



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."

May 13, 2015

- I. Call to Order:** Meeting is called to order at 5:36pm by Dave Parsons, Chair.
- II. Roll Call:** Bob Austin, Kristin Brethova, Ryan Cobine, Martha Miller, Dave Parsons, Terry Robbins, Clark Sorenson, Jerry Ulrey.
- III. Public Comment:** None.
- IV. Community Presentation:** None.
- V. Approval of Minutes**
- a. Minutes from March 11, 2015 – (no quorum at April meeting). Clark motions to accept the minutes as written, Terry seconds, motion passes.
- VI. Old Business**
- a. Monroe County Energy Challenge
 - Community premier of the Pave Gen system at BHS South was nicely attended. High school students prepared lesson plans for younger classes, great plans for the future, lots of enthusiasm from the students.
 - Another school to participate in the challenge: Monroe Community Christian School
 - Data committee has been active. Time for utilities to upload the 1st quarter of the energy data -- the first upload ever for the Georgetown EC. Georgetown has made some changes, some cities are really displeased. We're aware of the changes, working with it, should be smoother in future (this is the first one).
 - b. Annual Report
 - Finalized at the end of April. Annelise presented to the county commissioners May 1. It is finished, it has been sent out. Not yet on the county website. The other two annual reports are on the county website and on the commission's webpage. Cost of energy, water, nat gas actually slightly more this year, but extremely cold Jan and Feb, so, with weather normalization, we actually had some energy savings.
 - Energy, especially for the fleet, look at vehicle miles travelled, gallons used, efficiency -- think about metrics, beyond \$, what can we use to compare?
 - This question was tabled for consideration for next year's report

VII. New Business:

Discussion of topics and projects for 2015 and early 2016

- It looks likely there will be another SPEA Service Corps Fellow to replace Annelise.
 - Monroe County Climate Action Plan (CAP) – council supports, but not sure how up the priority list that would fall, in terms of the work of that intern. Ryan will try to get the job description for this position, so we can have some idea of what to plan.
 - Annual report - next annual report might be a way to have a crosscheck on the energy savings figures from Honeywell.
 - Study of Monroe County fleet – less likely; there is already a committee looking at that, highway committee just purchased a few new trucks, so fewer that will be needed soon. Trying two new electric passenger vehicles.
- Membership: Steve Cordell decided he was too busy to stay with the group. Some way to get together people from the building trades and construction industry - tie in to people who are building houses and try to promote sustainable construction (a pseudo-Green Construction Expo).
- If anyone wants to look into the CAP or fleet efficiency as an independent project, that would be great, we could try to bring some info the county could use.
- Energy Conservation Fund
 - Dave proposes that we not use the energy savings calculations this year to ask the county council for an equivalent contribution to the fund. Reasoning: We calculated differently this year; if previous years accounted for weather normalization, allotment would have been smaller.
 - Ryan not sure he agrees - it was still energy savings, just a different measure of energy efficiency (EE). Going forward, do we calculate the transfer request based on this or based on that? Recommends that we outline the pros and cons of the two metrics, conditions, possible outcomes, etc, so the council can decide.
 - Jerry: certainly the rebates and the SRECs could/should go into that fund, as much as \$40,000 from rebates (via Honeywell). Maybe this year we should work out a few project proposals for the fund, such as payment for staff and interns.
 - Kristin motions to request that the \$ from rebates and SCRECs, but nothing from energy savings, be added to the fund, and to provide the council with considerations for weather normalized and non-normalized metrics. Clark seconds. Motion passes, none opposed.

VIII. Reports from Working Groups

- a. Thomson Property: Nothing to report.
- b. Energy: Nothing to report.

IX. Sustainability Tip:

Bob Austin presented a visual tip about composting. Use a blender to speed up the decomposition process. Pour it all in with a little bit of water. Then mix with water and apply to plants, or just put it on your compost pile, and it speeds the process and decreases the volume of material.

X. Reports from Represented Organizations

- a. City of Bloomington: Representative from the City (Jacqui Bauer) not present.
- b. Indiana University: Sustainability Research Development Grants and Course Development Fellowships awards, hiring full-time permanent staff position (Project Coordinator), and fourteen summer interns start next week.
- c. Monroe County Soil and Water: Getting ready to launch their yearly tree sales soon; will start taking orders in July. Coffee and Conversations was hosted about the Monroe County Energy Challenge (MCEC), will also try to feature MCEC at the county fair.
- d. Monroe County Government: None.

XI. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:07pm.

Next Meeting Date: 5:30pm, Wednesday June 10, 2015 in the Nat U. Hill Meeting Room, Monroe County Courthouse