

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
OF JULY 20, 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

Staff Present: Heidi Miller, Lisa Kneller, and Karen Campbell

Public present: Jim Allen, Environtech Inc., Arthur Hornsby, Frank Barber, Gerald McKinney, Jean McKinney, Ken Daggett and Tom Harr

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 Dick Steele and seconded by Jackie McKinney to approve the June 15<sup>th</sup> 2009, minutes. The motion carried.

**IV. Public Comment**

Dick Joyce asked the residents in attendance to state their names so it can be added to the minutes.

Arthur Hornsby stated that he had delivered envelopes to most of the Grundy County Board members except the members that are out of town and those he mailed and they should receive those tomorrow. It was a simple five page news article and when you get it, its self explanatory. The first page is a photo that he took at the airport at the south end of the runway; actually the birds were sitting on the fairgrounds property at the time. He stated that he called the Airport Manager and the manager stated that he had just chased them off with his truck. The second page is the results of the McKinney well that is east of the Environtech Landfill. He questioned some of the chemicals that were found in the samples. On the back of that it talks about the lawsuit between Waste Management and 400 or some well owners that were contaminated by Waste Management. The next document was where the County and the City spent \$100,000 dollars going to Kendall County and objecting to the landfill on two reasons – it would attract birds to the airport and second that it may affect our groundwater. He

stated that the next document was about a pollution attorney from Chicago that retired and had moved to Pontiac and when they went for their expansion she objected because of the same reasons that it may affect the groundwater. He further stated that Allied had paid her and her group \$340,000 dollar settlement, but the money stipulates that the money cannot be used for litigation against Allied and therefore, she didn't pursue any further. On the back it again identifies everything that took place between Allied and her and the \$340,000 dollars that was paid. Finally, he stated that Environtech applied in Pontiac for groundwater limits made after they adjusted upwards and they ran a water main from the town of Pontiac to the landfill.

Frank Barber spoke that he had recently got some information from the IEPA. He presented a paper from July 13, 2000, that said the second quarter event includes the annual list into perimeter sampling and the following observed increases were noted in this annual event. He stated that it was from the test wells around the landfill and gives the number of the wells. He referenced wells G01A, G02A, G103, G104, G105, R105, G107, G109, G110, G110A and G111 that showed increases. He questioned that the City of Morris has taken as much as 500,000 gallons a month of leach ate and he referenced from a paper the chemicals that were found in the results. Joyce asked if they gave a limit or what the limit should be and asked if they were over the limit or under the limit. Barber answered that they were all under the limit in the leachate according to the paperwork that he had.

Arthur Hornsby asked how often the test wells are tested at Environtech. Joyce responded that it was mentioned at one of our meetings that it was tested every six months and they used to do it quarterly and now they test them semi-annually.

Jean McKinney asked if they had any reports or any evidence of that being done.

Frank Halpin stated that he didn't know why we are going back to 2000; there should be one every six months.

Frank Barber said Environtech has their own testing company. Miller said CEC Engineering does the testing and they send everything to the IEPA every six months.

Arthur Hornsby asked where the final report end up in the community. Miller responded that obviously Environtech gets a copy of that and if there was an issue we would get a copy. Kneller said the IEPA out of courtesy should send a copy and she will look back for the reports.

Frank Barber said the paper that he had on the leachate was copied to IEPA, Bureau of Water Field Operations/Des Plaines, Eric Ballenger, Jim Allen and Richard Kopczick/Mayor, City of Morris.

Joyce asked if there was any further comment. With no further comment the meeting commenced with the agenda items.

#### **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 she presented to the Minooka Lion's Summer Camp and teachers from some of the different Minooka Elementary schools. It was a good networking opportunity to connect with the teachers. Currently working on a Grundy Green Guidebook for Schools for educators to resource and connect with websites for various programs and essay contests.

33,457 lbs. of electronics was collected at the recently held E-Waste Collection at Environtech Landfill. This event was scheduled to coincide with the digital conversion where televisions would become obsolete. A large number of televisions were brought to the collection to be recycled. A survey of all vehicles participating in the event as to what town the residents came from was conducted that day with 140 cars. Previously we have conducted two of these events yearly, but we are open if enough requests are made to conduct another event in the fall of this year. Plans are being made to have a table display at Wal-Mart store possibly on a date close to back to school to sell compost bins, share green guides and general information. Another possibility that is being investigated is selling compost bins at one of the fall French Country Markets held in Morris.

