

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
OF AUGUST 26, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 A.M.

Members Present: John Almer, John Galloway, and Dick Steele

Also present: Frank Halpin, Dan Duffy, Heidi Miller, Lisa Kneller, and Karen Campbell

Public present: None

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

Minutes Approval

A motion was made by John Almer and seconded by Dick Steele to approve the July 22nd, 2008 minutes. The motion carried.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Claims

The committee reviewed the claims for the Office of Solid Waste Management. A motion was made by John Almer and seconded by Dick Steele to approve the claims as presented. The motion carried.

Additions to Agenda

There were none.

Technician's Report

Lisa Kneller, Solid Waste Technician gave the monthly report on the following:

- Discussed that the tour to Waste Management Recycle America in Grayslake was very informative and a good networking opportunity. Much information was gathered to be able to incorporate into classroom education.
- Met with representatives from Grundy County Farm Bureau, Grundy County Soil and Water Conservation District and U of I Extension to discuss upcoming academic year and resource off one another while enhancing one another's programs.
- Walk to School will be held on October 8th, 2008, this year at Braceville Elementary School, South Wilmington Elementary School and Immaculate Conception School. John Galloway and John Almer expressed interest in participating at Immaculate Conception School.
- At the recent Tire Collection Event approximately 200 tons of tires were collected this year with only 132.9 tons for 2007. Problems were encountered this year with the contracted disposal company to remove the tires hired by the IEPA. A letter has been sent to the IEPA stating the issues and concerns which evolved during and after the event. It was discussed that potentially the event could be moved next year to the Grundy County Fairgrounds in early October. Chairman Halpin had concerns of utilizing the fairgrounds due to gravel

and grass and the potential of possibly causing damage. It was suggested to investigate other locations with a blacktop parking lot.

- 262 pounds of plastic was shredded at the Pesticide Container Recycling Event. Since this was the first event held in the County and the participation was not high, a different location will be sought for next year. It was suggested by the Department of Agriculture staff that other ways to generate additional participation for future events would be golf courses, landscapers and municipalities.
- On September 20th, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. an E-Waste Recycling Event will be held at Environtech Landfill in Morris.
- Plans are being formalized for a tour of the new Allied Waste C & D site

New Business

There was none.

Old Business

Under old business, Pfaff brought up the ongoing revision and discussion on the update to the Solid Waste Plan. Pfaff stated that he feels the biggest issue with the plan is the language surrounding an expansion of the landfill. Miller stated that after reviewing listening to the minutes from the August SWUSC, Susan Bates modified and approved the most recent language within the plan. What SWUSC members are seeing in the current draft is the most current language. Miller further stated that there are also additional things that need to be updated, more specifically, Pfaff had commented in the last steering committee meeting that there are things with current events conducted by the Solid Waste Office that could be improved upon. Miller asked Pfaff what exactly those things are, and if we there are specific things we need to improve upon, then we'll add those. Pfaff clarified his comment by saying that things that are in the current plan can be improved upon and that the department is doing just that. An example would be how the department is holding waste haulers accountable by providing monthly reports. Some things that were already in the previous plan that hadn't been executed but within the past year and eight months.

Steele complimented Pfaff on his short time with the board he has picked up the ball and done a good job with the committee. Pfaff enjoys working on the committee as you can witness changes, such as with recycling. Pfaff feels like there are simple, basic things that the committee and department can be doing to improve education and recycling. Eventually, stated Pfaff, Grundy County will be the leader and raise the bar so that other counties will model our operations. Halpin stated that he wants to be a little above average.

Pfaff further clarified for Miller that what he was referring to in regard to improvements was specific to the old plan and that he could list those items out and forward them to Miller.

Pfaff continued to press that terminology surrounding our current landfill and how can the county prepare itself for what is going to do with its trash when the landfill closes. Pfaff feels its important to research alternatives as to what the county will do with its trash, worrying less about landfills in Kendall County and other outside influences, but looking at what we as a county are going to do. In this plan, if we feel there is a necessity to expand the current landfill, than the language needs to reflect that. In addition, Pfaff would like to learn more about the wells that surround the current landfill and asked if James Leonard could come to our next Environmental Committee meeting to bring us up to date with those wells and if there are any issues with these wells. Talk has been brought up on these

wells and what contaminates are in the wells. By having Mr. Leonard brief us on these wells it would better equip members to make educated decision.

Discussion was held regarding if there is direct opposition to the expansion of the existing landfill. Chairman Pfaff stressed the importance of educating residents in the County on what they would do with their garbage, what their new charges would be and how the closure of the landfill would impact the County. Galloway asked if Environtech would be doing any type of news release regarding the current status or potential upcoming closure. Other board members asked what new charges would be for trash and how the public would react, specifically Morris who doesn't pay for trash, to increased charges for trash collection. Discussion was given regarding what those new trash rates would be. Miller and Kneller both stated that research has been done on what those charges would be and are on file in the Solid Waste Office.

Pfaff stated that he feels it important for our department to share information on how the residents would be impacted by a foreclosure as well as how granting an expansion would affect them, specifically how the Solid Waste Department would continue to function without funding from the landfill. Board members discussed as to what is the right thing to do for Grundy County and how do we go about finding out what that exactly is.

Dan Duffy asked if we've done any press releases regarding the progress of the Solid Waste Update Steering Committee. Duffy suggested that it may be a good idea to share with the residents of the County what the committee is considering, and how we are in a "fact-finding" mode with the committee. The residents need to know that we've been working on the update for the past nine months and where we currently are.

A motion was made by John Almer and seconded by Dick Steele to enter into Executive Session to discuss the Executive Session minutes – 5ILCS 120/2(c)(21). Karen Campbell and Lisa Kneller left the meeting. Upon roll call, the motion carried.

A motion was made by John Almer and seconded by John Galloway to return to Open Session. The motion carried.

A motion was made by John Almer and seconded by John Galloway to approve the Executive Session minutes of May 28, 2002, September 26, 2006, February 26, 2008 and June 24, 2008. The motion carried.

A motion was made by John Almer and seconded by John Galloway to release the Executive Session minutes of September 26, 2006 and February 26, 2008, and to destroy those Executive Session tapes after the eighteen month time limit is met. The motion carried.

Adjournment

A motion was made by John Almer and seconded by Dick Steele to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried.