

Minutes of the Land Use and Development Committee Meeting

The Land Use and Development Committee of the McLean County Board met on Thursday March 1, 2012 at 4:45 p.m. in Room 400, Government Center, 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, Illinois.

Members Present: Chairman Gordon, Members Segobiano, Cavallini, Wendt, Erickson and Soeldner

Members Absent: None

Other Board Members Present:

Staff Present: Mr. Bill Wasson, County Administrator, Ms. Diana Hospelhorn, Recording Secretary, County Administrator's Office

Department Heads/
Elected Officials
Present: Mr. Phil Dick, Director of Building and Zoning

Others Present: Mr. Michael Brown, Director of Ecology Action Center

Chairman Gordon called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. Chairman Gordon presented the Minutes of the January 17, 2012 Stand Up Land Use and Development Meeting and the February 2, 2012 Land Use and Development Meeting to the Committee for approval. He asked for any additions or corrections. Hearing none, he approved and placed the January 17, 2012 Stand Up Land Use and Development Meeting and the February 2, 2012 Land Use and Development Meeting minutes on file as submitted.

Chairman Gordon presented the bills from February 29, 2012 which have been reviewed and recommended for transmittal to the Land Use and Development Committee by the County Auditor. The prepaid total and fund total for February 29, 2011 is \$6,044.11. He asked for a motion to approve the bills as presented by the County Auditor.

Motion by Cavallini/Soeldner to recommend approval of the February 29, 2012 bills as presented by the County Auditor.
Motion carried.

Chairman Gordon informed the Committee there is one Item for Action, the request by the McLean County Solid Waste Management Technical Committee to approve a resolution to fund \$2,800 for McLean County School Recycling Grants.

Mr. Michael Brown, Director of Ecology Action Center presented the grant applications received for the Solid Waste Management Plan Program:

- School Recycling Grants for the following schools:
 - Colene Hoose Elementary - \$400
 - Sheridan Elementary School - \$400
 - Holy Trinity Elementary School - \$400
 - St. Mary's School - \$400
 - Evans Junior High School - \$400
 - Hammit Junior /Senior High School - \$400
 - Hudson Elementary School - \$400

Mr. Cavallini asked how it was determined which schools received the recycling grants. Mr. Brown responded that each year the Solid Waste Technical Committee invites all area public and private schools to apply for the Recycling Grant. Applications are received and evaluated and meet the required criteria. The initial grant offered up to \$1,000. The applications received this year have increased over last year. Due to the limitations within Minutes of the Land Use and Development Committee Meeting
March 1, 2012

the Solid Waste Fund budget and the number of applications received, it was decided to award all the schools a reduced grant.

Motion by Segobiano/Soeldner to recommend approval of the Request by the McLean County Solid Waste Management Technical Committee to Approve a Resolution to Fund \$2,800 for McLean County School Recycling Grants.

Chairman Gordon continued with the first Item for Information, Ecology Action Center; Solid Waste Recycling Education Quarterly Report, fourth quarter 2011.

Mr. Brown referred the Committee to the 2011 McLean County Solid Waste Program / Recycling Education Report. He stated that the report details efforts by the Ecology Action Center to provide solid waste and waste reduction services to residents of McLean County, the City of Bloomington and the Town of Normal from October, 2011 through December, 2011.

Mr. Segobiano stated that he appreciates all the Ecology Action Center does. He referred to a report in the Pantagraph stating that the east side recycling exceeds the recycling of the west side. He asked Mr. Brown how the dividing line is drawn. Mr. Brown responded that some neighborhoods are not participating in recycling as much as do other neighborhoods. There is no division drawn. The intent was to try and draw more attention to the need for recycling. Mr. Brown stated that research shows that in some cases there are cultural, economic or language barriers that effect recycling..

Mr. Segobiano asked if there is a policy on large cardboard boxes and plastic containers that could be recycled, but are not. Mr. Brown responded that most recycling programs in Central Illinois are promoted as a voluntary recycling program. There are some communities with requirements closer to a mandatory program.

