

AGENDA

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Chuck Oberlie, Chairman

Approval of EMPC Minutes of November 2, 2006 Meeting

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore at 40

Dale Engquist, Superintendent, IDNL

IDEM Update

Tom Easterly, Commissioner

Indiana Clean Community Challenge

Stacey Martindale, IDEM Office of Pollution Prevention

Status Report – Wood Burning Boiler Working Group

Kevin Breitzke, Working Group Chair, Porter County Surveyor

MS4 Year End Report – 2007 Focus

Mary Beth Wiseman, NIRPC

Sediment Modeling Training Workshop Report

Dan Gardner, NIRPC

Announcements

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Adjournment

Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS/GUESTS

Dorreen Carey, Hala Kuss, Cathy Csatari, Charlie Cate, Pat Gorman, Joan Bliss, Tim Sutherland, Dave Behrens, Matt Lake, Art Heredia, Rob Garnett, Linda Wilson, Kay Nelson, Dan Dresner, Mark Strimbu, Danielle Barnett, Steve Poulos, Stacy Martindale, Anna Piechota, Mark Reshkin, Rodney Sommerville, Steve Millick, June Calen, Bob McCormick, Marge Hefner, Bill Messinger, Charlotte Read, Bill Brown, Ben Bolton, Betty L. Nault, Lee Botts, Susan Mihalo, Jennifer Gadzala, Connie Clay, Jenny Orsburn, Joe Exl, Mayor Chuck Oberlie, Kevin Breitzke, Mary Wiseman, Francyne Mixon, Dan Gardner, Steve Strains, Syed Quadr, Tom Easterly.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Chuck Oberlie, NIRPC Commissioner, called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of the November 2, 2006 Minutes

November 2, 2006 Minutes stand approved as submitted.

Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore at 40

Mr. Dale Engquist, Superintendent, IDNL

Mr. Engquist overviewed a map showing officially the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore's boundaries, and continued with a summary of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore Milestones.

Mr. Engquist stated Education is viewed as a priority for the National Park Service, with the establishment of a science based Natural Resource Program and Management, which is important because of the natural resources and partnerships. The focus is education, preferably the Indiana Dunes Environmental Learning Center, which is the residential Environmental Education Center and Paul Douglas Environmental Educational Center in the Miller section of the City of Gary, and Davis Environmental Learning Center, with a private and non-profit partner. The latest environmental education facility is the Field Station Cooperative, a private non-profit pre-school for 3 to 5 year olds in Miller Woods. We have a good Natural Resource Management Program and we have developed a good plan for maintaining and restoring good resources in the Park. We have six partnerships and we need help with recruiting new partnerships. Discussion concluded.

Resolution: The Environmental Management Policy Committee presented a Resolution of Appreciation to Mr. Dale Engquist, Superintendent of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore on this occasion of his retirement, signed by Mayor Chuck Oberlie, Chairman and Mr. Kevin Breitzke, Vice Chairman on this day, January 3, 2007.

IDEM Update & Air Quality Overview

Tom Easterly, IDEM Commissioner

Mr. Easterly reviewed the new State Laws impacting IDEM from the 2006 Legislative Session; HB 1110 – Removal of Mercury Convenience Switches from End of Life Motor Vehicles, (In Indiana, cars aren't crushed with mercury in them anymore.) SB 234 – Improving the rulemaking process for wet weather discharges (New quick rulemaking process, which will allow a public notice, hearing and adoption.) and the Environmental Stewardship Program, which is for industry, IDEM has authorization; HB 1117 – Simplifying the solid waste statutes and eliminating the

groundwater task force, and SB 146 – Removing the Property Transfer Disclosure Form from Statute.

