



Environmental Committee Meeting

October 26, 2017

Regional Design Center

I. Introduction

a) Attendees:

- Introduction of attendees interests, passions, and work experience

b) What is the Environmental Committee:

- Introduction to the topics and small working group format
- This can be a tool to link elected officials with community leaders
- Continuing the forum of collaboration in the region

c) Vital Signs

- Sydney Turner spoke to what the plan was, where it came from, what it accomplished, and what's happened since

d) Committee Expectations:

- Working groups determine the projects and how they will be carried out. Moving forward, the larger group meetings will occur less often.
- There is no funding in place for new projects right now, however the starting point to several potential projects could be to find funding or build off of existing initiatives/projects that currently exist (see Vital Signs).
- Several members stated that they need more direction (possibly goals and objects for the committee).
- It is up to the committee and the working groups to determine the direction moving forward because this committee has less to do with rules and more to do with collaborating and working together.
- We can draw from the collective experiences of the individuals in this room to contribute to the committee-of-the-whole.
- There are several RPCs that have environmental/sustainability committees. Their structure and organization was researched and used as the baseline for this committee.
- This group needs a strategic plan/action plan that will provide a direction for the committee-of-the-whole. Need to look into the process of the group prior to getting into the small groups.
- Sustainability Working Group visited 3 different locations and used them as examples or models to utilize. Madison adopted the Natural Step as a framework – having a common goal is the most important first step. Dubuque took charge with their Sustainability Plan and the mayor's goals as the starting point. They also used the STAR Rating System



which has national tracking points. This group needs to have a common language and common set of goals to work towards.

- Many goals, objectives, and strategies have already been created and the Vital Signs document is an excellent starting point. Once everyone has had a chance to read through the document and analyze what has already been done, this committee can jump into addressing some of the low-hanging fruit out there.
- Everyone found their way into a working group.

2. Working Session

- a) Attendees selected a working group on the topic they wish to participate in
- b) In each working group, individuals introduced themselves, exchanged contact information, and began discussing their chosen topic.

3. Next Steps:

- a) Next Meeting of the Environmental Committee is Thursday, November 30th from 4PM – 6PM in the Regional Design Center.
- b) Everyone was tasked with reviewing the Rockford Region Vital Signs Environmental Well-Being Report, the other Regional Planning Commission's Environmental Committee research, and thinking of any other individual or organization that was not present that should be a part of the Committee.