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**GRUNDY COUNTY BOARD – ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE  
NOVEMBER 14, 2011**

I. Meeting called to order

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

II. Roll call

In attendance: Dick Steele, Tom Poole and Chairman Ron Severson  
(provided for a quorum)

Members Absent: Dick Joyce, Chris Balkema, and David Welter

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

Public: Larry Clark, Environmental Attorney, Jim Allen, Environtech, Inc.,  
Arthur Hornsby, Frank Barber and Jean McKinney

III. Approval of Minutes

Due to the absence of the Environmental Committee Chairman and the Vice Chairman, Dick Steele assumed the Chairman position to conduct the meeting.

Steele asked the committee for a motion to approve the October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting minutes. Poole motioned, Steele seconded. Motion passed.

IV. Public Comment – Steele asked the attendees to please introduce themselves and state what their topic was.

Arthur Hornsby stated that he had concerns that the landfill presently is in an area of four aquifers with the first one being the Morris Sand and Gravel, the second one is 50 foot down, the third one is 300 feet and the fourth one is 500 feet. Hornsby stated in 2006 that the McKinney's demanded that their private well be tested for the first time for all chemicals found in the landfill and at that time Environtech had a leaking landfill and failed liner. Hornsby said in the Host Agreement there has to be precautions that when a liner fails, nearby private well owners need to be notified. Hornsby feels that Environtech needs to pay for all testing of private wells quarterly within a certain area of the landfill.

Frank Barber said that the manifests from the Environtech Landfill state that 25 out of state deliveries to the landfill came from Indiana, Maryland and Texas. Although this is getting away from the Host Agreement, Barber stated that there are so many things that don't add up and the folks who are going to vote on the Host Agreement need to know these things.

Jean McKinney voiced her concerns on the amount of coal ash that is being hauled into the landfill. McKinney states that they have records from the Health Department that shows a very large spike in arsenic in the leachate that came from the landfill and attributes this to the coal ash.

Hornsby stated that they have gone over item by item with the City of Morris on the Host Agreement and there is a lot of wording in the Host Agreement that is much different than the one that was signed in Pontiac and really a lot different than Kendall County. Hornsby urged the committee members to compare particularly Kendall County's Host Agreement to the Host Agreement before you today because he feels that Kendall County Host Agreement protects the residents and this agreement does not.

V. Claims –

Steele asked the committee to review the claims and to motion them. Poole motioned, Severson seconded. Motion passed.

VI. Additions to agenda

Steele 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 briefing the committee.

**School Events:**

Kneller reported that the reusable Halloween Trick or Treat bags were distributed to eight different preschools countywide. Presentations were conducted at the Coal City Early Learning Center, Mazon, and Morris Methodist Preschool after the distribution of the Halloween bags.

**Events:**

Kneller reported that the one day E-Waste Event generated 29,228 lbs. and approximately 174 vehicles came through that day. The total amount collected for the year was over 50,000 lbs. for the two events.

Information has been provided to all departments to inform them of the procedure to follow for the Quill Printer Cartridge Recycling Program. The \$20.00 rebate could be used towards the purchase of office supplies.

The Gently Used Toy Drive will be held from November 15<sup>th</sup> through December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Collection containers will be at Grundy County Administration Building, Coal City Public Library, Morris Public Library, Minooka Library, Braceville Grade School and White Oak Elementary School.

Eight Preschools have been asked to participate in the County Preschool Recycled Christmas Ornament Project. The children will make recycled ornaments that will be hung on the Christmas tree in the foyer at the Grundy County Administration Building and the schools and teachers will be recognized by the presentation of certificates to each school.

The IEPA has secured funds to provide for a County Agency Tire Collection to be held on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2011 at the Old Highway Building at Dwight and Lowery Roads. Letters have been sent to all Township Road Commissioners, Municipalities, Park Districts, and Grundy County Highway Department to notify them of the event to dispose of fly dumped tires. Poole stated that the IDOT garage in Gardner has a large sum of tires and asked if they had been contacted to participate in the event. Kneller will contact them to see how they dispose of their tires.

Ron Severson left the meeting at 9:54 a.m.

