

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
OF JUNE 15, 2009**

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

Members Present: Dick Joyce, Jackie McKinney, Dick Steele, Greg Redford and John Galloway

Committee Members Absent: None

County Board Members Present: Frank Halpin, Millie Dyer and Jeremy Ly

Staff Present: Heidi Miller, Lisa Kneller, James Leonard, Susan Bates, and Karen Campbell

Public present: Randy Salmich, Ken Daggett, Timothy M. Urbanik, Steve Montgomery, Jim Richter, Frank Barber, Gerald McKinney, Tim Oudman, Jim Allen, Eric Dippon, Warren Olson, Mike Farrell

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

Everyone was present from the committee including staff and the above listed public representation.

III. Minutes Approval

A motion was made by Jackie McKinney and seconded by John Galloway to approve the May 18th 2009, minutes. The motion carried.

IV. Public Comment

Dick Joyce began discussion that he has a signup sheet and if you would like to speak and you haven't signed in, please do so now. Dick Joyce continued by stating that he'd like you to keep it short again like we did last time my original intention was to not have people speak if they already spoke at the last meeting but we don't have a very large crowd. Joyce furthered that if they want to say something to please limit themselves to the landfill issue and Solid Waste Update Plan since the City of Morris Council controls the issues of Morris. Some people got out of line last time a little bit (inaudible) off the subject; he said he should have said not out of line. He said he would go through the list and if you want to speak mark your name then we'll go back through the list.

Dick Joyce started reading names from the sign-in sheet and it was determined that the following would like to speak:

The following responded Tim Urbanik, Steve Montgomery, Jerry McKinney, Jim Richter, Frank Barber and Ken Daggett.

Tim Urbanik began the discussion by stating that he didn't understand why we are even having this meeting to begin with, it was agreed to before that the landfill would cease its operations and they would have to accept waste up until what year 2012?

Dick Joyce replied 2013.

Tim Urbanik continued by stating that the reason we are here is because the pit is almost full and it's an economic necessity. He continued by stating that they would have to accept it for 3 to 4 years. Urbanik stated that he paid for trash pickup for 42 years and felt that everyone should.

Steve Montgomery spoke but his voice was unable to be picked up on the recorder. He wanted to go on record that he was opposed and thought the matter was contained and there wouldn't be any more expansion.

Jerry McKinney expressed his feelings that he was totally against the landfill and he wanted to go on record.

Jim Ritcher asked if the County has a cost value for prematurely ending the lives of those who own property around the water system that has already been contaminated based on the history of other properties that were used as landfills and people contracted different types of cancers because of the specific levels of different items within the cancer causing system specific to landfills and he asked what the County had to say about that? He further stated that there have been some leak problems, some storm water overflow problems that haven't been contained within the self containing system where drains and collectors were not been cleaned off or absorbed the excess rain which means that water was flowing into neighbors properties within the area of the dump or landfill. He also had questions regarding contaminants specific to landfills and he felt the County had more respect for their citizens for their health and safety.

Frank Barber said that they dug down 40 or 50 feet at the landfill before they started filling it. He had questions regarding the test wells around the landfill and arsenic and heavy metals in this area. He felt some of the chemicals are not common to coal mining areas and asked where did it come from? He also asked why it took until 2006 to plug the wells on the landfill property. He referenced a water test done by the IEPA and copied to the IDPH and to the Grundy County Health Department, and questioned how many wells were tested in that area by the IEPA and what was found in those wells? Several unidentified speakers were talking and unable to distinguish conversations.

Dick Joyce said some of the residents came to the County regarding uncapped wells and the County went out and tried to get some of them capped, but some of them were not. Old farmsteads and this and that where houses were torn down, and the well was there and they identified them, and the Health Committee responded to that and they had some discussion about testing wells. There was some discussion about the wells on the landfill, the Horton property that they did dig for and apparently didn't find it. He said he guessed they did cap the other ones. Some wells in different parts of the county were tested and he asked James Leonard, Director of Environmental Health to speak.

James Leonard said he wasn't here when the original tests were done so he can't speak or dispute that, but they did when they got the original eight samples back and they indicated that there was arsenic, selenium, manganese in some of those wells he did put out a press release in the newspapers and they ran those. Without the information in front of him, he believed that they had 24 samples taken and they had those results sent to us and also the Illinois Department of Public Health for their interpretation and he had that information in his office if you would like to see that. The results were varying a lot; a lot of the results do not indicate or reflect what they had in the original eight samples by Mr. Bruni of the IDPH.

Discussion by unidentified speaker regarding the length of time to get results back and all heavy metals weren't tested and property values. He asked who paid for the tests and ordered them.

