

**ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT POLICY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting
March 1, 2007**

AGENDA

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Chuck Oberlie, Chairman

Approval of EMPC Minutes of February 1, 2007 Meeting

Grand Calumet River Dredging- Update

Dave Behrens, US Steel Corporation

Report from Outdoor Wood Burner Group

Kevin Breitzke, EMPC Vice Chair, Porter County Surveyor

Recommendation to consider and endorse model ordinance

NIRPC Commission- Committee Assignments 2007

Mayor Chuck Oberlie

Regional Indicators Report- Dan Gardner

Announcements

Advertisement of NIRPC Environmental Director Position

CLEAN Community Challenge Update

MS4 Community Partnership Update

Erosion Control Workshops Update

Water Supply Summit Update

Public Comment

Adjourn

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

Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS/GUESTS

Mayor Chuck Oberlie, Kevin Breitzke, June Calen, Mike Molnar, Daniel Tompkins, James Donnelly, Susan Donnelly, Steve West, Dorreen Carey, Ben Bolton, AJ Monroe, Joyce Russell, Lee Botts, Charlie Cate, Cele Morris, Tom Anderson, Joe Exl, Earl Cunningham, Jenny Orsburn, Danielle Barnett, Hala Kuss, Cathy Csatari, Conni Clay, Matt Cook, Bill Brown, Joan Bliss, Dave Behrens, Mark Reshkin, Betty Lou Nault, Ed Pierson, Charlotte Read, Susan MiHalo, Bob McCormick, Dan Vacari, Doug Bley, Kay Nelson, David Goldfarb, Sandy O'Brien, Francyne Mixon, Mary Beth Wiseman, Dan Gardner, John Swanson, Sara Nerenberg.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

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

Approval of the February 1, 2007 Minutes

The February 1, 2007 Minutes were approved by Kevin Breitzke and seconded by Charlie Cate; motion carried.

Grand Calumet River Dredging Update

Dave Behrens, US Steel Corporation

Dave Behrens presented the Grand Calumet River Sediment Remediation Project, beginning with its history and continued with the update of the 2007 Dredging Plan.

Project Overview: The objective is remediation of 750,000 cubic yards of non-native sediment within 5 miles of the Grand Calumet River. Contamination: PCBs, oils, greases, PAHs, and metals. Up-front engineering and planning March 2001 – December 2001; field work initiated January 2002 ended in December 2003. Components: hydraulic dredging, corrective action management, unit (CAMU) and project specific water treatment plant.

Presentation Review: regulatory, 2007 dredging plan schedule; start January 15, 2007 and complete (estimate) April 5, 2007; new NPDES permit December 12, 2006, air monitoring at CAMU, NRD agreement; USCOE wetland mitigation transfer 32 acres of Globally Rare Dune & Swale Habitat to the National Park

Service and post-mediation monitoring to provide funding to trustees to evaluate effects of the project on the GCR ecosystem. Discussion concluded.

A sign-up sheet is provided for those who are interested in future CITE meetings. Information will be mailed with the schedule of quarterly meetings.

Report from Outdoor Wood Burner Group

EMPC Vice Chair, Kevin Breitzke, Porter County Surveyor

Recommendation to consider and endorse model ordinance

Mr. Breitzke stated the results of a Model Ordinance created by the Outdoor Wood Burner Group would require 500 foot distance to the nearest property line as a practical matter and make it about a 25 acre parcel as a minimum. This would enable farm operations, a large property to have the outdoor furnaces. The committee came up with some recommendations for ordinances that particularly the counties or towns with larger areas of land can possibly implement.

Eight of the major manufacturers are increasing their standards and they represent 80% of the units out there. By March or April, they will have some standards established that will reduce the parts per million. It will be a substantial improvement over the current particulate emission of these units. We want to stave off the proliferation of these at least until they meet standards that would reduce the particulate emission and volatile organic compounds. The other resolution is to ban them from other cities and towns. The suggestion is to take these back to whatever organization has the jurisdiction to do an ordinance and present it to them for comment and come back for the next meeting so we can make the complete recommendation to the EMPC.

Dan Gardner stated the recommendation is we are not prepared to take action today. We will send it to the communities, but rather than send it blind, the research provided to us by Mr. Donnelly dated February 27 can be posted on our website and we can find the ordinances in Indiana that have banned it and make that available to our communities in this month's time without taking a position. Any good research that we can reference let the communities have knowing the ordinance we will probably pass is more general with as much research as we can get. We can post information and references when we send it to the communities.

Mayor Oberlie stated the objective is to take it back and take a look and get the information on the website and take some additional information and see if we can bring some more information back. Mr. Breitzke stated we should commit to several recommendations at the next meeting.

NIRPC Commission – Committee Assignments 2007

Mayor Chuck Oberlie

Regional Indicators Report – Dan Gardner

Mayor Oberlie presented the 2007 Committee Assignments of the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission. The handout is a list of formal assignments from the NIRPC Board. NIRPC Chairman Leigh Morris has asked that all of the committees begin to think in terms of the strategic process and under the Environmental Management Policy Committee its key question is “How can regional strategies be most effective in optimizing the quality of soil, water and air in northwest Indiana”? The handout consists of board members who have been assigned to this committee, beginning with the reappointment of the EMPC Chairman and Vice Chair Kevin Breitzke. Mr. Breitzke is the liaison to the Transportation Planning Committee and Robert Schaefer is liaison to the Economic Development Committee.

