Executive Director*  
Mark L. Fowler  
  
\*Affiliate Member

- I. Call to Order**  
President Darch called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**  
President Darch led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- III. Roll Call**  
Diane Kopterski called the roll.

**Members Present**

Antioch, Administrator Jill Velan  
Arlington Heights, Mayor Arlene Mulder  
Barrington, President Karen Darch  
Bartlett, President Cathy Melchert  
Buffalo Grove, President Elliott Hartstein  
Carpentersville, Manager Craig Anderson  
Des Plaines, Mayor Tony Arredia  
Elk Grove Village, Trustee Jim Petri, Manager Ray Rummel  
Evanston, H.R. Director Joellen Daley  
Fox River Grove, Trustee Duane Figurski  
Glenview, President Kerry Cummings  
Hanover Park, Trustee Toni Carter  
Hoffman Estates, Manager Jim Norris  
Lincolnwood, Mayor Jerry Turry  
Morton Grove, President Rick Krier, Administrator Joe Wade  
Mount Prospect, Mayor Irvana Wilks  
Northbrook, President Gene Marks  
Palatine, Manager Reid Ottesen  
Park Ridge, Manager Jim Hock  
Prospect Heights, Administrator Pam Arrigoni  
Rolling Meadows, Asst. Manager Barry Krumstok  
Roselle, Administrator Jeff O'Dell  
Skokie, Asst. Mgr. John Lockerby

Wheeling, Interim President Dean Argiris  
Winnetka, Trustee Gene Greable

**Members Absent**

Cary	Lake Barrington
Crystal Lake	Lake Forest
Deerfield	Lake Zurich
Glencoe	Libertyville
Golf	Lincolnshire
Grayslake	Niles
Harwood Heights	Northfield
Hawthorn Woods	Northfield Township
Highland Park	Schaumburg
Inverness	Streamwood
Kenilworth	Vernon Hills
	Wilmette

**Others in Attendance**

Larry Bury, NWMC Policy Analyst  
Mark Fowler, NWMC Executive Director  
Diane Kopterski, NWMC Executive Secretary  
Laurie Roche, Cook County Sheriff Community Affairs  
Beth Ruyle, Ehlers & Associates  
Gordon Smith, CMAP  
Chris Staron, NWMC Program Associate  
Jim Tansor, Nicor Gas  
Mike Walczak, NWMC Program Manager  
Kitty Weiner, Congressman Roskam's Office  
Larry Widmer, NWMC Deputy Director  
Lerisa Wilkins, NWMC Program Associate

**IV. Approval of Minutes – October 15, 2008**

Motion to approve the October 15, 2008 Meeting Minutes was made by Mayor Arredia. It was seconded by Trustee Figurski and approved by membership.

**V. President's Report – Karen Darch, NWMC President and President, Village of Barrington**

**A. November Membership Meeting Program – Confronting Tough Financial Times for Local Governments**

Beth Ruyle, Financial Advisor for Ehlers & Associates, Inc. discussed key financial strategies for local governments in response to the economic downturn. Ms. Ruyle stated that municipalities should take a long term, comprehensive and strategic look at their financial policies and practices in order to meet future challenges. She reviewed current trends in public finance including: diminishing resources; greater need and demand for services and investments; increased operating costs; cost shifting by the state;

competition for overlapping local dollars; internal resistance to change; and, public demand for input in decision making.

Ms. Ruyle discussed traditional financial practices and some emerging strategies that municipalities could use such as identifying long term financial challenges, developing an inventory of financial resources, presenting options and analyzing their impact and building relationships with state and federal officials. She stated that understanding financial challenges is the first step in finding solutions and public involvement is the key to successful change. Ms. Ruyle then answered questions from the members.

**B. Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program Reform**

Mr. Staron stated that there are over \$200 million in unobligated CMAQ funds that are in danger of recessions or lapsing federal funds at the end of the federal fiscal year in September 2009. Many projects in the CMAQ program have been chronically delayed and unable to obligate funds. Mr. Staron stated that the councils of government and councils of mayors discussed a united response to address the situation. A joint letter was drafted which urges the CMAQ Project Selection Committee to pursue obligating the backlog of federal funds and adopt policies and procedures that enforce timely project delivery in the future. The Executive Board recommended approval of the joint letter.

Motion to approve the Executive Board recommendation was made by Mayor Arredia. It was seconded by Mayor Mulder and approved by membership.

**C. Go To 2040/Burnham Plan Centennial Resolution**

The Executive Board recommended approval of a resolution which supports the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) *Go To 2040* comprehensive plan process and the intent to “use the opportunity of the Burnham Plan Centennial to encourage this same spirit of responsibility and big thinking in our own planning for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

Motion to approve the Executive Board recommendation was made by Manager Norris. It was seconded by Mayor Arredia and approved by membership.