Dick Joyce responded that he believed through the Health Department and the County paid for the tests.

Frank Halpin said Mr. Urbanik wanted evidence, so the County tested the wells. An unidentified speaker had questions regarding the tests and length of time to get results back.

Dan Duffy stated that the State of Illinois was responsible for the length of time to get the results back not the County and they are on file if they want to review them. Several unidentified speakers were asking questions. Dick Joyce responded that we can get you the information that the County has from the wells that we tested in the last two years or when that was and he wasn't sure how many chemicals they tested for, but the results showed that the same things were in different parts of the County whether there was a landfill there or not. A lot of them seemed to have higher concentrations in areas where there was coal mining.

Eric Dippon from Allied Waste/Republic responded that they have a series of wells around the perimeter of the landfill that are designed for early detection if there was contamination of the landfill and none of these wells have ever had hits that are related to contamination of the landfill. He stated that we used to sample these quarterly and we now sample them on a semi-annual basis and all that data is reported to IEPA, and the county at one point asked for some data and we provided that data to the county. He stated that he couldn't give you the lead and thallium levels are, but did know that there has not been any indication that there is a problem with the landfill. The wells are below the bottom of the liner of the landfill and will detect anything coming out of the landfill should there ever be an issue. The depth of the wells vary over the site of the landfill, the landfill is constructed in different areas and there is different geological areas without over simplifying it and the wells are below the bottom of the landfill. The IEPA has reviewed this data and has permitted this data and there is no evidence of contamination from the landfill.

James Leonard stated that he had a file on the last two or three years of the water samples taken in this area and he didn't have it all organized, but wanted to apologize. He has records of a number of wells that were sampled for arsenic and those heavy metals and if the committee would like he would have for the next meeting and have a very well organized for you and a description and everything, but briefly the evidence that we found in 2008 after private homeowners took samples was that it did not reflect while the eight samples taken by Mr. Bruni of the IEPA. He stated that he didn't know who paid for those original eight; the subsequent samples were paid for by the homeowners themselves and County Health Department notified the IDPH.

Dick Joyce said that they would to the recommendation. He stated that they changed from the last time there was a question about the area where a possible expansion could occur and that's on the back of your packet. He stated that they have a legal description of the property, basically the triangular piece south of Bungalow Road and northwest of the railroad tracks. Joyce asked if anybody had any questions on the legal description or the map.

Heidi Miller said when she received this from Eric Dippon the 120 feet that you see in that triangular area - 80 acres of that would be landfill, it wouldn't be all 120 feet. Reference to that is reflected in the Executive Summary on page 5 and also under the Section 6 on page 15. Basically, saying that Appendix E would include the complete plat of survey, the legal description of the area to the east of the current compliant landfill that is intended for the potential expansion and that was her understanding from Eric Dippon.

Eric Dippon stated that they have not designed a landfill yet on that property.

Miller stated that it was her understanding that 123 acres and 80 acres of that would be landfill. John Galloway asked if that was defined anywhere. Miller stated that is not defined in there because again

this is just the legal description of the area that they can actually put a landfill. Eric Dippon told her that they haven't done the engineering, and it's not completed.

Dick Joyce asked for a recommendation to forward the Solid Waste Management Plan – Fifteen Year Update to the full County Board. A motion was made by John Galloway and seconded by Jackie McKinney to forward the Solid Waste Management Plan – Fifteen Year Update.

County Board Member, Jeremy Ly, said he was not on this committee, but he has been following this, because he just got on the board in 2008 and as the only board member under the age of 30 on the County Board, he ran with the intent of looking out for the people of Grundy County and have spoken to plenty of people on the phone about this issue and he would like to go on record by saying that he ran because he wanted to see that Grundy County be an excellent place to live for the upcoming or not just the 10 or 20 years, but for 30 or 40 years on down the road. He continued by stating that he has issues with this and thinks that we have landfills here in Grundy County in operation until 2013 or whatever it was and that we should just let it close. He concluded by stating that he wanted to go on record as opposing this recommendation and go on the record by saying that. Mr. Joyce thanked him.

Joyce called for a vote by the members; 5 ayes, no nays. The motion carried.

An unidentified speaker asked for a Roll Call vote. Joyce conducted a roll call vote; Joyce aye, McKinney aye, Redford aye, Galloway aye, and Steele aye. Motion carried.

McKinney stated that she thought it was a good opportunity that the full County Board gets to vote on this and not just the Environmental Committee and that everybody's voice was heard on the board, so by getting it out of this committee. McKinney continued that she didn't think five people should make a decision and it should go out of committee and go to the board.