Mr. Segobiano asked for a report on the progress of the Household Hazardous Waste Day. Mr. Brown stated that a Household Hazardous Waste Fund has been established as a Private-Public Partnership. The fund was established because the State is no longer funding Household Hazardous Waste collection as they have in the past. It has been 4 years since the last event in the Community. To date, \$33,000 has been accumulated towards the required \$125,000 needed to fund the event. Included in the \$33,000 is the grant from the Solid Waste Fund. Mr. Brown noted that a contribution from the Town of Normal and the City of Bloomington is anticipated. The remainder of the funds will need to come through private sources and local businesses. He added that there is locally strong support for the event. Mr. Brown is optimistic that the event will be held the end of September, 2012.

Mr. Cavallini asked for an explanation on vermicomposting. Mr. Brown advised that vermicomposting is composting with worms; a means by which composting can be done indoors year around without odor or mess. Mr. Brown noted that the Ecology Action Center

disposes of lunch scraps by vermicomposting. He invited the Committee to the Ecology Action Center to view just how clean and effective vermicomposting is.

Chairman Gordon asked if a definite date has been set for the Household Hazardous Waste Drive. Mr. Brown reported that September 29, 2012 is the tentative date. If the goal of raising \$125,000 is not met, the event will be rescheduled.

Mr. Brown continued with the Ecology Action Center Solid Waste and Recycling Education Annual Report for 2011. The activities include events, educational programs, public presentations, small grant programs through the Solid Waste Technical Committee, operation of the information center 40 hours a week, and promotion of recycling programs throughout the County.

Mr. Phil Dick, Director of Building and Zoning, continued with the 2012 American Planning Association (APA) Illinois State Section Conference in Decatur on March 22, 23, 2012. The APA will present: Farm to Plate, Illinois Food Production and Planning. If interested, please contact Mr. Dick for registration.

Mr. Dick noted that the 2012 Central Illinois Bike Summit will be in Uptown Normal at the Carol Reitan Conference Center on Wednesday, May 23, 2012. The event is being coordinated by the Town of Normal. Engineer training for "On Street Bike Trails" will be included in the schedule. If interested, please contact Mr. Dick for registration.

Mr. Segobiano referred to an article on the life expectancy of the existing landfill. He asked what has been determined to be the life expectancy of the landfill. Mr. Wasson, County Administrator responded that it has been stated to be 2016. Mr. Brown added that we have been at the life span of 4-5 years for a number of years. Not as much waste has been going into the landfill as anticipated, however the end is near.

Mr. Segobiano stated that sighting a land fill is in the near future. The height of the land fill has been extended. He asked if the land fill can be extended out. Mr. Dick responded that the County is at the edge of the expansion area of the land fill. He referred to an aerial print out of the land fill pointing out just how far the land fill has already expanded.

Mr. Soeldner stated that four years is not a long time. It is his understanding that it is the responsibility of a corporation or an individual to approach the Committee for approval of a landfill. Mr. Wasson noted that one of the issues relative to how quickly this land fill will close is whether or not the urban waste of Bloomington-Normal is directed to this land fill or another location. The disposal contractors make this determination.

Mr. Segobiano asked the location of the nearest land fill to McLean County. Mr. Wasson responded that either the land fill in Livingston County or the land fill in Clinton, IL. If petroleum costs continue to rise, and the cost of transportation becomes an issue, the disposal companies will likely look closer to this urban area.

Mr. Brown agreed, pointing out that which land fill used is not our choice. The municipalities contract with waste haulers to dispose of the waste. It is the waste haulers who will determine where the waste is taken. It is not so much of a concern of having a place to put the waste as it is the cost to dispose of our trash.

Mr. Cavallini asked if the land adjacent to the land fill is a future option. Mr. Dick responded when the land fill was sighted, it was determined it would not go beyond Rabbit Road. He stated that there could be concerns if the land fill expanded beyond the current location.

Mr. Segobiano asked if solid waste burn factories are still in existence. Mr. Brown responded that they are. While they are an option, solid waste burn factories do burn up usable resources and hazardous things are being released into the air. The ash produced is hazardous and highly toxic. Mr. Brown noted there is production of electricity as a benefit; however the waste materials are more problematic than ordinary waste materials.

Chairman Gordon reminded the Committee that the next Land Use and Development Committee meeting is scheduled for April 5, 2012.

Chairman Gordon asked if there was any other information to come before the Committee.

Chairman Gordon adjourned the Committee Meeting at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Hospelhorn
Recording Secretary