



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."

Minutes of the November 18, 2015 meeting of the Environmental Quality and Sustainability Commission

Call to Order at 5:35 pm

Roll Call – Attending were Jerry Ulrey, Megan Darnley, Peter Iversen, Dave Parsons, Bob Austin, Clark Sorensen, Kristin Brethova. Jacqui Bauer. A quorum was present.

Public Comment (5 minute limit) No public comment

Community Presentation – No presentation this month. We discuss future topics and urge members to suggest speakers.

Approval of Minutes - We did not have a quorum in October. We corrected the spelling of Bob Zaltsberg's name in the September minutes. September minutes approved with correction.

Old Business

Monroe County Energy Challenge -- Bob Austin – October 20th Teacher workshop was a success. 20-30 teachers attended, well received. Included take home materials and weatherization kits. Jerry adds this was funded by the Joyce Foundation grant. And Bob adds that the Monroe County Foundation was integral to the event. Peter adds that the social media for the Energy Challenge is doing a good job, he is seeing MCEC frequently on social media.

Jerry Ulrey reports that Georgetown is still working on the first quarter data. Data committee will meet soon to review the first quarter data and prepare the second and third quarter data. Jacqui adds that the Georgetown web site has had problems with displaying data accurately that accurate comparison of different communities is still not possible.

Jacqui adds that MCEC received a Partners for Places grant in partnership with the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County, and with matching funds from Duke to fund a one year full time position for an Energy Outreach Coordinator. Jacqui is advertising and hopes to have a person start in January of 2016.

Clean Power Plan Public Forum – Jacqui, Peter and Dave met. We are still waiting to hear from Janet McCabe's office, the EPA's Office of Air and Radiation, about a possible attendee from their office. We heard from Andrea Drinkard from Ms. McCabe's office saying that they are still focused on dates in 2015 and have not looked at 2016. We have heard from Bob Zaltsberg saying that he is able to be the moderator on all Mondays in January 2016. Kristin asks if we have a backup speaker in mind. Jerry Ulrey contacted an acquaintance in the Kelley School of Business who suggested a SPEA professor who is interested. So far, without a date and commitment from the EPA we have Bob Z. as moderator and potentially, the SPEA professor. Dave has asked the EPA office to suggest what we can truthfully tell potential participants about the EPA's participation. Jacqui and Peter believe we still have time to create this event.

New Business

Reports from Working Groups

Thomson Property – Nothing new. We spend a moment talking about development near the property.

Energy Working Group

Energy Conservation Opportunity Project – Clark reviews the spreadsheet distributed to members. We have identified the ECO's in the 2012 Community Energy Audit. What is needed now is to identify the ECO's that have been completed and then prioritize the items for the annual report. Kristin suggests we get information from Honeywell regarding what has been upgraded and what is contracted to be done.

Dave will talk to Commissioner Thomas about records of work on ECO's in the commissioner's office.

Sustainability Tip

Clark reminds us to keep our tires properly inflated to get better gas mileage. Jacqui suggests using an electric blanket rather than a space heater. Bob suggests wearing more clothes.

Reports from Represented Organizations

City of Bloomington – Jacqui – In addition to the previously mentioned Energy Outreach Coordinator position, Jacqui reports that a proposal for a solar installation project was taken to the Re-Development Commission and received approval to pursue bids. This project has a tentatively approved funding source and a tentative approval for the project in concept. This is a project to install solar panels on City Hall, police headquarters, and the animal shelter. There are still more approval steps necessary but Jacqui is cautiously optimistic that the project will go ahead.

Bob asks about the Tech Park/Trades District and Jacqui explains there is a long term plan to develop a micro-grid for energy that will supply critical energy needs even when the grid is down and this is a first step.

Indiana University – Kristin – Office of Sustainability is hiring a full-time project coordinator. Job is posted. Hoosier-2 Hoosier won the Team Award at the Campus Catalyst event. Working on a bicycle friendly master plan for campus and have renewed the current bicycle friendly campus bronze rating. Renewed the Sustainability Tracking Assessment and Rating system and Kristin is working on identifying gaps and opportunities. Also the Energy Challenge at IU recently wrapped up with great participation from the Greek community, residence halls and department buildings.

Monroe County Soil and Water – No representative present.

Monroe County Government – Megan – Trying to put Green Teams back in action. Will have a survey in the near future to assess interest in energy conservation and its perceived importance. Goal is to have a representative from each County area.

Adjourned at 6:22 pm.