

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT POLICY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting
February 1, 2007

AGENDA

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Chuck Oberlie, Chairman

Approval of EMPC Minutes of January 4, 2007 Meeting

The Restoration Revolution in Northwest Indiana

Lee Botts, Senior Advisor, Quality of Life Council

Wood Burning Working Group

Kevin Breitzke, Working Group Chair, Porter County Surveyor

Water Supply Summit

Sara Nerenberg, NIRPC

Announcements

Update on MS4 Community Partnership

IDEM Indiana Clean Community Challenge

Marquette Plan Phase II

SSCC Luncheon – Carl Lisek, Director

Other

Public Comments

Adjournment

Environmental Management Policy Committee
February 1, 2007 – 9:00 a.m. – NIRPC Conference Room, Portage, IN

Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS/GUESTS

James Donnelly, June Calen, Steve Millick, Lee Botts, Mayor Chuck Oberlie, Dan Tompkins, Carol Cook, Steve West, Hala Kuss, Jennifer Gadzala, Cathy Csatari, Ben Bolton, Connie Clay, Jenny Orsburn, Charlotte Read, Mike Molnar, Danielle Barnett, Steve Barker, Dave Behrens, Joe Exl, Mark Strimbu, Jeff Hughes, Linda Wilson, Bob McCormick, Daniel Goldfarb, Kay Nelson, Dorreen Carey, Marge Hefner, Francyne Mixon, Dan Gardner, Mary Wiseman, John Swanson, Jody Melton, Sara Nerenberg.

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 January 4, 2007 Minutes

The January 4, 2007 Minutes were approved by Kevin Breitzke and seconded by Steve Millick; motion carried.

The Restoration Revolution in Northwest Indiana

Lee Botts, Senior Advisor, Quality of Life Council

Phase I of the Restoration Inventory Project: As of September 2006, the project identified 166 sites where restorations of natural areas were being carried out in Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties. A map showing northwest Indiana restoration sites identified Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties 169 sites covering additional projects. The objective of the project is to make people living in northwest Indiana more aware that restorations of natural areas are happening, some through public and private partnerships. The overall goal is to create a sustainable habitat for plants, animals, birds, and other living creatures that are native to the area. Sustainable restoration can be achieved with ongoing stewardship to prevent erosion by exotic species, destruction of native species, new damage by pollution, and interference with natural usage. This is the first step in keeping track of restoration in Indiana.

The methodology was surveys developed with input from the ten sponsoring partners in this project. Funding was provided by a grant from the Center for Regional Excellence at Indiana University Northwest. The Lillie Foundation contributed.

The next product of this project is a mark up of a poster showing the location of all the sites that we have identified. We hope to inspire people to say, what is going on where I live. The poster is being printed by NIRPC. Discussion concluded.

Wood Burning Working Group

Kevin Breitzke, Working Group Chair, Porter County Surveyor

Mr. Breitzke briefly overviewed the issue of the outdoor wood fire furnaces. Specifically, issues with distances from approximate residences, stack heights, and types of materials used. The rule

making is in process with IDEM. Shawn Gorman, IDEM will briefly review Outdoor Hydronic Heater Model Regulation as of January 29, 2007.

Mr. Gorman stated that in November 2006, QSC issued a report suggesting that IDEM resume its rulemaking after EPA makes its announcement. EPA has a voluntary labeling agreement with manufacturers. EPA provided funding and support in developing the model rule language. NESCAUM is a consortium of the northeastern states and they are the entity that has released the model rule provisions.

A brief summary of the model rule is a two phase approach establishing emission standards. Phase I effective in 2008 is more stringent than EPA voluntary emission standards by 30%. Phase I would also require 500 feet or more from a property line and must have a permanent stack extending five feet higher than the peak of any roof structure located within 150 feet of the outdoor hydronic heater. Phase II would not require any kind of set-back requirement, however, it is a much more stringent emission standard. The model rule would call for that to come into play in 2010. Also, the model rule would specify that no units are operated during the summer months; the model rule states April 15 through November 30. IDEM will look at what the actual heating season is for all of Indiana, unless it meets Phase II standards. Phase II will be allowed to operate during the summer months. IDEM is looking at how to implement the model rule in a way it would work in our State and hopefully try to get something on line by the next heating season. Discussion concluded. A nineteen page report is available upon request.

