

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

NIRPC- Lake Michigan Room

August 3, 2017

Members/Guests: Geof Benson, Michael Spinar, Susan Adams, Larry Silvestri, Rosemary Bell, Alan Bell, Jen Birchfield, Kim Kingsland, Michelle Caldwell, Will Farrellbegg, Barbara Schultz, Kristine Sandrick, Lauri Keagle, Deb Backhus, Arber Himaj, Jennifer Gadzala, George Malis, Reggie Korthals, Natalie Johnson, Bill Emerson, Jr., Andrea Huntington, Maggie Byrne, Richard Morrisroe, Mike Webber, George Topoll, B. Scott Henry, Kay Nelson, Steven Stanford, Michael Kuss, Dan Manus and Jody Melton.

NIRPC Staff: Kathy Luther and Mary Thorne.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Benson called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.

Approval of June 1, 2017 EMPC Minutes

On motion by Reggie Korthals and a second by Will Farrellbegg, the June 1, 2017 EMPC meeting minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

Presentations:

a. NIPSCO LED Light Changeout Program – *Dr. Bob Kramer, Purdue Northwest*

Dr. Kramer presented on NIPSCO's plan to change out their high pressure sodium lighting with LED lighting. Many slides of various data in support of the LED change out were shown. Purdue University Northwest Hammond Campus Energy Efficiency and Reliability Center received a grant from Indiana Municipality Utility Group (IMUG) to research options implementing new street lighting technology while coordinating with NIPSCO. Over the next few years, NIPSCO is equipping all of its streetlights with LED technology. The new, light-emitting diode fixtures are brighter and more efficient than the high-pressure sodium lights being replaced. In answer to a request for emissions efficiency information by Kathy Luther, Dr. Kramer said he would provide the answers to her as soon as possible. For more information contact Dr. Kramer @219-989-2147 or at kramerro@pnw.edu.

b. Dark Sky Program at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore – *Larry Silvestri, International Dark Sky Association*

Mr. Silvestri said the Milky Way can be seen from Kemil Beach and added that the National Lakeshore is the third most diverse biologically of the 52 national parks, home to 30% of all Indiana's native species. The National Lakeshore serves 10 million people throughout the region and is a cultural and aesthetic resource. Dark skies are very important to wildlife and its habitat. A designation as an International Dark Sky Park would increase ecotourism and raise the profile of Northwest Indiana. Letters of support were submitted to the International Dark Sky Association by Larry Silvestri, the National Park Service in Porter, Indiana, Rep. Scott Pelath, Save the Dunes Council, and Michigan City Mayor Ron Meer. It was requested that the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission adopt and submit a resolution of support to the Indiana Dark Sky Association that the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore become a Dark Sky International Park. On a motion by Reggie Korthals and a second by Richard Morrisroe, the presentation of a draft

resolution of support by the NIRPC Board for the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore to become a Dark Sky International Park was approved.

Public Comment:

- With regard to the NIPSCO LED Light Changeout Program, several comments of concern were submitted by Susan Adams of Ogden Dunes regarding the reduction of lumens to between 3,000 and 4,000 and a lack of any reporting as to the considerable impact on wildlife.
- Comments in favor of the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore were submitted by Alan and Rosemary Bell of Beverly Shores.

Announcements:

- Announcements for upcoming events and meetings will be forwarded to the EMPC Committee email list.

The next meeting of the Environmental Management Policy Committee will be held on September 7, 2017 at 9 a.m.

Hearing no other business, Chairman Benson adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Note: On August 14, Dr. Kramer emailed the following information to Kathy Luther:

The following are CO2 savings for the retrofit of the HPS street lights to LED. These values should be considered general estimates since an EPA generic coal unit was used for the emission rates. The comparison between CCTs was done assuming the respective efficiency values for the 150W HPS replacement LED unit for all the luminaires with the same light output levels for the LEDs. These are recent values but they are still somewhat in flux. The values that follow are the equilibrium numbers after all the lights are changed out. During the installation period the number would scale at a rate of 1/6 per year.

HPS replaced with 4000K LED = savings of 13,864 Tonnes CO2e/year

HPS replaced with 3000K LED = savings of 13,517 Tonnes CO2e/year

HPS replaced with 2700K LED = savings of 13,171 Tonnes CO2e/year

A Digital MP3 of this meeting is filed. Contact Mary Thorne at 219-763-6060 or mthorne@nirpc.org should you wish to receive a copy of it.