Kneller reported on the IRA/ILCSWMA Joint Conference recently held in Bloomington that she attended. This conference was an excellent opportunity to network with other solid waste professionals from around the area. The conference highlighted four tracks of information; Education/Sustainability, Enforcement, Recycling and Technical.

## **VIII. New Business**

Miller briefed the committee on the changes to the budget that were made. Mileage was decreased by \$1500.00 due to the use of the County vehicle, Advertising was increased by \$150.00 due to anticipated rate increases in local newspapers, Recycling Program increased by \$2000.00 to include the battery recycling program as requested by the Environmental Committee for the FY10 year that would be opened to the public at the Administration Building, Capital Outlay was decreased by \$300.00 due to lack of need and usage. Miller expects Solid Waste fees to increase in 2010 and income should increase due to the Waste Hauler Licenses and the sale of Compost Bins. Joyce asked that in the future that the budget changes come before the Environmental Committee before forwarding to the Finance Committee.

Miller said that based on the June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009, it was discussed at length the water testing that was done in the County and Kneller had talked to Gino Bruni from the IEPA and James Leonard has done some research and he has been directed from his Health Committee to do more investigation. Miller presented a summary letter to the committee members to show where we are. In 2006, both testing was completed at 6975 Gun Club Road. The elevated levels from that test was the basis for the IEPA to go forth and do more testing in the county. The IEPA did conclude that no further testing was necessary based on that it was inconclusive that the elevated inorganics found were associated with open dump or a waste management facility. The second summary was based on the Jerry McKinney test results at 6975 Gun Club Road. Per Kneller's conversation with Gino Bruni of the IEPA and the IEPA's protocol when they get test results that show that there is some elevated results they forward that to the toxicologist with the IDPH and they make that determination on the safeness of the water.

They also recommend to the owner what they should do. In the case of the McKinney's, he was told to go ahead and put in a water treatment system of his home. Miller stated that James Leonard has done some investigation just to see how much it would cost to do that wide of a panel with Arrow Laboratories would have a cost of \$975.00 for the comprehensive testing that McKinney had at his residence. Leonard found that there were sixteen testing labs accredited to analyze for 21 recommended volatile organic compounds. With the IEPA there is some water testing for a discounted rate for the 21 designated VOCs with an intergovernmental agreement. Analysis of the water test results to help in the investigation of the source of contaminates whether a landfill that is complaint or non-compliant. Leonard did call some consultants in regard to that and that was the direction that he received from his Health Committee. To do an analysis of what we have currently it would cost about \$5,000.00 dollars and \$10,000.00 if there would be a further groundwater study and these numbers are very early and until you really have a consultant come to the table to say exactly what the goals are, it is really hard to pin point what the price would be. Leonard will talk to the Health Committee on Wednesday to discuss more on the conclusions that he has and he is waiting for some more quotes to come from some consultants.

Joyce questioned the discounted rate for the 21 VOCs with an intergovernmental agreement is that between us and the EPA? Miller answered correct. Joyce asked how much was the discount? Miller responded that James Leonard was adding that portion to the summary. Joyce said in response to what was said at the start in public comment he thought that we should try to get the results from the IEPA. He said he would like to see the records for the last two years because the records that you had were fine but were pretty old and if the records from the last couple of years indicate that the levels are increasing then he thought there might be some problems that they are not aware of.

Arthur Hornsby questioned when they had the problem at Braidwood if the county had to pay anything for those tests that were done there or did the IEPA pay for them. Joyce responded that he was not aware of the county paying for anything but the Health Department was monitoring it but most of it was in Will County. Hornsby asked if enough heat is put on the IEPA would they pay for it. Hornsby felt it was his opinion that when you test a private well around the landfill and as we know \$900.00 is far greater than if he tests the wells on his farm. He felt that the landfill was causing the problems of the chemicals in the water and the IEPA should pay for the testing.

Joyce asked Jim Allen from Environtech how extensive the tests of their wells are. Jim Allen responded that there are 140 different items that they tested for on the test wells at Environtech.