Joyce said to keep in mind this is the County's position if there is to be an expansion they would have to apply to City and the City would have a siting hearing and they go through everything you can imagine from birds, geological formations, water, traffic, and the need for a landfill. There are nine criteria's they have to fill, they have a hearing officer he makes the recommendation, the City Council would make a recommendation and then it would go to the State and they can overturn or veto everything. To give you an example, Kendall County in the last two and a half years you have had four landfill hearing applications, the same company applied twice – you had three different companies apply to cite a landfill these are new landfills. Kendall County doesn't have any landfills and so far there are no landfills coming to Kendall County, just because we do this, what we are doing is basically saying to the City if you feel it is right to site a landfill the County won't stand in your way. A few years ago, we did stand in the way because for the simple reason we had the landfill, we had the space, we didn't need a new landfill, we didn't need an expansion, we are still saying we don't need a new landfill, but now we have changed and said we do need an expansion because this one is filling up. Joyce continued by stating that he personally like to say that he would like to keep the door open so that the people of our County have a place where our garbage can go, now we can haul it to Pontiac, from my house to Pontiac it is 40 miles, he lives in Coal City. From Morris he supposed it is 45 or 48 or 50 miles, now what is it going to cost when the price of gas goes back up, it's already going up, there are a lot of factors here that's all he said.

There was a discussion by many unidentified audience members regarding waste haulers.

Several unidentified speakers were asking if the committee members voted yes for this expansion.

Joyce said we voted for the Solid Waste Plan that has that in it.

Dick Steele answered yes we voted to push it to the full County Board, that's all we did, but stated he was not going to vote for it.

Joyce said we need to move on, we have already voted.

V. Claims

Joyce asked for a motion to approve the claims. Redford motioned, McKinney seconded. Motion passed.

VI. Additions to Agenda

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

VII. Technician Report

Kneller reported that the Trashformations has concluded with a recognition of the winning students at the June 9th, County Board meeting. Presentations at some Summer Camps this summer will be done to spread the 4R's. Since the Tire Collection will not be held this year, the office is researching other events or ways to be represented in the County. Currently compiling a simple Green Guidebook for Schools which will be ready by the 2009-2010 school year that talks about green school initiatives, resources that the schools can access online, contests and environmental programs that they can work with the State of Illinois. Over 11,000 pounds of paper was collected on May 22nd, 2009, at the paper collection that was held with White Oak and Shabbona schools. Plans are being made to conduct this event twice a year at White Oak Elementary school. A County Agency Tire Collection Event was held and approximately 386 tires were collected from municipalities and townships. The IEPA paid for the removal of these tires, but this will be the only tire event held this year. The office will be holding an E-Waste Collection on June 20th, at Environtech Landfill along with Vintage Tech Recyclers who will be collecting the e-waste at no charge to the county and Cardinal Recycling will collect the white good items. Hopefully, with the digital conversion with the televisions, the residents will take advantage for a small nominal charge to responsibly dispose of their old televisions. Wal-Mart is working on plans to host an in-house recycling opportunity to the public and the office would have a table with green guides, compost bin information and other informational materials for recycling. Met with a representative from Harris Bank in Minooka and provided him information to do recycling at their upcoming weekend event.

Dick Steele asked why there would not be a charge for certain brands of televisions. Kneller stated that the government has worked with the manufacturers of any kind of e-waste, scrap and televisions to make them more accountable in terms of disposal. Those companies that had no charge for the televisions contracted early enough with Vintage Tech Recyclers for compensation later on.

Kneller will report next month on the recently attended ILSCWMA Conference.

Jeremy Ly asked when Kneller presented the awards for the Trashformations at the County Board that they were real neat and he always look at these and he always see Coal City and Morris involved, is Minooka Grade School really not involved or do we not reach out to them or do they do that as well.

Jackie McKinney responded that we had a student from Minooka. Kneller said Minooka Jr. High School actually their Environmental Club always participates and she has all of the teacher e-mails in the County as well as the office does mailings to all the school Administrators in the County. Kneller said while we have not had as many participate in Trashformations as other areas but she has done presentations at three different times at Aux Sable Elementary and that was new for the office.

Jackie McKinney asked how the Battery Collection was going. Kneller responded that the collection is currently only open to the Administration Building and the bucket is half full and are supporting the Health Department for their mosquito abatement program.

VIII. New Business

Joyce asked if there was any new business. There was none.

IX. Old Business

Joyce asked if there was any old business. There was none.

X. Executive Session

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

XI. Adjournment

Joyce asked for a motion adjournment. Redford motioned, McKinney seconded. Motion passed.

Not for Records
For Information Only