



MONROE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
&
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Monroe County Commissioners

812 349-2550
Courthouse, Room 315
Bloomington, IN 47404

Dave Parsons, Chair
Bob Austin, Vice Chair
Kristin Brethova, Secretary

5:30-7:00 pm
Nat U. Hill Meeting Room
Monroe County
Courthouse

"The Monroe County Environmental Quality & Sustainability Commission will provide education, advice, and encouragement to residents, local businesses, organizations, and county government to adopt practices and develop policies that preserve and strengthen Monroe County's economy, ecology, social justice and health initiatives."

I: Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Dave Parsons, Chair.

II: Role Call

Steve Akers, Bob Austen, Jaquai Bauer, Kristin Brethova, Ryan Cobine, Annelise Huber, Martha Miller, Dave Parsons, Terry Robbins, Clark Sorenson, Julie Thomas, Jerry Ulrey.

III: Public Comment

None.

IV: Community Presentation - Steve Akers from IU's Residential Programs and Services shares experience with recycling programs at IU

- Trying to mirror the system the city uses with Republic Services.
- The system has advanced a lot in the last 3 years. Try to get all units together in the same room (RPS, Athletics, IMU - 3 main systems act mostly independently). All ends up at Republic, but collected in different ways -- trying to develop systems that make sense, consistency across campus, as easy as possible.
- Education - constantly. Not just students, but also the thousands of faculty/staff and visitors. 3 categories: 1) Totally got it, 2) A little unsure, need a little guidance, 3) Just not important. The majority are #2.
- 6 main points: Identify material (what is/isn't recyclable), collection sites (strategic locations, good signage), staff training, reinforce importance, review operations, legitimacy (people need to believe that the materials are being recycled.)
- Comment: IU Auditorium has just two little recycling bins tucked away in a side hallway – target to improve?
- Green Events - outdoor events, part of setting up an event should be waste management.
- First Year Experience - zero waste events at the football stadium, Steve's goal is to have a zero waste dining hall.
- Composting - 1,200 pounds per week. 3 month process, at Hilltop Garden.
- They're not palletizing things anymore, putting things in reusable tubs, and then those go back in the truck.
- Cardboard is the only material IU gets paid for. Other places = aluminium, paper, but needs to be better quality, we don't have clean enough stream.

V: Approval of the minutes

a. Minutes from February 11, 2015

No additions or corrections. Clark motions to accept the minutes as written. Motion passes.

VI: Old Business

a. Monroe County Energy Challenge

- Received a number of grants: \$25,000 from Joyce Foundation will be used for teacher training, thermal cameras, killawatt meters, other activities. Close to \$60,000 from Vectren will go to the "Energy Mobile", a vehicle for neighborhood outreach. \$1,000 sponsorship from HarrowFish Incorporated. Couple other grants waiting to hear back from, and a Duke grant submission in the works.
- Update on involvement of local schools: By competition rules, we need at least 80% participation -- we have over 93%, so this will not be a problem.
- Launched Rentrocket.org, a resource for rental energy information. 67% of Bloomington housing is rental housing.

b. Annual Report

Weather normalization taking longer than anticipated. Jerry and Annelise requested an extension for the deadline, which was granted. New deadline is April 10th. They hope to get this out to everyone before the next meeting, for review and approval at the next meeting.

VII: New Business

None.

VIII: Working Groups

a. Thompson Property - nothing new. Status - three groups expressed an interest; none currently able to move forward.

b. Energy - lots of work tied to the Annual Report.

IX: Reports from represented orgs

a. City of Bloomington – Masterplanning for a 12 acre site north of city hall, looking at developing that area. Kick-off meeting last week. Planning to straighten 10th street later this year.

b. Indiana University - Naomi Oreskes visiting lecturer, hiring of 12 summer interns, spring energy challenge begins March 26.

c. Monroe County Soil and Water - Rain Barrel program for spring and a new partnership with White River Co-op called "Coffee and Conversation." Next month's topic is invasive species.

d. Monroe County Government - Honeywell contract for the Guaranteed Savings Program, held Green Team meeting last week (had reps from most of the buildings), solar panels on Zietlow Justice Center now online with Duke, will present the Annual Report at the Commissioner's meeting on April 17th.

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:02pm

Next Meeting: 5:30pm, Wed. April 8, 2015 in the Nat U. Hill Meeting Room, Monroe County Courthouse