Water Supply Summit

Sara Nerenberg, NIRPC

Ms. Nerenberg overviewed the Regional Summit on Local and Regional Groundwater Supply Planning for March 21, 2007 at NIRPC. The grant comes from U. S. EPA watershed academy funds. The goal of this event is to work towards a consensus on regional priorities to ensure a sustainable groundwater supply for northwest Indiana. Discussion concluded. Mr. John Swanson, NIRPC Executive Director commented on the Northeastern Illinois Initiative and suggested a consultation with them for more information and to join the water summit and add information and to have their presence at the summit.

Ms. Nerenberg continued with the introduction to the Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Highway Construction and Post Construction Run-off Control. We currently are surveying existing materials and forum for outreach to this audience and any ideas or information will be appreciated. Discussion concluded.

Announcements

- Mary Beth announced that a MS4 Communities special planning meeting was held on January 25, 2007 to determine the direction of this partnership. NIRPC program addresses minimum control measures 1 & 2, which are education and outreach and public involvement in this region. A second planning meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 20, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC. Marquette Plan Phase II update: First meeting of the citizen workgroup was held on January 20, 2007 in Michigan City. (See NIRPC Newsletter for more information.) The Steering Committee had its first meeting on January 23, 2007 at NIRPC. There will be a question and answer session for the Marquette Plan Phase II consultants at NIRPC on February 13, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. Discussion concluded.
- Dan Gardner announced the South Shore Clean Cities Annual Meeting on Friday, February 2, 2007 at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville, IN. Indiana CLEAN Communities Challenge will be meeting in the Conference Room at 12:00 p.m. Cathy Csatari and Stacy Martindale will host the meeting.

- Jennifer Gadzala informed representatives of the MS4 Communities that Beverly Gard introduced Senate Bill 432 on environmental fees and it raises the fees on many different aspects mostly pertaining to waste water facilities. Section 16- of Indiana Code – 13-18-20 and it amends the NOI permit application fees to the State, both by the MS4 entities themselves and the construction and it adds construction fees for permits. No impact fiscal statement has been released yet; this is information only.
- Joe Exl announced the Lake Michigan Coastal Program has the opportunity to have NOAA, EPA and state coastal resource management agencies join together to develop a training course that will enable stakeholders to learn more about the general principles of alternative coastal development and ways to implement these principles. This is a coastal community planning and development training opportunity. Please contact me for more information at 219-983-9912.
- Dorreen Carey announced there will be a first public meeting for the Western Branch of the Little Calumet Watershed on March 1, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. Indiana University Northwest.
- Mike Molnar announced the workgroup meeting on February 6, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at the Dunes State Park Nature Center. Nominations are open for our Advisory Board positions, nominations end Friday, February 16, 2007. More information is posted on the DNR website.
- Carol Cook announced the Save the Dunes Conservation Fund has been funded by the Lake Michigan Coastal Program for a project called the Indiana Coastal Restoration Action Team Training Opportunities. We will be working with different partnerships.
- Tom Anderson announced the Low Impact Development Workshop at the Visitors Center on March 6, 2007 at 8:30 a.m.
- Susan MiHalo announced the Save the Dunes Board of Directors Resolution to Ban Outdoor Hydronic Heater referred to as outdoor wood-fired boilers, OWBs adopted on January 31, 2007.
- John Swanson commented on the Legislature Reception that was held in Indianapolis, IN on January 24, 2007. It was very successful with good attendance.
- Dan Gardner announced that copies of Tom Easterly's Air Quality report are still available upon request.

Public Comment

Kay Nelson and Lee Botts commented on the Great Lakes Compact 2008.

The next meeting of the EMPC will be held on March 1, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in the NIRPC Conference Room.

Meeting adjourned.

