



## ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – 4:00pm – 5:00pm  
Virtual Meeting – 127 N. Wyman St., Suite 100

**ATTENDEES:** Aaron Miller, Nicor Gas; Ashley Sarver, Studio GWA; Bob Babcock, Citizen; Bob Campbell, Zion Development; Brad Roos, Sustain Rockford; Cheryl Scott, Edith Makra, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus; Colin Belle, City of Rockford; Dennis Anthony, Winnebago County SWCD; Dan Kane, Boone County Conservation District; Gary Cuneen, Seven Generations Ahead; Harlan Johnson, NAACP; Kelly Saunders, North Park Public Water District; Kerry Leigh, Natural Land Institute; Michelle Gibson, BCHD; Sean Von Bergen, Winnebago County; Scott Kuykendall, McHenry County; Teagan Duffy, Boone County SWCD; Tim Bragg, Rockford Park District; Shelby Best, Sydney Turner, Kaylin Janicke, Kara Harmet, Justine Wylie, Region 1 Planning Council.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- a) **Call to Order:** Ms. Sarver called the meeting to order at 4:01 PM after Mr. Kane experienced technical issues. He rejoined at 4:03 PM.
- b) **Approval of July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting minutes:** Mr. Kane entertained a motion for approval. Mr. Johnson motioned the approval (4:06 PM); it was seconded by Mr. Von Bergen (4:06 PM). Ms. Sarver and Ms. Best discussed the previous meeting's motion for Mr. Holm and Mr. McCue to present on circular economies to the RPC Board, and the consequent resolution that was passed. Approval passed unanimously at 4:06 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

### 2. PRESENTATIONS

- a) Cheryl Scott & Edith Makra, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus – [MMC's Residential Energy Efficiency Programs](#)
  - i. Ms. Makra, Mr. Kane, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Kuykendall, Mr. Roos, Mr. Miller, and Mr. Cuneen began a discussion on creating pathways to local connections for energy savings and programs. Several organizations were mentioned, including the Boone County Conservation District, Habitat for Humanity, and the Winnebago County Health Department.
- b) Brad Roos, Sustain Rockford, Gary Cuneen, Seven Generations Ahead, and John Harris, a5 Inc. – *GreenTown Rockford*
  - i. Ms. Sarver and Mr. Cuneen discussed efforts to get local officials involved.
- c) Aaron Miller, Nicor Gas – [Fueling Communities Forward](#)
  - i. Mr. Kane, Mr. Miller, Ms. Leigh, and Mr. Johnson began a discussion on local expansion and partner opportunities, Nicor's carbon footprint, and renewable natural gas.

### 3. COMMITTEE ITEMS

- a) **Keith Creek Planning Projects:**
  - i. Ms. Best provided a background on the Keith Creek Corridor Plan. We are currently developing community engagement and stakeholder strategies with the consultants, as well as redeveloping the working group structure.
  - ii. Ms. Sarver mentioned the upcoming water quality study meeting with RES.

- b) **Regional Solid Waste Management Plan:** Ms. Best discussed the upcoming public survey and meeting for the waste management plan that will serve to address key factors in the impacted communities.
  - c) **Project-Based Working Groups:** Ms. Best reminded the committee to submit the working group forms if anyone has a project idea they would like to develop further.
- 4. OPEN FLOOR:** Mr. Kane asked for any group reports or agency updates.
- a) Mr. Kuykendall recommended that the committee review chapter 5 of McHenry County's recently published Water Resource Action Plan. He also invited those interested to look out for the upcoming workshop created by the seven counties of Chicago on sensible salting during the winter season.
  - b) Mr. Kane provided an update on the 3D geological and groundwater surveying and mapping. They are looking for a total of \$40,000 in financial support to fund a graduate assistant who will assist with the project for two years.
- 5. ADJORNMENT**
- a) Mr. Kane stated that the next Environmental Committee meeting is scheduled for **November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021** at 4:00pm, most likely via video/teleconference but will depend on external factors.
  - b) Mr. Kane entertained a motion to adjourn at 5:21 PM. Mr. Johnson made the motion (5:21 PM); it was seconded by Mr. Anthony (5:21 PM). Approval passed unanimously at 5:21 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

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

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