**VI. Priority Issues**

**A. Legislative Committee – Rick Krier, President, Village of Morton Grove Co-Chair and Al Larson, President, Village of Schaumburg, Co-Chair**

1. *Workers’ Compensation - Fee Schedule Rule Amendment*  
President Krier stated that the Illinois Workers’ Compensation Commission approved a new fee schedule rule that would apply to outpatient hospital services for physical, speech and occupational therapy which would dramatically increase these fees for

municipalities. The new fee schedule rule has been forwarded to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) for final legislative approval and is expected to be considered at their December meeting. The Legislative Committee and Executive Board recommended sending a letter to members of JCAR urging them to stay the implementation of these fees.

Motion to approve the recommendation was made by Acting President Argiris. It was seconded by President Melchert and approved by membership.

2. *2009 Legislative Program - Priority Issues*

President Krier stated that the Legislative Committee and Executive Board recommended approval of five legislative priority issues for inclusion in the 2009 NWMC Legislative Program.

Motion to approve the recommendation was made by President Marks. It was seconded by Mayor Arredia and approved by membership.

Mr. Fowler stated that he and Mr. Bury attended the IML Legislative meeting and met with Steve Brown who strongly suggested that members contact their legislators and remind them to leave the local government distributive fund alone as they are looking to solve the state's financial problems.

**B. Transportation Committee - Kerry Cummings, President, Village of Glenview, Co-Chair and Ken Nelson, Mayor, City of Rolling Meadows, Co-Chair**

1. *Developments of Regional Importance (DRI)*

President Cummings stated that staff prepared a letter to CMAP representatives on the proposed DRI process based on feedback from membership and that the Executive Board recommended approval of the letter. The letter recommended including specific language in the document regarding the 75 day deadline for the review process; clarification of CMAP's inclusion as a partner in the planning process subject to the discretion of the participating municipality or county; identifying the mechanism for comments, and project funding should not be contingent on inclusion in the DRI process.

President Hartstein questioned whether CMAP's attorney would have to review the language to see if it was inconsistent with statute requirements.

Motion to approve the recommendation was made by President Krier. It was seconded by Administrator O'Dell and approved by membership.

2. *Illinois Tollway Congestion-Relief Program Phase Two Proposal*  
Mr. Walczak stated that the Illinois Tollway announced plans for its Congestion-Relief Program Phase Two, which includes a redesigned interchange at I-290/I-90/Route 53, other interchange projects system wide, and the implementation of "Green Lanes" on some stretches of the system. He stated that the Green Lanes would be available at normal toll rates for carpools, transit, and environmentally responsible vehicles, and at higher rates for single occupancy vehicles which would vary in price to ensure free-flow traffic.

President Hartstein stated that there is the opportunity to re-affirm support of the Route 53 extension and suggested that any redesign of the Route 53 interchange take into consideration the extension of Route 53. Members also discussed the technology issues in the implementation of Green Lanes, the number of lanes on the highway, the effect it might have on the use of local roads, and how quickly the pre-study process is being handled. Mr. Fowler stated that there are hearings scheduled on the Phase Two proposal within the next two weeks.

Motion was made by President Hartstein that the comments of the mayors be summarized and submitted to the Illinois Tollway on behalf of the Conference. It was seconded by President Marks and approved by membership.

**C. Utility Regulations Committee - Gerald Turry, Mayor, Village of Lincolnwood**

1. *The Galvin Initiative*  
Mayor Turry stated that the Smart Grid presentation in Mount Prospect regarding electricity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century was well attended. He stated that the grid is dependent on smart metering and there will be a meeting at the NWMC on November 21 with representatives who will discuss funding the metering and how it works. He stated that the Galvin Initiative will host an "Electricity Constitutional Convention" and is seeking three or four local government officials from the region to serve as "delegates". The purpose of this convention is to agree upon principles to guide the implementation of smart grid initiatives for the future.
2. *Natural Gas Franchise Project Steering Committee*  
Mr. Fowler stated that municipalities interested in pursuing a model natural gas franchise agreement met in October to identify municipal volunteers to serve on the project steering committee.

The committee will guide the process of developing the agreement and pursuing negotiations with the region's natural gas companies. Mr. Fowler expressed appreciation to Jim Tansor of Nicor Gas for guidance and information Nicor has provided.

**VII. Consent Agenda**

Motion was made by Mayor Arredia to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. It was seconded by Trustee Figurski and approved by membership. The following items were approved on the Consent Agenda:

- Monthly Budget Report and Warrant List for September
- North Shore Council of Mayors Resolution Requesting Additions to the Federal Aid Urban System in Evanston

**VIII. Other Business**

Mr. Fowler stated that Dave Bennett of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus sent an email to area mayors regarding the federal economic stimulus package that Congress will be considering. This package will address the immediate infrastructure and capital needs of the nation's cities, counties and municipalities and they are looking for projects that are ready to go. The Caucus will help inventory local projects that have been delayed due to the economic downturn and create a list for submittal to the Illinois Congressional delegation. Mr. Fowler urged members to complete the project survey that was attached to the email and return the information to Mr. Bennett by November 21.

**IX. For the Good of the Order**

None.

**X. Next Meeting**

The next Full Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, at 7:00 p.m., at the Radisson Hotel in Northbrook.

**XI. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made by Mayor Arredia. It seconded by President Marks and approved by membership. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.