



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, July 19, 2018 – 4:00pm  
Regional Design Center – 315 N. Main St.

**ATTENDEES:** Colin Belle, Christina Washington, Sydney Turner, Region 1 Planning Council; Amanda Mehl, Boone County Health Dept.; Beverly Broyles, Keen Northern Illinois Beautiful; Brad Roos, Chet Kolodziej, Freedom Field; Cynthia Hall, Todd Marshall, Winnebago County Health Dept.; Don Krizan, Sean Von Bergen, Winnebago County Highway Dept.; Ken Terrinoni, Boone County; Mark Stockman, Scott Capovilla, City of Rockford; T.J. Nee, SLATS; Tim Bragg, Rockford Park District; Harlan Johnson, NAACP; Bev Moore, Citizen. Mike Dudek, Citizen arrived at 4:49pm.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Colin Belle called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

**I. INTRODUCTION**

- a) **Attendees:** Attendees introduced themselves.
- b) **Meeting Agenda:** Mr. Belle addressed the group and briefly discussed the meeting's agenda.
- c) **Previous Meeting's Minutes:** Mr. Belle briefly recapped the May 24, 2018 meeting.
- d) **RPC Board Meeting Recap:** Mr. Belle discussed the possibility of making the Environmental Committee an official Committee under the Region 1 Planning Council which would fall under the Open Meetings Act (OMA). Mr. Belle indicated that he will discuss further with the Environmental Committee Chair & Vice-Chair. The next RPC Board meeting is August 23, 2018 in the Regional Design Center from 1:30-2:30pm.
- e) **Relevant News & Updates:**
  1. **Northwest Illinois Water Study Update**

Mr. Belle provided a brief summary regarding the Northwest Illinois Water Study meeting he attended on May 30, 2018 where a summary and findings were presented for the report they put together "The Water Consumption Report for Northwest Illinois".
  2. **Great Plains Institute Update and Invitation to Hold Discussion at the Next RPC Meeting**

Mr. Belle stated that he will be inviting Mr. Doug Scott to attend the RIPC Board meeting that is scheduled for August 23, 2018 at 1:30pm. Mr. Belle is anticipating that Mr. Scott would provide an update regarding the partnering of the Great Plains Institute and the RIPC Environmental Committee with the hopes of finding some funding that would help some initiatives.
  3. **Grant Opportunities**

Mr. Belle stated he has no updates. Mr. Kolodziej brought up possible Autonomous Vehicle Grants and a brief discussion took place among members.
  4. **Mr. Belle reported that he will be meeting with Dan Kane to discuss the Ground Water Grant that RIPC is looking to submit an application.**
  5. **RIPC Land-Use Planner Interview Process Update**

Mr. Belle reported that currently RIPC is accepting applications for a Land Use Planner and a Metropolitan Planner position.

2. **LARGE GROUP SESSION**

A. **Working Group Report Outs:**

*Water Resource Group:* Mr. Krizan reported that the Water Resource Group had an initial meeting and was hoping to have another meeting prior to the collective Environmental Committee meeting but has not heard back from the Water Resource Group Leader and is not sure if a meeting was scheduled or took place. Mr. Belle stated that unfortunately the Water Resource Group and Land Use Group have not met and Mr. Belle indicated that he will be reaching out to the Group Leads to look at alternative dates/times for their group meetings. Mr. Belle indicated that going forward he will be working closely with the Group Leads and requesting that the Committee Reports be completed and submitted prior to the collective Environmental Committee meetings so that members can review.

*Land Use Group:* No report.

*Education & Culture Group:* Mr. Roos reported that a Sustainability Summit was held on June 23, 2018 and the event was well attended and a significant amount of information was available to the participants. Offsite, Mr. Dan Erwin led tours of Nicholas Conservatory which was one of the best part of the Sustainability Summit. Mr. Roos indicated that their next steps are to meet with other Sustainability Groups such as Sustain Dane and communities like Urbana.

Mr. Roos stated that interviews with the School District came to a halt due to the schools being closed for the Summer.

A brief discussion took place among members regarding the programs that are out there for Solar Panels.

*Energy Group:* Mr. Kolodziej reported that he's been looking into the PACE Program and provided a brief summary regarding the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) and the initiatives they have available.

3. **WORKING GROUP SESSION**

- A. Each working group met for the last 30 minutes of the meeting to discuss their individual projects and the next steps they are taking with them.

4. **CONCLUSION**

- A. Next Steps: Continue to meet within the working groups and document project progress to report in the next Environmental Committee.

- B. Next Environmental Committee meeting: The next Environmental Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, September 27, 2018 4:00-6:00pm in the Regional Design Center.

C.

7. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.