

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
OF AUGUST 16, 2010**

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 P.M.

Members Present: Dick Joyce, Dick Olson, and Millie Dyer

Staff Present: Lisa Kneller, Susan Bates, SAO

Public present: Jim Allen, Environtech, Inc., Don Hansen, City of Morris, David Welter

Location: Grundy County Administration Center, 1320 Union Street, Morris, IL

I. Meeting Called To Order

Dick Joyce called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

Above committee members were present including staff and the above listed public representation.

III. Minutes Approval

A motion was made by Millie Dyer and seconded by Dick Olson to approve the July 19, 2010, minutes. The motion carried.

IV. Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

V. Claims

Joyce asked for a motion to approve the claims. Olson motioned, Dyer seconded. Motion passed.

VI. Additions to Agenda

Joyce asked if there was anything to add. There was nothing.

VII. Technician's Report

Kneller updated committee on upcoming events for the school year. Over the past few years, Kneller has manually updated teacher email addresses into a databank to be used in distributing e-newsletters to County teachers. Recently, Karen Campbell contacted each school to identify who is in charge of their IT/website/email maintenance. From this list we contacted each representative individually to ask if we could forward our e-newsletter to them directly, for them to distribute to each individual teacher. To date we've received positive response from four out of six schools emailed.

Kneller briefly covered upcoming topics to be discussed in this e-newsletter. Included in committee members packets were information pieces from that would provide board members some background on said topics.

Wind farm curriculum is one area that the office will be sharing more education. Dwight Farber from Horizon Energy has offered to support our curriculum with offering Wind Farm Tours of the Grundy County Wind Turbines. Kneller discussed how the wind farm tours would be handled; by offering "wind farm week", first come, first serve basis.

Chairman Joyce suggested researching the windmill farm in Bloomington, which is the headquarters for Horizon. Both Chairman Joyce and Susan Bates had visited the farm and explained how they teach the kids through hands on experience how the windmills work. This location also houses the company offices. Bates also suggested opening the tours up to GAVC, as they are going to begin offering wind farm technician training at the junior college level.

Kneller covered Walk to School Day information. This year's Walk to School Day will be held at Gardner Elementary, pending final approval from the school's principal. Kneller explained the purpose of Walk to School Day and how it's a goal to involve each school in the County.

Environtech Landfill Tours have been tentatively scheduled for Friday, November 5th. Kneller stated that they would like to involve the larger schools, White Oak and Saratoga to participate this year. The challenge is scheduling enough time to cover each class. Landfill tours are one of the many ways the ERCO office recognizes America Recycles Day on November 15th. Kneller pointed out to board members that pictures from landfill tours were included in the packet.

Kneller covered the status of Lauren Galloway's grant research and application. In addition to finalizing current grant applications, Galloway is creating a list of grant opportunities to share with our educators in the County. A good example is IEPA and DCEO grants. These opportunities will be listed in our September teacher newsletter.

Kneller shared information on her recent trip, with other ILCSWMA members to Universal Recycling Technologies in Janesville, WI. This trip afforded ILCSWMA members the opportunity to see first hand where their e-waste is going after being sorted by Vintage Tech Recyclers. In addition, it is a chance to share with students and residents the process by which e-waste is dismantled. Chairman Joyce shared the current recycling statistics from Kneller's report with committee members, commenting on how impressive it is that the company works hard to recycle close to 99% of the waste. Joyce commented on the success of this past June's e-waste collection. Committee member Olson commented on how successful the past tire recycling events were, as well. Kneller commented on how the IEPA no longer holds public drives due to cuts in funding, but is researching better product stewardship and maximizing tire take back programs. Kneller shared that we're still fortunate to host small scale collections for our municipalities and township road commissioners.

Kneller informed the committee that she will be attending the 2010 ILCSWMA Annual Conference at Starved Rock Lodge, September 22nd & 23rd.

Chairman Joyce updated committee member Olson on how the office's goal is to create a well-supplied library of recycling and environmental information for teachers to borrow or for Kneller to take into the classroom.

VIII. New Business

Chairman Joyce remarked that he thought the County Open Burning Ordinance was still in the works and that it would potentially be brought to the September meeting. Kneller shared the process by which the ordinance was created. Ordinances from Kane, Will, Kankakee counties were reviewed and ideas were pulled in part of creation of the Grundy ordinance. Concerns such as people in specific zoning burning landscape waste and it creating a nuisance for neighbors. Kneller shared other concerns behind the burning and how it is the hope of the office that the ordinance would set forth some guidelines in how burning should be conducted and restricted.

Chairman Joyce felt that a complete ban on burning would never work, but placing guidelines on how burning should be conducted would be helpful.

Committee member Olson asked if the County was pulling ordinances from other counties and how it is working for them. Kneller shared the example of how Kane County developed their Open Burning Ordinance and how it was executed and enforced. Kneller explained how this time of year is when the office sees an increase in burning. Bates asked Kneller if every municipality in the County had some sort of no burn ordinance, Kneller stated that she was only familiar with Coal City and Morris. Olson shared that in the country, more than likely, farmers are burning landscape waste.

IX. Old Business

BatteriesPlus Agreement was brought to committee for approval and recommendation. Kneller provided background on the plan for collection and what BatteriesPlus has offered. Kneller shared that collection buckets will be placed at the Administration Building, Sheriff's Department, and County Highway Department. Olson commented that he noticed they will only be collecting dry-cell batteries, Olson asked if they would consider taking car batteries. Kneller answered by stating that they would not be collecting those types of batteries at this time. Dyer asked if BatteriesPlus has seen a draft of the contract. Bates commented that they have approved the draft. Joyce asked for recommendation to take to the County Board with positive recommendation. Dyer moved to send to board, Olson seconded.

No other old business to be discussed.

XI. Adjournment

Joyce asked for a motion adjournment. Olson motioned, Dyer seconded. Motion passed