

**Grundy County
Environmental & Resource
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**GRUNDY COUNTY BOARD –
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
MAY 14, 2012**

I. Meeting called to order

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M.

II. Roll call

In attendance: Dick Joyce, Chris Balkema, Dick Steele, Tom Poole, David Welter and Chairman Ron Severson

Members Absent: None

Staff in attendance: Shawn Hamilton, Heidi Miller, Lisa Kneller, Karen Campbell, and Susan Bates

Public: Terry Christensen – WCSJ/WJDK Radio Station, Arthur Hornsby, Jean McKinney, Frank Barber and Jim Allen, Environtech, Inc. (arrived at 9:35 a.m.)

III. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Joyce asked the committee for a motion to approve the April 16th, 2012 meeting minutes. Welter motioned, Steele seconded. Motion passed.

IV. Public Comment – Hornsby addressed the committee to encourage the committee to reinstate the word “no new landfills or no expansions” back into the existing Solid Waste Plan. Hornsby said the City of Morris voted the agreement down and Republic has since pulled their application and now is the time to change it back.

V. Claims

Chairman Joyce asked the committee to review the claims and to motion them. Poole motioned, Balkema seconded. Motion passed.

VI. Additions to agenda

Chairman Joyce asked if there were any additions to the agenda. Kneller stated that there were no additions to the agenda.

VII. Technician's Report

Education:

Kneller summarized her technician report by thanking Poole along with members from the Grundy County Environmental Health Department for their help with the Trashformations judging. Donations for prizes were received from Exelon, Wal-Mart and McDonalds (Coal City). The first place winner will receive a refurbished laptop provided by Vintage Tech Recyclers. Kneller has talked with some teachers and received positive feedback about changing the Trashformations Contest from spring to fall to tie in with America Recycles Day. The committee discussed and agreed that would be a better time of the year.

Kneller said both her and Miller will canvass summer camps for presentations and green education with scout groups, Lions Club camps, and library programs.

The office will be participating in Global Safety Day on May 15th, 2012, at Lyondell and Green Guides, along with other green information and a sample of a compost bin will be displayed.

Events:

Kneller said the office participated in the Grundy County Home & Health Expo on April 21st, 2012. It was a good opportunity to share information to the residents about recycling and green initiatives.

Upcoming Events:

Kneller said the E-Waste and White Goods Collection will be held on June 22nd, 2012 and June 23rd, 2012 at Environtech Landfill.

Other:

Kneller reported that Three Rivers Disposal and Groot Industries still need to submit their licensing application for 2012.

The new compost bins have been delivered and are currently on display in the office for sale.

VIII. New Business

Miller discussed that in the spring edition of the Morris Daily Herald it stated that Walnut Grove was going to construct a garden for their residents and in the past we have donated a compost bin to Saratoga Towers for their garden. Miller stated that she would be open to provide a short instructional class to the residents and staff on getting started with the composter. Joyce asked for a motion to donate a compost bin to Walnut Grove. Balkema motioned and Steele seconded. Motion passed.

IX. Old Business

Welter said since the language in the Solid Waste Plan was changed to give the City of Morris the opportunity to go through the process in the host agreement and since the City of Morris voted it down he felt it was time to move it back to the language that it had been before. Steele said since the City of Morris voted it down that wouldn't advance it any further. Welter said they could technically come back with a plan to move it forward but if we were to make it known that there are "no new landfills or expansions" they wouldn't move forward with anything else. Balkema said the spirit of the request is basically asking the County Board members where they stand. Poole said we have to update the Solid Waste Plan in two years and asked to wait to update it then. Joyce

said the process worked and he didn't see any need to change it because it is basically a mute issue right now. Joyce said he felt we have to respect our relationship with the City of Morris and why are we afraid to let elected officials make a decision.

Hornsby said Republic has withdrawn their application and the City of Morris has voted it down and it is a clean deal right now and there is no controversy on it now so if you were to change it back right now there couldn't be a lawsuit. Bates replied that there can always be lawsuits.

McKinney said the protection of the people and the water supply should be the main concern. She said do you want to protect the people some of the time or all of the time.

Miller said one portion of the language could be amended and that would require to get the Solid Waste Update Committee together and change page 15 to say something different but Miller said she had e-mailed Oudman to ask when the actual cutoff point for the landfill to invest money in engineering and materials to start closing it down. Miller asked Jim Allen when that would begin. Allen said closure is planned for 2014. However, if no expansion is planned, closure would start as early as next year. Severson said a new County Board will be seated on December 1st, 2012 and that could change the dynamics. Miller said it is a big process and it's just not moving from this committee to the County Board, this is a document that has to go through procedures. Miller stated that would be a public hearing with a court reporter along with a cost for publishing this in the newspaper would also be incurred.

Balkema made a motion to begin the process of updating the Solid Waste Plan and select a committee and start that as scheduled for a 2014 finish. Poole seconded. Motion passed.

Severson left the meeting at 10:15 a.m. Hamilton left the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

Kneller reported that the \$50.00 VISA gift cards were received from Braidwood/Exelon, Dresden/Exelon monies will be used for fall Trashformations, Chicago Aerosol will fund pizza parties for the fall Trashformations, Happy Meal tokens were received from Coal City McDonalds and Vintage Tech Recyclers donated a refurbished laptop and will donate another laptop for the fall Trashformations.

Joyce asked if any word has been received from Vintage Tech regarding recycling of E-Waste for Grundy County. Miller said the Village of Diamond wants to have an event in August and one in Minooka for July. Miller said Cardinal Recycling is currently accepting E-Waste but the County is not receiving reimbursement from them.

X. Executive Session

Chairman Joyce asked if there was any reason to have an executive session. There was not.

XI. Adjournment

Joyce asked for a motion to adjourn. Poole motioned, Balkema seconded. Motion passed.