



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."

August 12, 2015

I. Call to Order: Meeting is called to order at 5:32pm by Dave Parsons, Chair.

II. Roll Call: Jerry Ulrey, Peter Iversen, Jacqui Bauer, Dave Parsons, Bob Austin, Clark Sorensen, Kristin Brethova, Julie Thomas.

III. Public Comment: None.

IV. Community Presentation: None.

V. Approval of Minutes

June minutes (no July meeting). Add Jacqui's tip of the day: close your window blinds on a hot day. Bob motions to accept the minutes as corrected, Clark seconds, no objections, motion passes.

VI. Old Business

Monroe County Energy Challenge

- \$160,000 in grants awarded to us so far, just submitted another, would take over \$200,000.
- Lots of outreach to neighborhoods and students right now. Volunteers welcome for home assessments and door-to-door. Move in and utility changeovers are a good time to reach students.
- Data - the 1st quarter progress results are out. We didn't have a great showing, but we've updated our data (there had been an error), so hopefully we'll be up.

VII. New Business

a. Energy Working Group charter and Energy Conservation Opportunity Project Charter

- Peter has also volunteered to be on this working group.
- Documents were provided via email. Goal = find the gaps between the audit and its suggestions and what Honeywell we're doing with Honeywell. Include detail to the level of the 2012 report. And do a project plan for the Annual Report, timeline, what we should produce when.
- Intern? Angie is involved in interview process, starts very soon.
- Schedule in the workplan --> we didn't meet in July, so, push all of those dates back one month.

b. Endorsement of the August 2015 Final EPA Clean Power Plan

- Reminder: Be careful we're not making statement of/for the citizens of Monroe County, but we can "advise and recommend support."
- It seems appropriate that this council would have an opinion on such a thing, but we haven't really had time to look this over... what do we need?
- It's complex – is there an organization from a legal/policy perspective that could better present to the Council? Or, is there something about the Act that will effect Monroe County directly, that we

could advise or comment on? There are obligations for the state, but doesn't filter down to the counties -- unless that's how the State decides to handle it within Indiana.

- It would be nice if we could specifically comment on and address concerns such as, it's job killing, it will drive utility prices up, etc. → We can't really get all the details, because the plan doesn't specify a way to meet the goals, leaves specific methods up to the states to determine. The state won't participate - plans to litigate.
- General agreement that we need more information. Jacqui asks, could we invite HEC (Hoosier Environmental Council) that can speak to the effects on Indiana, what their concerns are, what they hope to see happen, etc.? There might be real interest from the community to attend such an event. That could be at our meeting, or separate event. General agreement that this would fulfill our charge nicely as a commission.
- Who? Should we invite someone from opposing side? Not necessarily, but definitely should invite different stakeholders (HEC, Duke Energy, etc.)
- Getting specific: Interest in a forum style event – the public education part would probably be much more impactful than an endorsement would be. Library auditorium as possible venue. Jacqui and Peter volunteered to help.
- Think about: who we'd like to invite, if there's an existing forum we can partner with, learn more, have a statement for next month if possible.

c. Letter of Support for the Hoosier Energy Solar Farm in Monroe County

- Julie: There is a zoning change the County has to do to make this happen. Best worded as a letter of support for the Ordinance Amendments to go into the petition to the Planning Commission. Case number: 1507-ZOA-03 Solar Farm Amendments to 3 different chapters → take Hoosier Energy out of it, because these are changes that could benefit other residents, businesses, etc. Could be on the agenda as soon as next Tuesday.
- Council supports generally, but hesitant to express specific support for proposed amendments, since the language isn't even available. So, after discussion, the draft looks good now, generally about Hoosier Energy solar farm, not specific amendments.
- We can be vague and express general support for the solar farm now. If there is time, we can go back and support the specific amendments later. Jacqui moves to accept this course of action, Bob seconds, no objections, motion passes.

VIII. Reports from Working Groups

- a. Thomson Property: Table for now.
- b. Energy: Nothing to report beyond those items discussed earlier in the meeting.

IX. Sustainability Tip: Jerry presents the Monroe County Energy Challenge's August task of the month: Cut phantom energy loads by un-plugging electronics when not in use, and using power strips.

X. Reports from Represented Organizations

- a. City of Bloomington: Hoosier to Hoosier, August 22nd. They need lots of volunteers! NCCC Service Corps coming to help with the Energy Challenge. Housing is going to be an issue. Team of 8-12 people, here for about 8 weeks. Full time. Sep 22 -- Nov 6.
- b. Indiana University: Interns! Research projects! Turkish students! DOE/datacenter
- c. Monroe County Soil and Water: Representative not present.
- d. Monroe County Government: New intern coming soon. Honeywell project will be done in Oct. Will now have 152 kW total on Showers and 95.9 kW Zietlow Center.

XI. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Next Meeting Date: 5:30pm, Wednesday September 9, 2015.