

**Grundy County
Environmental & Resource
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**GRUNDY COUNTY BOARD – ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
MARCH 14, 2011**

I. Meeting called to order

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

II. Roll call

In attendance: Chairman Joyce, Chris Balkema, Dick Steele, David Welter and Chairman Severson
Members Absent: Tom Poole
Staff in attendance: Dan Duffy, Lisa Kneller, Karen Campbell, Heidi Miller and Susan Bates
Public: Jim Allen (Environtech Landfill)

III. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Joyce asked the committee for a motion to approve the February 14th, 2011 meeting minutes. Welter motioned, Steele seconded. Motion passed.

IV. Public Comment - None

V. Claims –

Chairman Joyce asked the committee to review the claims and to motion them. Balkema motioned, Steele 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

Kneller summarized her technician report by stating that three students from Plano, Oswego East and Oswego High Schools participated in the Kendall County Student Leadership Program. The students met with Kneller on February 15th, 2011, to better

understand the roll of ERCO and how County government works. Kendall County likes to come down to Grundy County to give their students a different perspective.

The South Wilmington Elementary "Accelerated Reading Program" students will participate in guided tours at Horizon Wind Farm in Dwight on March 24th, 2011. Depending on the numbers, the students may be divided up into two groups, while one group is attending the presentation on the wind turbines, the other bus would be touring the wind towers. Pre and Post Tour education will be conducted in the classroom, using a power point presentation supplied by Horizon. After a few tours, Miller and Kneller plan to lead/assist on future wind farm tours and make that a part of the curriculum for the year.

Approximately 60 students will be participating in this year's Government Day on April 12th, 2011. Kneller will conduct presentations on March 25th, 2011, at the Coal City Elementary School, with recycling relays with third grade students and recycling relays on April 20th, 2011 at Aux Sable Elementary School in recognition of Earth Month.

The Grundy County Sheriff's Department has an abundance of unclaimed bicycles and these bicycles will again be donated to Rotary International where they willingly take used bicycles and distribute them to needy children. Campbell will coordinate the arrangements between the Sheriff's Department and the Rotary for pick up on approximately May 6th, 2011.

Trashformation applications have been sent to area schools with one registration sent back. Usually more schools send back their registration forms before Spring Break. Donations are being sought for prizes for the winning groups.

ERCO participated in the 20th Annual Earth Fair held at Morris Community High School on March 5th, 2011. The office provided hand outs, informational and educational materials for residents. On display was an Earthmachine Compost Bin which the office sells during the spring and fall of the year along with Miller educating the residents on vermicomposting. The Human Power Generator was a big hit for the children to create awareness on how much energy it takes to power an incandescent light bulb vs. a CFL bulb.

The county road posting will continue for another three to four weeks. A few telephone calls have been received but not as many as in the past years. Ron Ragan, Building Inspector for the Building & Zoning Office has been asked to check the dumpsters once a week and if they are overflowing Kneller makes a call to the waste hauler.

Kneller discussed that she has updated the Grant Worksheet and she is going to continue to apply for a grant with Exelon Corp to help sustain the Battery Bucket Collection Program. Balkema said Caterpillar filled up early and they would keep the office under consideration for the 2012 budget. Kneller asked if there was a better time to submit the grant application and Balkema said October 2011 would be the best time because they are actually setting the 2012 budget then and if we could submit the application then and we would have a better chance. Kneller will continue to research a grant application to the EPA Environmental Education for groundwater education or wind energy education.

