



ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, July 15th, 2021 – 4:00pm – 5:00pm
Virtual Meeting – 127 N. Wyman St., Suite 100

ATTENDEES: Aaron Miller, Nicor Gas; Andrew McCue, Metabolic; Ashley Sarver, Studio GWA; Bev Moore, Citizen; Bob Campbell, Zion Development; Brad Roos, Sustain Rockford; Colin Belle, City of Rockford; Dennis Anthony, Winnebago County SWCD; Dan Kane, Boone County Conservation District; Dan Streed, Boone County; John Holm, Pxyera Global; Kerry Leigh, Natural Land Institute; Nadine Miller, City of Rockford; Pam Osborne, Keep Northern Illinois Beautiful; Scott Kuykendall, McHenry County; Tim Bragg, Tom Lind, Rockford Park District; Shelby Best, Sydney Turner, Kaylin Janicke, Kara Harmet, Kristen Hayden, Chuck Klutho, Makenzee Wilcox, Melisa Ribikawskis, Max Snyderman, Teresa Mullen, Bailey Nelson, MaryKate Anderson, Region 1 Planning Council.

1. INTRODUCTION

- a) **Call to Order:** Mr. Kane called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.
- b) **Approval of May 20th, 2021 meeting minutes:** Ms. Sarver entertained a motion for approval. Mr. Bragg motioned the approval (4:03 PM); it was seconded by Mr. Belle (4:03 PM). Approval passed unanimously at 4:03 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

2. PRESENTATIONS

- a) John Holm, Vice President, Pxyera Global, and Andrew McCue, Cities and Industries Consultant, Metabolic – [Circular Cities: A Case for Circular Economies for Cities](#)
 - i. Ms. Sarver began a discussion on engaging community members within the social aspect of circular cities.
 - ii. Mr. Kuykendall began a discussion on ecosystem services and land use planning.
 - iii. Ms. Best entertained a motion to bring this presentation to the RPC Board in September. Ms. Sarver motioned the approval (4:24 PM); it was seconded by Ms. Osborne (4:24 PM). Approval passed unanimously at 4:24 PM. Motion passed unanimously.
- b) Nadine Miller, Water Quality Supervisor, City of Rockford – [A Discussion on the City of Rockford's Latest Water Quality Report](#)
 - i. Ms. Sarver and Ms. Harmet began a discussion on water equipment.

3. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a) **Keith Creek Planning Projects:**
 - i. Ms. Best provided a background on the Keith Creek Corridor Plan. We are in final negotiations with the selected respondent. Once the agreements are signed, expected within the next few weeks, we will move forward with the study.
 - ii. Ms. Sarver added that RPC is hosting a Keith Creek clean-up event and is looking for volunteers at the end of the month. It will be good for community engagement as well, and ties into some of the water quality efforts that RES is working on. Mr. Campbell added that initial testing and examination of the creek has been completed and results will be shared at the next meeting on July 27th. Ms. Sarver suggested that they recruit attendees to volunteer.

iii. Ms. Best provided more details on the RPC Keith Creek clean-up event. Ms. Osborne has been helping us coordinate the event with supplies and trash collection. Please reach out if you are interested in volunteering or supporting in any way.

b) MPO Transportation Resiliency Study: Mr. Klutho introduced RPC's study on the resiliency of our transportation system.

i. Ms. Sarver began a discussion on the tools used to determine this.

c) Project-Based Working Groups: Ms. Best presented the project-based working group form that will be used within the committee and reviewed internally. There is also an evaluation form available, and we are open to feedback on the first iteration of this system.

i. Ms. Sarver began a discussion on the working group structure.

ii. Mr. Kane encouraged the committee to review and submit the form.

d) Meeting Time and Length Discussion: Ms. Best began a discussion on EPC meeting time and length. She opened the floor to adjusting the schedule (the last Thursday of the month and/or 4 PM). Ms. Turner also discussed how meetings were two hours in the past – one hour of discussions and presentations similar to current meetings, followed by working group breakouts.

i. Mr. Kane discussed organizational goals and objectives as well as different groups and perspectives resulting in different opportunities. He suggested the topic be considered and tabled for the next meeting.

ii. Ms. Sarver and Mr. Kane began a discussion on the logistics of meeting after 5 PM and the effect that an extra hour could have on surrounding RPC staff. Mr. Campbell added that it would interfere with another local meeting schedule.

iii. Ms. Best stated that she would look into coordinating opening the room a half hour to an hour before scheduled meetings.

4. OPEN FLOOR: Mr. Linnabary asked for any group reports or agency updates.

a) Ms. Osborne provided more details on the Keith Creek Clean Up event and added that the City of Rockford's Rock River Sweep is happening that same day.

b) Mr. Roos provided an update on the 2021 Greentown Conference on Friday, November 12th. Registration will begin in August. Any local organization interested in sponsoring the event should contact him or Ms. Best for opportunities.

i. Ms. Sarver and Mr. Kane began a discussion on local involvement in sustainability efforts and the role the EPC can play in the ChemTool disaster and future community preparedness.

5. ADJORNMENT

a) Mr. Kane stated that the next Environmental Committee meeting is scheduled for **September 16th, 2021** at 4:00pm. **All RPC meetings are now open to a hybrid composition; attendees are welcome to join via Zoom or in person.**

b) Mr. Kane entertained a motion to adjourn at 5:08 PM. Ms. Osborne made the motion (5:08 PM); it was seconded by Mr. Bragg (5:08 PM). Approval passed unanimously at 5:08 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

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

Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or persons who require translation services (free of charge) should contact R1PC at 815-319-4180 at least two working days before the need for such services or accommodations.

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