



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 27, 2018 – 4:00pm
Regional Design Center – 315 N. Main St.

ATTENDEES: Hannah Alita, Trey Degner, Isabella Wadley, Students for Responsible Environmental Sustainability; Dennis Anthony, Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District; George Bellovics, IDNR; Sherry Branson, Boone County Board; Anthena Gore, Elevate Energy; Cynthia Hall, Winnebago County Health Department; Steven Hall, Blackhawk Sierra Club; Russ Johansson, Specialty Screw Corp.; LouAnn Johnson, Rebecca Quirk, and Karol Rosman, Rockford Coalition for a Sustainable Future; Harlan Johnson, NAACP; Dan Kane, Boone County Conservation District; Chet Kolodziej and Brad Roos, Sustain Rockford; Ian Linnabary, Reno and Zahm; Kerry Leigh, Natural Land Institute; Tom Lind, Rockford Park District; Amanda Mehl, Boone County Health Department; Michael Stubbe, Rockford Mass Transit District; Ken Terrinoni, Boone County; Sean Von Bergen, Winnebago County Highway Department; Colin Belle, Michael Dunn, and Sydney Turner, Region 1 Planning Council.

CALL TO ORDER: Ian Linnabary called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1. INTRODUCTION

- a) **Attendee Introductions:** Attendees introduced themselves.
- b) **Approval of the July 19, 2018 Meeting’s Minutes:** Mr. Linnabary entertained a motion to approve the July 19, 2018 meeting minutes. First motion made to approve by Brad Roos, Sustain Rockford and seconded by Chet Kolodziej, Sustain Rockford. The Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
- c) **RPC Board Meeting Recap:** Colin Belle briefly recapped the August 23, 2018 RPC Board meeting.

2. UPDATES

- a) **Future Environmental Committee Meetings:** Mr. Dunn provided a brief overview of the role of the Environmental Committee within the RPC and the value of this Committee in bringing together various planning initiatives, from Land Bank initiatives to transportation planning efforts, throughout the region into one forum.
- b) **Elevate Energy Presentation:** Anthena Gore, Public Sector Project Coordinator at Elevate Energy, presented on the organization’s role in energy efficiency for underserved and distressed communities. She discussed their implementation plan to reach those communities and their programs within three areas: water, solar, and energy efficiency. She provided information on the Distressed Communities program, in which Elevate Energy is an outreach provider on behalf of ComEd. Presentation was followed by a brief discussion and Q&A session.

3. RELEVANT OPPORTUNITIES

- a) **Great Plains Institute Update:** Mr. Belle reported that he was able to follow-up with Doug Scott. The goal is to identify funding that would allow the Great Plains Institute to help the region on solar programs, light efficiency, fleet efficiency and other identified areas.

b) **ICLEI & ClearPath Update:** Mr. Belle reported that he was able to reach out to ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability. In order to proceed is accessing the free ClearPath Basic software, the region would need to have an agreement with the Global Covenant of Mayors' signed by December 31st, 2018. After December 31st, 2018 the ClearPath Basic will be eliminated. ClearPath Pro will be available to ICLEI members or a subscription can be purchased without a membership.

c) **Grant Opportunities/Discussion**

3D Groundwater Model: Mr. Belle reported that Region 1 Planning Council is working with the Parks and Conservation Foundation to apply for a grant through the Coco-Cola Foundation for a 3D Groundwater Model. The application is currently in progress. Brief discussion on the types of data that would be collected for the model and how the model can be utilized.

Surdna Foundation: Mr. Belle presented on the Sustainable Environments – Sustainable Transportation Networks & Equitable Development. This grant supports transportation systems and transit solutions that give people affordable and reliable commuting options while minimizing impacts on the environment.

Exelon Community Impact Grant: Mr. Belle reported that the region is eligible to apply for the Exelon Community Impact Grant through Byron Generating Station. This grant is looking at programs that improve the quality of the environment, promote environmental education, conservation and preservative efforts, developing cleaner sources of energy, protecting endangered species, and/or beautifying neighborhoods.

4. **LARGE GROUP SESSION**

a) **Working Group Reports**

Water Resource Group: No report.

Land Use Group: Mr. Belle reported that the working group is moving forward with the brownfields project by cleaning up the geographical information system data and creating a list of priority brownfields. Moving forward the group will assist the Land Bank efforts that are underway by the City of Rockford, City of Belvidere, Winnebago County, and Region 1 Planning Council. The Land Use group will help these efforts by developing a rating system for tax-delinquent properties. The rating system elements may include proximity to other residential units, parks, and other types of important properties, as well as how delinquent the property is on taxes.

Education & Culture Group: No Report.

Energy Group: Brad Roos reported on the current efforts of Sustain Rockford, including their recent incorporation as a 501c3 and will be filing with the Attorney General. Sustain Rockford is also currently developing a strategic plan for the organization. Sustain Rockford has submitted a grant to the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL) for two projects. The first project is assisting the City in developing a sustainability framework, including the community outreach. The second project that is requesting money from CFNIL is related to acquiring the ClearPath software for greenhouse gases, the application is through the City of Rockford. Sustain Rockford will also be working on the solar incentives program and assuring that individuals who wish to participate in the Illinois solar incentives can receive quality information, with possible presentation, on the program. Chet Kolodziej reported that the Energy group had set-up a meeting

with the Sierra Club's for the Clean Jobs Coalition. In June, members of the group also ran a Sustainability Summit. The Energy group has been focused on energy efficiency, solar, and the connection energy has to sustainability. Additionally, they have worked externally with the Illinois Energy Efficiency Special Advisory Group and the Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus. Mr. Kolodziej will be working with the City of Rockford to apply for the national Smart City designation. Discussion was also held on LimeBike statistics and electric vehicle charging stations/lanes.

Transportation Group: Not Present.

Biodiversity: This upcoming spring, in terms of programs, including the conservation and home impact program. The Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District hosted a rain gardens workshop this past summer, as well as funded four rain gardens throughout the area. The District is also working on cost-share program for pollinators and Monarchs plantings.

5. ADJORNMENT

Mr. Linnabary entertains a motion to adjourn. Motioned by Chet Kolodziej, Sustain Rockford and seconded by Rebecca Quirk, Rockford Coalition for a Sustainable Future. The Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 5:02 P.M.

Opportunities for public comment will be afforded on all agenda items.

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