VIII. New Business

Joyce discussed that the subject of having a County Wide Waste Hauler came up a couple of years ago when the Solid Waste Update Plan was being formulated. Joyce said at the time he thought it was a good idea of having one waste hauler on the roads rather than three in the rural areas and they had a meeting with all the haulers and this was discussed. Miller said the reason it was on the agenda was that Welter requested discussion on having one waste hauler for the county to try to save money not for just municipalities but for rural areas rather than paying extra money for recycling and potentially open it up for composting. Campbell made copies of the minutes from those meetings and distributed. Miller also said there were some areas in Michigan where they tried to do this and the residents did not want someone telling them what waste hauler to use. Miller said it was worth revisiting again. Welter said it would take a great deal of effort and education to all municipalities to get them on board and he thought it was worth looking into because the theory is there and he felt it was a good idea. Kneller said Waste Management has a big portion of the County already but then there are always people who live in Goose Lake and farmers that don't have subscription accounts but have dumpsters and they can contact either Heartland or Republic whoever they like for dumpster service. At the time we did all of this research the Waste Haulers were guarded on what kind of information they shared. Severson said he thought there were pros and cons to it, and on his road he thought that Heartland, Republic and Waste Management all traveled on the roads but on the other hand it reduces competition. Severson said if you don't like one company then you go with another. If you bid it out to all the companies, then the other problem becomes are you going to bid it each year, and they get there people and equipment to do all of Grundy County and then the next year someone else gets the contract. Joyce said he saw in the minutes about the County taking over the billing and he said we don't want any part of that. Joyce pointed out from the minutes that "Theresa Hammond from Nu-Way/Heartland said about five years ago in Goose Lake they tried to have one waste hauler for the area but it was voted down unanimously because people wanted freedom of choice." Bates said she thought it would take a referendum and we are talking about unincorporated not to say you couldn't work with the villages but we can't make them participate. Welter said he didn't have the history behind it, but wanted to get the ball rolling to see what the concerns were. Welter said his idea was to have a planning phase because the City of Morris' contract is up in 2014 and his general thought was to go out to bid as a County to reduce the cost for everyone and since the tipping fees from the landfill have been going down, he thought you could have a \$1.00 Administrative Fee for the County and that would help fund ERCO. Balkema said would the need be to reduce truck traffic? Joyce said that was one thought at the time in rural areas, but he thought if you get the haulers competing with each other it might reduce the cost. Welter said do the pros outweigh the cons and thought we should research more. Balkema said it is good to state the objective, if the objective is to reduce truck traffic then that is the objective but if the objective is tipping fees are going down we are trying to find a way to fund the department then we need to list out the overall reasons. Joyce said I don't think all the garbage in the county go to Environtech Landfill and some of the garbage goes to Will County. Duffy pointed out that in 2013 the contract is up with Morris and Environtech Landfill is slated to close and the money for ERCO will go away. Balkema said would the residents want the fees to go up and not have a local landfill or would they rather expand the local landfill and not have the fees go up? Steele said if you go outside the county you will be paying more money. Balkema asked if we have researched incineration or any other options beside landfills and Miller said there are

companies out there that do and they have to have the volume to do it. Severson said we had Senreq in Morris that was the gasification plant but it wasn't that the plant didn't operate properly they were concerned about the financial condition of the plant. Balkema said it seems that we are at a point where a larger study of all these options needs to be done. Joyce said when we did the Solid Waste Update we had about eighteen or more meetings and we did talk about going forward about what is going to happen when the landfill closes and that is one of the reasons that things got changed, and if an expansion did occur it doesn't happen overnight it takes time and EPA permits. Joyce asked if the new members have had a chance to tour the landfill yet and they replied that they didn't. Allen said they plan to have an Open House again this year but anytime they want to tour he would make arrangements. Allen said if the landfill would go for an expansion it would only encompass an additional 80-85 acres and would tie into the current landfill. Welter asked Joyce to have Kneller and Campbell to continue to do more research on how other counties have handled a similar situation and to see what challenges they encountered and how it is working out for them. Balkema said it should also be checked out the counties that are successful do they have landfills that stay the same and how long they have had it.

Duffy left the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

IX. Old Business

Balkema asked about the No Name Creek enforcement issue that he discussed at last meeting. Kneller said she had talked to Boyle and his basic thought on everything was after going out there how do you specifically get one test for purely sewer and septic and then where do you find the source of it. Kneller said based on what Boyle had observed when he had gone out there and looked at the water source he would have to sample it at various different times depending if it was spring or melting of the snow or where the water is coming in. Balkema said that Boyle had completed the tests already and was going to do a couple more samples downstream and a couple of samples upstream of the complainant's property to ensure no point contamination.

Joyce asked about the status of the hauler licensing if all have been received as of yet. Kneller said so far \$1,200.00 from hauler licensing has been received for revenue to the county and only one waste hauler needs to send in their check and another hauler to submit both their license and their check so then the total would be approximately \$1,475.00.

Kneller distributed information on CFL bulbs to answer the questions that were brought up at the last meeting. Kneller said it is a nice comprehensive document about why people should use CFL's and the mercury that is contained inside and the clean up disposal if a bulb is broken. Kneller said she received a lot of feedback at the Earth Expo from residents that used the Human Power Generator regarding the CFL bulbs and some of the residents thought that the LED lights might eventually phase out the CFL bulbs. Kneller said more information on LED lights can be researched for the next meeting if the members are interested.

X. Executive Session

Bates advised the members not to release the minutes of January 15th, 2010 at this time since it is talks about an ongoing agreement that hasn't been resolved as of yet. Bates

advised that there was no need to conduct the review of executive session minutes behind closed doors if the members were in agreement to review the minutes and not discuss the matter in open session. All members were in agreement not to discuss the matter in open session.

Joyce asked for a motion to destroy Executive Session Tape from March 16th, 2009. Balkema motioned and Steele seconded. Motion passed.

XI. Adjournment

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

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