IDEM's Environmental Goal is to increase the personal income of all Hoosiers up to at least the national average while maintaining and improving Indiana's Environmental Quality; how will we do that, by clear, consistent and speedy decisions; how does IDEM protect the environment, measure the quality of air, water, and land and compare that to levels that we know to be safe to see how well we are doing and to determine the existing state of the environment. For more information access the website at <http://www.yale.edu/epi/>

Mr. Easterly continued with air quality overview: how IDEM makes environmental decisions, and not land use decisions, types of facilities IDEM regulates, IDEM's decisions often impact land use decisions; local land use decisions impact IDEM's responsibilities, performance metrics, counties above air quality standards, ozone attainment status; (One year from now the entire State of Indiana will be designated attainment for the ozone standard.) PM_{2.5} attainment status, PM_{2.5} status, (New 24 hour standard issued in September, annual standard retained.) counties exceeding revised PM_{2.5} standards; counties projected to exceed the revised PM_{2.5} standards in 2015, daily design value, citywide average PM_{2.5}, 2004 PM_{2.5} average composition, percentage contribution to OM, permitting, (IDEM is still meeting the statutory deadlines for permit issuance, as reported in past years.) total permit calendar days; air permits for new facilities, percent of activities meeting regulations, office of enforcement 2002-2006, major regulatory initiatives, advantages of outdoor wood fueled boilers, environmental concerns with outdoor wood fueled boilers, why is IDEM concerned about incomplete combustion, why is IDEM concerned about OWB particulate matter emissions, regulation of outdoor wood fueled boilers, status of IDEM's outdoor wood fueled boiler rulemaking, (First notice of Rulemaking published in the Indiana Register December 15, 2005; comment period closed March 3, 2006.) Some options for consideration, (Rules or Regulations) recommendation to EQSC, (IDEM proceed with regulations focused on keeping the problem from getting worse.) major regulatory initiatives, IDEM fees and fund balances, Title V Example, 05-06 available cash by month, possible issues for 2007 Legislation, (budget) environmental crimes task force. Discussion concluded. Questions, contact Mr. Tom Easterly, IDEM Commissioner, (317) 232-8611, or e-mail teasterly@idem.in.gov

Indiana Clean Community Challenge

Stacy Martindale, IDEM Office of Pollution Prevention

The Indiana CLEAN Community Challenge is a voluntary recognition program for local Indiana government. Indiana CLEAN helps local government take steps to plan, develop and implement an environmental management system called a Quality of Life Plan by assessing potential impacts of local government activities, with input and support from local residents and businesses. The Indiana CLEAN Community Challenge is designed to be flexible; municipalities choose activities that fit their community goals and proceed at their own pace. Participating communities will also receive public recognition as a pollution prevention steward for Indiana. Valuable financial incentives include improved chances for receiving state-funded grants and loans, as well as reduced matching requirements. There is no fee to participate in the Indiana CLEAN Community Challenge. Participants will receive complimentary assistance during each step of the challenge. The Indiana CLEAN Community Challenge is administered by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

Susan Mihalo, a representative from the Town of Ogden Dunes spear-headed Ogden Dunes' Quality of Life CLEAN program. Ogden Dunes received the first recognition as a CLEAN community in June, 2006.

The Quality of Life Plan Development Assistance consists of U.S. EPA Region 5 (Representatives in attendance, Mr. Bill Messinger and Mr. Syed Ouadr.) and IDEM. U.S. EPA and IDEM have entered into an agreement for the CLEAN Communities Challenge Program. This agreement allows communities to take advantage of Region 5 staff, IDEM staff, and staff from our

Northwest Indiana Regional Office and Purdue University-Clean Manufacturing Technology & Safe Materials Institute. We are looking for northwest Indiana communities to participate not only in the CLEAN program, but also partner with U. S. EPA, so that they can provide additional onsite assistance. U. S. EPA would like to learn the ins and outs of Quality of Life Plan Development, so they can replicate the plan regionally. **Lee Botts made a motion for the Environmental Management Policy Committee to recommend to the NIRPC Commission to join with the Quality of Life Council in initiating an effort to inform communities in Northwest Indiana about this opportunity and take the leadership in making it happen on a region wide basis, and at the next Commission meeting have people there to advocate for it and push to make it happen. Charlotte Read recommended that the NIRPC Quality of Life Plan for this organization join with the Northwest Indiana Forum to show unity. Seconded, Environmental Management Policy Committee; motion carried.** Discussion concluded.

