



MONROE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
&
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Monroe County Commissioners

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

Dave Parsons, Chair
Terry Usrey, Vice Chair
Jerrold Ulrey, Secretary

5:30-7:00 pm
Nat U. Hill 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."

November 12, 2014

- I. Call to Order – **The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm by Terry Usrey, Vice-Chair.**
- II. Roll Call – **Attending – Jerry Ulrey, Ian Yarbrough, Terry Usrey, Steve Cordell, Bob Austin, Jacqui Bauer, Terry Rollins, Annelise Huber, and Julie Thomas. A quorum was present.**
- III. Public Comment (5 minute limit) – **None.**
- IV. Community Presentation – John Irvine, County Plan Commission, and Julie Thomas, Ordinance Review Committee, will present information on the proposed Zoning and Sub-division ordinance. – **Excellent presentation and discussion on the proposed sub-division ordinance revisions. Revisions to the sub-division ordinance follow the 2020 Comprehensive Plan and are intended to achieve two goals: (1) to better synchronize county development with county's ability to afford infrastructure to serve development, and (2) to address the "nibble" effect, with development creating dispersed density in the county. A Monroe County Planning Department map was provided demonstrating, through color coding, the dispersion of development throughout the county. They estimate a 10 year supply of lots is currently developed and available in the county. Generally, the question is "How can long-term sustainability best be balanced with development rights in Monroe County". Previously development in the county has been seen as a right irrespective of the implications on County resources. However, new subdivisions do not add to county tax revenues, due to caps imposed by law. And, laws also do not allow incremental charges to new sub-divisions to cover incremental county expenses. The major proposed revision is that the new subdivision ordinance requires new subdivisions in the county to be hooked up to a sewer system. That requirement will likely be hard to satisfy for most proposed development, except in the Urbanizing Zone around the cities. Therefore, the expected result is that most future development will be in the urban areas, leaving the rural areas rural. Exceptions are being provided in the ordinance revisions to accommodate issues raised by commenters – family land sub-division, business restriction relaxation, minor sub-divisions, etc. A hearing is to be held at the Courthouse on November 18th at 6pm to hear more public comment on the proposed revisions. Then amendments from the Plan Commission members will be considered. A vote on the ordinance revisions may be held at this meeting, but may be held at a later date.**

V. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes from October 8, 2014 meeting – **Minutes were updated to insert last name of meeting participant under VI. b. “Alicia Reinersman”. Jacqui Bauer made a motion to approve minutes as updated. Motion was seconded. A vote was held and the motion carried.**

VI. Old Business

- a. Georgetown University Energy Prize – **Jacqui Bauer – The Program Plan was submitted to GUEP on Monday. It is a plan that will be tweaked as we progress through the competition. We are preparing for a January kick-off of the Energy Challenge. We will pursue the Energy Challenge even if we are not accepted in the GUEP competition, but we are fairly confident we will be accepted. Julie Thomas – we have a broad focus – Residential, Municipal, Education. Bob Austin – Education Committee – we have MCCSC, R-BB, and Harmony School on board. Waiting to hear from Project School. We sent out survey to the other schools (MCCSC already has done the survey) and are awaiting the responses. Ian Yarbrough – Data Committee – residential township-level data is available from the utilities. Need to distribute utility data release forms to the schools now. Need to work on improving municipal data collection for one REMC. Terry Usrey – a meeting was held with Ivy Tech personnel to explore IT technical support for an MCEC website. It may be supported by a service learning project by 5-6 Ivy Tech students led by Diana Nixon. And, we do have a Website now – www.mocoenergychallenge.org.**
- b. City/County Climate Action Plan – **Annelise Huber – the city environmental commission has not yet decided whether or not to pursue a joint city-county Climate Action Plan. A couple issues likely holding this up – one is apparently failure to achieve a quorum at their meetings. Annelise will continue to pursue it.**
- c. Resolution supporting ECI/YPI’s request for the Environmental Rules Board to adopt a rule supporting the creation of a Climate Action Plan by the State of Indiana – **Terry Usrey - There has been a delay in this process. Nothing new to report at this time.**

VII. New Business – **None.**

VIII. Reports from Working Groups

- a. Thomson Property – **Julie Thomas - SCCAP is still looking at this site for greenhouses. Ian Yarbrough – nothing further since meeting with Todd Stevenson last month on erosion. Some erosion may be abating, but some areas still in need of remediation and stabilization.**
- b. Energy
 - i. Awarding of contract on PV panels for the Charlotte Zietlow Justice Building – **Julie Thomas – Solar Energy Solutions of Louisville Kentucky was awarded the contract. For \$160,000 - \$175,000 they will install a system that can generate a total of 93,000 kilowatts annually. SIREN performed a review of the bids. Duke has a moratorium on solar hook-ups until after the first of the year, but system will be operational early next year.**

IX. Reports from Represented Organizations

- a. City of Bloomington – **Jacqui Bauer** –mostly focused on the **Energy Challenge the past month. She will talk to the Mayor to see what the city is going to do. Also, a grant was received to keep the Civil Streets program going.**
- b. Indiana University – **None.**
- c. Monroe County Soil and Water – **None.**
- d. Monroe County Government – **Julie Thomas** – **the county signed a performance Contract with Honeywell. 2015 General Obligation bond is set. \$2.5 million total package, with \$1.5 million in energy efficiency – mostly HVAC, lighting, sealing, building envelope, and water projects. Huge energy savings are expected.**

X. Adjournment – **Meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm.**

Next Meeting Date: **Meeting location was moved to accommodate the County Plan Department's request to use the Nat U Hill room for an Open House room next month. According, the next meeting will be at 5:30pm, Wednesday December 10, 2014, in Room 100B, Showers Building.**