



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 26, 2019 – 4:00pm – 5:00pm
Regional Design Center – 315 N. Main St.

ATTENDEES: Brad Roos, Sam Straiter, Rockford Sustainability; Rebecca Quirk, Rockford Coalition for Sustainability; Sean Von Bergen, Winnebago County Highway Department; Scott Capovilla; City of Rockford; Tim Bragg, Tom Lind, Rockford Park District; Cynthia Hall, Winnebago Health Department; Amanda Mehl, Boone County Health Department; Beverly Moore, Citizen; Harlan Johnson, NAACP; Colin Belle, Sydney Turner, Allen Mills, Region 1 Planning Council.

Call to Order: Ms. Sarver called the meeting to order at 4:03pm.

1. INTRODUCTION

- a) **Attendee Introductions/Sign-in.** Attendees introduced themselves in roundtable fashion.
- b) **Late arrivals:** Harlan Johnson joined at 4:05pm. Amanda Mehl joined at 4:12pm. Sean Von Bergen joined at 4:13pm.
- c) **Approval of July 25, 2019 meeting minutes.** Cynthia mentioned that we should correct Amanda Mehl to Boone County Health Department. First motion by Scott Capovilla, seconded by Tom Lind.

2. UPDATES

- a) **Update – Winnebago County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan.** AM- The public draft it out for public review on website, internal draft is still being worked on and improved. Oct, 21 meeting 2019, 10am first stakeholder meeting.
- b) **Update – Keith Creek land parcel database & map.** AM- Keith creek mapping project is completed with Zion development and WINGIS. AS- map really highlights the quantity of lots of publicly available land along the route and it revealed quite a bit by understanding the current land uses.
- c) **Update – 2019 Rockford Sustainability Summit – Environmental Expo.** RQ- 2019 sustainability summit is coming together and each location looks really well planned. The news and paper have been covering the event. AM- We will have a forum/café style at R1PC location with multiple groups attending our location. Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful (KNIB), Rock Valley College (SRES) sustainability group is coming. RQ- Rockford Mass Transit District (RMTD) is providing a shuttle for the entire route, about 25 minutes for the total loop. You can get on and off at various locations as you please. AS- will be giving the bike tour starting at the register star parking lot and will be about a 30-to-40-minute bike tour. Will discuss the locations as well as site specific information along the way, and highlighting local sustainability projects. RQ- The rain barrels have been entered into the contest, 8 total. Voting starts on Friday. 6 amateurs and 2 professionals.
- d) **Illinois Solar for All – Brad Roos.** BR- project is under Illinois Solar for all which is funded by the Illinois Power Agency. Sam Straiter is the local liaison for the Rockford (office at 203 7th St.). Illinois Solar for All, SS is the program director. This program will work towards building renewable energy sources and we are well below the 2025 mark. The incentives have been increased to increase the number of applicants in order to meet the targeted goals. They are also focusing on low income neighborhoods and 3 others. There is one project that has been selected in horseman quarry, it will be a 2 megawatt system- 4-6,00 panels. The key element is no upfront cost to the user—at all. You are guaranteed to save money on your electricity bills.

BR has formed a planning group to work on this project. COR, Homestart, and Habitat for Humanity are all involved. This group will help to introduce the project to the community. Brad is asking the committee for help spreading this positive news. One obstacle they are trying to work out is that there is only one approved vender for our region...Trajectory Energy—the Ctme. is reaching out to all other vendors to get them involved in the area.

- e) **Data Requests – Land use, environmental.** AM/CB- Data on Bike and Ped. undergoing update now with the work on the Regional Bike Facilities Map being completed by Margaret Campbell. Greenways map updates are on the radar for the RPC so any data that is available from partners is encouraged to be shared. Rebecca, this should be out, the bike routes, at the sustainability summit, more information.

3. LARGE GROUP SESSION

- a) Report Out from Each Working Group On Project Progress
 - a. AS- Keith Creek talked about additional support they are receiving and are working on a work plan for funding, community engagement sessions to get a grasp on what the project should focusing and include. Erin Scheffler has since left the project and Zion Development. We are grateful for the work that she has done. And we will continue to move the work forward.
 - b. Tom Lind, working on a watershed plan for the south branch of the Kent creek, flows throw Levings Lake/park, 319 non-point pollution. Floating islands and biological pallet, it works as a sediment basin for the watershed, and adds to siltation. End of 2020 there will be a finished watershed plan that aid in implementation strategies and remedial projects as well as preventative approaches.
 - c. Sean Von Bergen, Winnebago County on 319 grant for Madigan creek, and just finishing the Wellworth bio-retention area, weather has been uncooperative in the completion. Last year they completed the columbine bioswale. Will help the surrounding areas reduce their flooding.
 - d. Harlan Johnson, asked about cleaning up algae from the lakes around the Parker Woods subdivision, located in the Kent creek watershed. From page park.
 - e. Mike Stubbe, working on grant to purchase hybrid electric busses that will replace the older aging fleet. Also working with the build grant. Expecting a response this fall. Two fairly large grants that will have a major impact to the Rockford region’s public transportation systems.

4. ADJORNMENT

- a) Next Environmental Committee Meeting **November 21st, 2019** at 4:00pm in the Regional Design Center
- b) Meeting Adjournment at 4:37pm.
 - a) Motioned to adjourn by Mike Stubbe, seconded by Sean von Bergen.

5. WORKING GROUP SESSION

- a) Work on group projects after meeting if necessary

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

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