The objective is for all of the committees of NIRPC to integrate the thought process so that we are not standing alone. The transportation people need to talk about environmental issues when they talk transportation and the EDC need to talk about environmental issues when they talk about economic development. They are liaison from one committee to the other, so we can look at everything in a coordinated fashion.

On this sheet is a series of breakout items and this will be the agenda for the next meeting. We will have some type of facilitation through the staff to help us to begin to think in terms of what our priorities are and what we are going to address. Please give this some thought and send to the staff your thoughts on these issues for the next meeting. The objective of this committee is to talk in terms of priorities as we go forth.

Lee Botts stated we should link this indicators effort to the Quality of Life Council Indicators Report and Ms. Meg Haller is the new Director of the Quality of Life Council and she is trying to decide how to update the previous indicators report.

Dan Gardner stated Mayor Morris has clearly set the direction that planning needs to be integrated. We are looking at our entire work program that we are creating now; principally in the past with transportation, but now with environment and economic development to make sure the jobs cross coordinate. We need to look at ways we can get either greater local funding or new grants to make regional land use. Some of these things haven't been done, but absolutely should be done. We are not going to wait for a grant. We are going to start pursuing it that is our challenge. Think about these and bring your ideas back so we can engage the committee.

Dan Gardner continued with an overview of potential regional indicators, economic development/regional economic health, transportation, and environment. NIRPC will be working with the Quality of Life Council, Workforce

Development and the Northwest Indiana Forum, so we can come up with indicators that are sustainable in terms of updating.

Other Business

Chicago Wilderness Support Letter
Dale Engquist, IDNL - Retired

NIRPC is a member of the regional conservation consortium known as the Chicago Wilderness, and Dale Engquist, a member of Chicago Wilderness Council has asked the Environmental Management Policy Committee to send a letter of support to Congressman Visclosky for the Chicago Wilderness initiative “No Child Left Inside” This request is to help seek \$3 million in Fiscal Year 2008 Energy and Water funds to support outreach efforts to connect youth and families to nature. This is a regional public awareness campaign that promotes awareness of local natural resources as well as the importance of biodiversity conservation. NIRPC Executive Director John Swanson will bring feedback from the Chicago Wilderness Council to the Environmental Management Policy Committee. **Vice Chair Kevin Breitzke made a motion to send a letter of support to Congressman Visclosky for “No Child Left Inside” and seconded by Charlotte Read; motion carried.** Kay Nelson of the Northwest Indiana Forum asked that the minutes reflect state employees must abstain.

Announcements

- Dan Gardner announced the Director of Environmental Management position. It will be posted, advertised in the newspapers, professional organizations and on NIRPC website. It will be open until filled.
- Cathy Csatari of the Indiana Clean Community Challenge announced the first workshop on March 30, 2007 at NIRPC for 9:00 a.m.
- Mary Beth Wiseman announced the Advisory Board of the MS4 Communities Partnership met on February 20th at NIRPC to discuss details of the budget and how the communities will move forward with the program in the next year. Another meeting is scheduled for March 5th at 9:00 a.m. at NIRPC to discuss the upcoming year and to review a current budget proposal. Two workshops are scheduled: Erosion Control BMPS: Installation and Maintenance on March 23rd at the Founder’s Square Park in Portage at 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 noon and Construction Site Sormwater Pollution Prevention Measures on March 20th at Valparaiso Expo Center at 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. There is a \$25 charge. On March 6th the Save the Dunes Workshop for low impact development at the Porter County Visitors Center at 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Information is available for a public involvement campaign

the MS4 Community Partnership Rain Garden Demonstration Garden Project. Please see me if you are interested.

- John Swanson announced NIRPC has received the RFQ's for the Marquette Plan Phase II and 12 & 20 Porter County Corridor Planning Study. There are 18 consultant applications. We will be convening the evaluation team within the next week and our hope is to make an award within a month or so.
- Sara Nerenberg announced the Water Supply Summit on March 21, 2007 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Invitations are available and a notice will be in the newsletter this month. For more information, e-mail snerenberg@nirpc.org
- Mary Beth Wiseman announced the first public meeting for the Western Branch of the Little Calumet Watershed at 6:00 p.m. at Indiana University Northwest in the Conference Center.

Public Comment

Sandy O'Brien from the Sierra Club spoke against the SB 1 legislation and has asked the Environmental Management Committee to say no to SB 1. It would feed sprawl and would take jobs and people from old cities (Gary, Hammond, and East Chicago) and feed development in the Green field. A proper study is needed.

Susan MiHalo stated the Save the Dunes Board agrees with Sandy O'Brien.

Mayor Chuck Oberlie announced the press conference to unveil Lee Botts' Restoration Inventory Poster at 10:30 a.m. immediately follow the EMPC meeting.

Meeting adjourned.