#### VIII. New Business

Larry Clark, Environmental Attorney gave a brief introduction that he had been involved in thirty siting hearings and a number of planning efforts around the state in the last thirty years. He has looked at a lot of siting applications and proposed host agreements. Clark said he had some involvement in the beginning when they started negotiating this current proposed host agreement with Grundy County several years ago. On the whole Clark said he was pleasantly surprised in seeing the agreement and thought the County did a very good job in negotiating the agreement for the dollar amount and the types of issues they have addressed.

Ron Severson returned to the meeting at 10:02 a.m.

Steele asked Clark to state for the record professionally who he represents. Clark said either counties or municipalities either as a hearing officer, attorney reviewing an application or in some cases just providing advice to a local entity.

Clark stated that he did negotiate the agreement with Pontiac on behalf of the County there. When the agreement was negotiated in Pontiac they looked at a property protection value program along with well protection and basically drew a line of two miles around the landfill and it would only affect a handful of houses. The hearing process gives us all that information, gives the engineers the information so they can tell us this is the area covered by an aquifer, how many wells are on it, and the existing groundwater flow in that aquifer. Sometimes it enables us to make better decisions but it is hard for me to sit here and say that absolutely it should be in one place or another and protection is important because people need good well water. This agreement copies the Kendall County agreement that they are going to have a website and post any communications they have back and forth with the IEPA and it will provide better information to everyone. One of the major issues when the hearing body at a local siting hearing makes a determination that they met their second criteria is the protection of safety and welfare of the surrounding area. Clark stated that Environtech are willing to contribute \$1.9 million to Morris to address the water main issue on Gun Club Road and that is a lot more than the Kendall County agreement. On a whole Clark said they did an excellent job and could there be some minor tweaks yes but you will say that for 25 years.

Steele asked Clark if he would answer the resident's questions.

Hornsby had concerns about if the host fee was guaranteed for the life of the contract. Clark said there is a minimum guarantee for tonnage and that is guaranteed for three years but not after three years. Hornsby voiced his concerns that the host agreement between Livingston County and Kendall County are different than the proposed Environtech Host Agreement. Hornsby also said there should be an escalator clause in the agreement based on a CPI because it is in the Pontiac agreement but in this host agreement it talks about the producer price index minus food and fuel. Hornsby feels that you should go with the CPI.

Barber voiced his concerns that the landfill would probably take special waste to get more tonnage. Clark said they have a larger special waste need for capacity but special waste is not hazardous waste. Miller asked Clark to explain to everyone what is considered special waste and to give some examples of what is considered special waste.

Clark said we need solid waste capacity and we have about 800,000 chemicals now but we still have to have a place to put them, make some determination as to where they go and the evolution of a way a landfill is constructed is changed dramatically from the time we had just a few to the 800,000 chemicals now. All we can do is the best we can and address the issues because there is no perfect world.

#### IX. Old Business

Miller said Vintage Tech has merged with a Scandinavian company and they have changed their name only slightly. The current agreement with them is not precise and they have given us an agreement to sign but that is something that should come to the committee and then the County Board for the Chairman's signature. Miller said she hasn't seen anything back from Vintage Tech and she wants to make sure that they provide the same services for the past 5 or 6 years. This will be brought back to next month's committee meeting since there are still questions to be answered and legal will look at the agreement.

Kneller reported that she has a meeting scheduled with Exelon and Akzo Nobel and Aux Sable Liquid Products have expressed interest in working together to have their employees involved and in return possibly they would sponsor a White Goods Collection Event at Cardinal Recycling with their employees helping. Other suggestions of doing something green like touring the plant for junior high children or an essay contest for kids to explore options in environmental education or careers. Homewood Disposal is looking to have a video made of their recycling process to share so it could be shown in classrooms. Kneller is hoping to ask each waste hauler for money to sponsor the Recycling Diorama to have it custom made and purchased for the classroom. Miller said it is costly for Reinert to take his bobcat to Environtech Landfill for an E-Waste Event and he suggested having a White Goods Collection at his facility. Miller said if we can tie in all these sponsorships we could collect light bulbs which the boxes are very expensive and have somebody sponsor that. Miller said maybe we could tie this into Earth Day and then have a White Goods Collection twice a year

Severson left the meeting at 10:44 a.m.

X. Executive Session

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

XI. Adjournment

Ron Severson returned to the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Steele asked for a motion to adjourn. Poole motioned, Severson seconded. Motion passed.

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