Status Report – Wood Burning Boiler Working Group

Kevin Breitzke, Working Group Chair, Porter County Surveyor

Mr. Breitzke stated a Model Ordinance was put together early last year, and our committee has been debating as far as status. Emerson Delaney, a committee member has a wood fire furnace, and we are seeing a lot of challenges. It is a very hot issue across the State. The science behind the statistics, I would like to see. Northwest Indiana is more compact, so we have to be more concerned about the air quality. Chimney height, separation of the buildings, zoning, the permitting of the structure as a separate structure and concerns about public safety are some of the issues that we are addressing. We are attempting to bring an industry representative to our next EMPC meeting. We will continue to discuss this and we eagerly await EQSC's report for Indiana. We hope to have a Model Ordinance and a Model Resolution.

MS4 Year End Report – 2007 Focus

Mary Beth Wiseman, NIRPC

The Annual Meeting for the MS4 Advisory Group was held in December and fifteen people attended representing ten of the twenty-three partners. Many concerns were raised about making sure that we meet IDEM's requirements for the reporting process. So to help these communities meet the requirements, NIRPC has scheduled a planning meeting on January 25, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. to work on the up coming years' events and to further meet the needs of these communities. The partners have been asked to provide copies with their specific education outreach and public involvement plans so we can better meet their needs and to make sure that this report covers everything and if there are overlapping events and activities that the different communities have, we can coordinate in a cost effective manner.

The focus is reaching businesses and conducting educational workshops; hopefully, installing stations at dog walking areas with education materials and bags, that is a very important part of the project. A field guide for citizens to use is being developed to help with their concerns about what is the proper conduct at construction sites and information on who to contact and these will be produced with help from the coastal program. After the meeting, we will have a clearer idea of the direction we will take this year and hopefully do a better job in the coming years. Copies of the Annual 2006 Report that is available on the www.nirpc.org were distributed. NIRPC has a new environmental website with new information.

On March 23, 2007, we will have Phase II of the Erosion Control Workshop; registration deadline is March 15. On Tuesday, March 6, Save the Dunes Conservation Fund presents Improving Development by Design: a closer look at low impact development (LID) practices at the Porter County Visitor Center.

Sediment Modeling Training Workshop Report

Dan Gardner, NIRPC

Mr. Gardner stated that on December 19 a hand on workshop was held at NIRPC with a variety of computers. It was hosted by NIRPC along with the Army Corps of Engineers, the Great Lakes Commission, Purdue University and Michigan State University. It is a modeling package that can look at watersheds and sub-watersheds for land use changes and it's a great tool. It will be available so that the public and groups can have access to what are some of the changes and what are some of the things, if we do this. We are using this as a spring board first step; we are looking at doing this again. The two focuses were Burns Ditch area and Trail Creek. We are looking at the input in Lake Michigan because what goes in Lake Michigan really affects the quality of the Great Lakes. U. S. EPA, IDNR, and IDEM participated. For additional information, handouts are available and websites.

Announcements

- Mary Beth announced that Stephen Holcomb, NIRPC Intern produced a poster for Lee Botts' Restoration Inventory Project. The Marquette Plan Phase II Citizen's Workshop Group Meeting is Saturday, January 20, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at the Hope Program Office, 222 McClelland Ave., Michigan City. The Steering Committee Meeting is Tuesday, January 23, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at NIRPC.
- Dan Gardner announced that NIRPC is working with the Northwest Indiana Forum on a Legislature Reception. There are eight major parts of it and that will be happening on January 24 in Indianapolis with our delegation. NIRPC will be posting and advertising for the Director's position of the Environmental program early this year. Sara Nerenberg has been hired as an hourly part-time employee; Sara will be working on water supply and Lake Michigan water issues.
- Connie Clay announced that Representative Scott Pelath will be meeting with the Compact Coalition at the Barker Center on Friday, January 5, 2007.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment

The next EMPC meeting will be February 1, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room. Meeting adjourned.