



MONROE COUNTY GOVERNMENT
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
&
SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

Monroe County Commissioners

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

Dave Parsons, Chair
Peter Iverson, Vice Chair
Andrew Guenther, 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.”

February 10, 2016

I. Call to Order at 5:33 PM.

II. Roll Call

- a. Members Present:
 - i. Andrew Guenther, Julie Thomas, Eric Spoonmore, Megan Darnley, Jacqui Bauer, Bob Austin, Clark Sorenson, Dave Parsons, Peter Iverson.
 - ii. A quorum is present.

III. Public Comment (5 minute limit)

- a. Margie Rice, Monroe County
 - i. Margie Rice is the new County attorney. She previously served as the County attorney from 2002 to 2007 before she left to work for the City of Bloomington. She is now the counsel representative to our commission. If we want to have her attend our meetings in the future, we just need to reach out.
- b. Clark Sorenson, Monroe County Solid Waste Management District (MCSWMD)
 - i. Clark is the President of the Citizen’s Advisory Committee for the MC Solid Waste Management District. Currently they have a vacancy and inactive members and are searching for interested individuals to fill these vacancies. This committee worked with the Solid Waste Board. Dave inquired about a previous effort by the MCSWMD to collect methane. Clark responded that it was determined to be financially unrealistic. Anyone interested in applying for this open position can contact Clark, the Solid Waste Board, or the County Commissioners. This committee meets on the third Thursday of “odd-numbered” months at 5:15 PM in the McCloskey Room at City Hall. The next meeting is on March 17th, 2016.

IV. Approval of Minutes

- a. November minutes were still absent.
- b. Andrew asked to amend the minutes to correct the spelling of his last name. Minutes were amended to reflect the attendance at the meeting, as Clark was present while Bob was not. These amendments were accepted and the minutes approved unanimously.

V. Old Business

- a. **Annual Report**
 - i. Megan hopes to complete the annual report soon. Andrew has volunteered to work with her on the temperature normalization portion of the report. We are still

waiting on data related to solar energy use and working on language for the report itself. Dave mentioned we need to include a “Letter from the Chair,” the “Year in Review” and the “Goals and Recommendations.” Dave will write the “Letter from the Chair, Peter will write the “Year in Review,” and both Bob and Dave will work on the “Goals and Recommendations.”

- ii. Dave mentioned another section regarding the Energy Conservation Fund. Due to temperature normalization, some savings estimates were off, so no appropriate was entered. Dave will write this section as well.
 - iii. Megan will keep us updated on future progress on the Annual Report.
- b. **Monroe County Energy Challenge (MCEC)**
- i. There is no data to share currently, but we are working with Georgetown. Due to discrepancies in data processing, their dashboard is not entirely accurate. We are in the midst of putting together the first year report to summarize the efforts of the MCEC. We’ve knocked on 2500 doors, mailed out 23,000 informational pieces, and completed 240 home assessments, to name some of the efforts. This month they are looking towards launching their Workplace Partner Program – any organization of any size can participate. This will help us in our rankings for the competition.
 - ii. One of our programs we are working on is attic insulation, where they will train individuals how to properly insulate an attic. They are currently looking for home volunteers to participate in this program so we can train individuals in houses that need attic insulation. They are looking into an AmeriCorps team to aid in this program. Bob asked about the long-term feasibility of this program continuing into the future. Jacqui replied that we need to pilot it to gauge the level of interest and feasibility.
 - iii. Bob mentioned that the “Lights Out!” campaign has several schools participating. Bloomington South had 100 teachers participate and we are working to determine what savings have occurred because of this. We have weatherization kits that are being requested by the community.
- c. **Clean Power Plan Forum**
- i. The US Supreme Court issued a stay for the Clean Power Plan implementation until an appeals court rules. This will not affect our Clean Power Plan Forum on Monday, February 15, at 6:00 PM in the Council Chambers at City Hall. Parking is free after 5 for residents who plan on driving. We have been collecting questions for the forum, but those in attendance at the forum may submit written questions.
 - ii. We will continue working to advertise this forum more to City/County government, the media, Indiana University, and perhaps inviting Senator Mark Stoops. Peter advised going back through our outreach list and reconnecting with those who did not respond. Bob asked what work is needed on the day of the event, which Dave said was essentially limited to room set-up.

VI. New Business

- a. Elections
 - i. Dave opened the floor for elections for the following offices: Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. Clark nominated Dave Parsons for Chair. Jacqui nominated Peter Iverson for Vice Chair. Peter nominated Andrew Guenther for Secretary.
 - ii. Andrew moved to vote for the candidates as a slate. The motion was seconded and a roll call vote taken.
 - iii. Clark – Aye, Peter – Aye, Bob – Aye, Dave – Aye, Andrew – Aye, Jacqui – Aye.
 - iv. 2016 Officers are:
 - 1. Dave Parsons – Chair

2. Peter Iverson – Vice Chair
3. Andrew Guenther – Secretary

VII. Reports from Working Groups

- a. Thomson Property Working Group
 - i. Bob mentioned a brewery was being established near the Thomson Property and asked if there were commercial opportunities being examined. Julie mentioned that there are limits on what can be built on that property and that commercial opportunities are not being considered at this time. Julie mentioned possible uses, including a solar farm, which does not require much traffic in and out of the property due to the lack of a suitable access road. Bob asked if there were ongoing costs from the property if it remains empty. Julie responded the county occasionally mows the property and that is the only ongoing cost at this time.
- b. Energy Working Group
 - i. Julie sent a list of completed projects and received a memo from Honeywell that indicates the majority of work has been completed. The remaining projects and estimated costs have not been compiled yet, but we have data on completed tasks. The working group needs to compile data on costs from these projects and make recommendations in the future.

VIII. Sustainability Tip

- a. If you look at a roof after it snows and the snow is only along the eaves of the house, that house does not have proper attic insulation! Insulate your attic to save energy and money.

IX. Reports from Represented Organizations

- a. City of Bloomington
 - i. There is a Terrible, No Good, Very Bad Bike Ride on Saturday, February 13th. They will meet at City Hall at 9:45 AM and leave at 10:00 AM. There is a 3 mile and 7.5 mile ride. It is laid back and open to riders of all ages. It is designed to get people familiar with Bloomington's urban biking routes.
 - ii. On February 17th, there is "PowerPoint Roulette," where local celebrities give PowerPoint presentations based on PowerPoints they've never seen. This will raise money for local charities and will happen at the Bishop at 6:00 PM.
- b. Indiana University
 - i. No Indiana University representative present. The IU Office of Sustainability Internship application will be closing shortly.
- c. Monroe County Soil & Water
 - i. No representative present.
- d. Monroe County Government
 - i. Monroe County Commissioners passed an ordinance allowing solar farms to be built in rural agriculture reserve zones, institutional public zones, heavy industrial zones, and light industrial zones. This applies only to county, not city, property. Hoosier Energy indicated they were interested in building a solar farm, but have since decided against it.
 - ii. Eric mentioned he is excited to work with our group.

X. Adjournment

- a. Our next meeting is at 5:30 PM on Wednesday, March 9, 2016 in the Nat Hill Meeting Room at the Monroe County Courthouse.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 6:46 PM.