Frank Barber asked how many wells were tested originally around the landfill off their property. Miller responded that there were 24 total and the first 6 were the original. Hornsby stated that he thought they were going to come back in a year and test them. Joyce was unsure if the County tested them or the IEPA. John Galloway stated that a set of 7 follow up tests were completed in March 2007. Barber stated that there were 42 homes on Gun Club Road and he felt that there should have been more than 7 wells tested. Barber further stated that when he received the information from the IEPA they wouldn't give him any information on the wells because that is private information. Galloway said that 17 additional tests were completed in December 2007 were made by homeowners throughout this area and other areas of the county and no more testing has been completed. Hornsby said in Braidwood he understood that State Representative Careen Gordon was very aggressive with the IEPA in getting them to do their job and he felt that maybe the county could ask her to get involved.

Ken Daggett had issues with the cost of testing the water and he stated that \$4 million dollars is being spent on the new County Highway facility at Rt. 113 and Rt. 47 and the money being spent for the new Animal Control building, and \$100,000 dollars to oppose the new landfill in Kendall County and he couldn't understand that they can put these things ahead of human health and safety and say that this is more important than the lives and well being of people in our town to put money ahead of their health. Galloway said the water was tested in 2006 and 2007 that you have to have a base to start from. Joyce said that with the Highway facility is a health and safety issue also if people are going to use the highways and we can argue the cost and it is not \$4 million dollars not even \$3 million dollars.

Frank Halpin said we need to stick to the agenda the public comment was at the beginning of the meeting and he thought that they did a good job of staying with the public comment. Joyce said that Hornsby had a good idea that if we could get the IEPA to pay it he didn't think that they would test 300 wells but if they test 40 it would be way ahead of where we are now. Galloway stated that if the City of Morris and the IEPA choose to go forward with this is there any testing that would be done then? Frank Halpin said obviously there has been testing out there, and we surfaced the information on the testing that's out there, but we need to find out what's been done and then make our decision from there and we have to be careful because there are areas in this county that are more viable to some instances but if we start testing wells for every resident around the landfill, we do represent all the citizens of Grundy County and just to randomly pick a certain area, we have to be careful as where we go forward from this instance.

Dick Steele asked about the report from Mr. McKinney's well regarding the contaminant in his water and it asked him to install a new water treatment unit and he asked if that was expensive. McKinney said it was not installed. Jean McKinney said they contacted Eco Water and they couldn't do anything for them because it wouldn't take everything out of the water and it would cost \$11,000.00.

Halpin asked Jerry McKinney how was there well tested and who tested it because it was not listed on the report from the IEPA. Miller said it was the basis for all the other tests and that is probably why it is not listed here on this document. Steele asked what do you when your water is contaminated. Jean McKinney said they don't use for drinking or cooking.

Kneller said after the paperwork came into the department to gain a better understanding of how the IEPA operates when a call comes in from Mr. McKinney how do they make these determinations as to what's the next level obviously they don't go out and run a twenty five panel screening of everybody's well water. Kneller said Mr. Bruni explained to her that they go out they look for environmental indicators such as how far you are from a landfill or industry that might have either leachate or some kind of chemical producing waste that could leach into wells based on what their first findings are then they have to seek approval from regional directors and then Paul Purseglove who is the State Director of Field Operations. From the IEPA's perspective it's a matter of funding and getting approval from those bodies as well, she further stated that they were probably at the McKinney's home a few times before they got to this determination of all the chemicals they listed in this 2006 report.

Arthur Hornsby stated that they didn't get involved in Braidwood either until way late in the game and maybe we can get some pressure put on them and he thought they had money somewhere and all they have to do is find the priority.

Joyce said he would like to see the reports from the landfill wells for at least the last two years and he thought the office should contact the IEPA because he felt it was probably a public document. Hornsby said there should be a document that tells how often they are supposed to be tested on the Environtech property. Barber said he did a FOI request to the IEPA asking for all the information concerning Environtech Landfill in Morris and they sent him a CD but he had problems accessing the information. Halpin asked Barber why he just had information on the year 2000 and why it wasn't any later information. Hornsby asked if there was an expert that would come and educate everyone. Kneller said Mr. Bruni said they would be happy to do that and she would contact him to attend a meeting. Hornsby asked how often they test at Pontiac. Joyce said it would be easier on us if the IEPA would test some wells.

Joyce said he gave the committee members the well information that James Leonard had compiled and some other articles that he had found that you can use landfills to put things on like offices, golf courses, equestrians, and shopping malls. Hornsby said that the IEPA said that Joliet could not do that and they had a rodeo on top of the landfill and he stated that the IEPA said you cannot drive vehicles on it, cannot have animals on it and you can't put posts down through the property.

Jackie McKinney left the meeting at 5:27 p.m.

#### **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, Galloway seconded. Motion passed.