

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

NIRPC - Lake Michigan Room

October 4, 2018

Minutes

Members/Guests: Bill Emerson, Jr., Geof Benson, Maggie Byrne, Kathryn Vallis, Sarah Nimetz, George Topoll, Jan Bapst, Michael Spinar, Sherryl Doerr, Tim Kingsland, Susan MiHalo, Lauri Keagle, Sylvia Collins, Susan Adams, Deb Backus, Lynda Lancaster, Jennifer Gadzala, Jess Huseman, Greg Towler, Stuart Carlton, Milo Milatovic, Carolyn Saxton, Katherine Moore Powell, Joe Grazalski, Elizabeth McCloskey, Kay Nelson, Jennifer Birchfield, Namissa Taylor, Kris Krouse, Daniel Goldfarb, Carol Ropski, Peg Donnelly and Cherie Fisher.

NIRPC Staff: Kathy Luther, Mitch Barloga, Dominique Edwards and Candice Eklund.

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Bill Emerson, Jr. called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.

NIRPC Business:

Approval of Minutes

On motion by Tim Kingsland and second by Sara Nimetz, the September 6, 2018 EMPC meeting minutes were approved as presented.

Presentation: 2050 Plan + Tip Programmatic Approach and Project Scoring

Mitch Barloga presented on the draft 2050 Plan and TIP Programmatic Approach and Program Scoring revisions based on committee input. Program scoring was reviewed by the Committee and points were changed live as needed, based on consensus of the group. Ten sets of project criteria were scheduled to be examined, however due to the Urban Waters Federal Partnership and the U.S. EPA's Sub-Area Response Plan presentation, time only allowed for three of the criteria's to be examined. The Committee agreed to schedule an additional session on October 10, 2018 to discuss the seven remaining project criteria's for EMPC and Air Quality. At the November meeting, project sizes and funding mechanisms will be examined. The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) will be out in late November. Submissions are due in January.

Urban Waters Federal Partnership Updates, Presented by Jennifer Birchfield

Jennifer Birchfield conveyed her gratitude on the mix of the agencies partnerships and how they all work together on projects related to urban waters and revitalizing communities. Northwest Indiana was one of the original seven pilot locations and today there are 21 locations and 60 partner organizations throughout Indiana.

The next Urban Waters meeting will be held on January 25, 2019, 9:30 am at NIRPC. Additional sessions and workshops offered will be included in the announcements that are emailed to the group.

U.S. EPA NW Indiana Sub-Area / Geographical Response Plan Discussion

Peg Donnelly, with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), discussed the need for enhancing the emergency planning in Northwest Indiana (NWI) and effectively communicating with the communities. Dan Haag, also with the US EPA, stated there were two reasons for enhancing the emergency plan. There have been some recent incidents in NWI where some people felt left out of the early stages of the emergency and the need for improved planning was also recognized. As a result, Peg Donnelly and Carol Ropski were assigned to form a regional task force group, referred to as Region 5 or RRT5, which covers the great lakes. Additional information on the Region 5 Sub-Area Plans can be found on the rrt5.org website.

The primary goal for NWI within the Sub-Area plan is to effectively manage the response within the first 24-48 hours. The initial task will be to develop an Incident Accident Plan (IAP) for all responders needing to respond to a discharge of oil into a water way in NWI. An automatic communication tool was discussed because it can automatically email, text or phone a contact list in an emergency.

The US EPA completed response drills with 12 facilities in August 2018, will schedule additional drills with more test facilities and ensure the facilities implement their plans. Quarterly meetings will be held and a kickoff Sub-Area planning meeting is scheduled for November to establish goals.

There is currently an area contingency plan and the Sub-Area plan be will an addendum to that plan, specific to Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties. Since they are in the beginning stages with the Sub-Area plan, US EPA will be attending another EMPC meeting in 2019 to provide progress updates and identify additional areas in the plan.

Bill Emerson thanked the presenters for taking the corrective steps and addressing the gap in response procedures because it has been a concern with the environmental committee.

Announcements

The event announcements submitted will be distributed in an email to the committee.

Adjournment

Hearing no other business, Bill Emerson adjourned the meeting at 10:53 a.m.

A Digital MP3 of this meeting is filed. Contact Candice Eklund at 219-763-6060 Ext 142 or ceklund@nirpc.org should you wish to receive a copy of it.