

Minutes of the DeKalb County Zero Waste Task Force
November 7, 2013
1:15 p.m.

The Zero Waste Task Force of the DeKalb County Board met on November 7, 2013 at 1:15 p.m. in the Conference Room West located in the DeKalb County Outreach Building, 2550 N. Annie Glidden Road. In attendance were Task Force Members Steve Challgren, Deirdre Davis, John Emerson, Connie Handel, Mike Hey, Marc Johnson, Ken Koch, John Laskowski, Greg Maurice, Roy Plote, Jerry Smith, and Christel Springmire. Staff members present: Cindy Capek, Gary Hanson and Jane Lux.

Cindy Capek introduced herself as the meeting facilitator, and noted that Task Force member Rick Olson was unable to attend the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Christel Springmire moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Marc Johnson, and the motion carried unanimously.

Introductions

Each of the Task Members introduced themselves and provided a brief summary of their personal and professional backgrounds.

Suggested Meeting Protocol

Cindy Capek asked that the Task Force review the proposed agenda format for the Task Force. She noted that the Task Force was required to follow the guidelines of the State of Illinois Open Meetings Act, which requires public notification of meetings, posting of agendas, recording of minutes, as well as recording any action taken. The Act also establishes protocol for meeting attendance to include formal as well as informal gatherings, phone, and email communication. Each Task Force member is required to complete electronic training on the Open Meetings Act which can be found at the State of Illinois website, Office of the Attorney General. Marc Johnson asked if the agenda could be modified. Capek explained the agenda could be modified prior to approval of the agenda by the task force. Finally, it was noted that anyone wishing to address the Task Force during public comment should state their name, address and/or association.

John Laskowski moved to approve the meeting protocol, seconded by Ken Koch, and the motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Zero Waste as Guiding Principle

Marc Johnson, County Board Member provided a power point presentation that he had given to the County Board to encourage the adoption of a Zero Waste guiding principal for DeKalb County. The presentation included a definition of zero waste, methods to achieve zero waste, and overviews of several communities who have adopted zero waste policies. He detailed the efforts of Boulder County, Colorado including information on operations, education, funding sources, incentives and more. He commented on the DeKalb County Solid Waste Plan that was adopted in 1995, noting that plans and reports were available at the DeKalb County Health Department website. He then reviewed Zero Waste Solutions and suggested that the Task Force review Boulder County as a good example. The question was raised on how was their program financed, Marc indicated that the voters approved a \$3.50 fee that is billed to the household by the management company.

Facilitator Capek called attention to the Resolution Creating the Zero Waste Task Force that was made available to each member at the meeting. She highlighted the language detailing the responsibilities of the Task Force. The first consideration was to undertake consideration of adopting Zero Waste as a guiding principle within the County Solid Waste Management, and if adopted to identify and evaluate the goals, objectives, policies, programs, tasks and costs associated with implementing a Zero Waste approach to waste management.

DeKalb County Solid Waste Management

Christel Springmire reviewed a power point presentation on the history of DeKalb County's Solid Waste program. In 1993, the County received a grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to assist with compliance with the State of Illinois Solid Waste Planning and Recycling Act. The first phase of the compliance project was the completion of a Needs Assessment in 1994, followed by development of a Solid Waste Plan in 1995. Patrick Engineering assisted with both projects, with the Needs Assessment being a very detailed and lengthy document. The plan was approved in March of 1995 and required that every county have a recycling coordinator. Christel noted that when the plan was being formulated an 18 member citizen advisory group was active in the plan development. Greg Maurice explained that the 1995 original plan had 13 waste reduction recommendations and 2 for disposal. The plan focused heavily on education. Financing of the Solid Waste plan comes from annual tipping fees which are around \$92,000. Upon completion of the 1995 plan, all updates since then have been crafted by staff. The updated plan is approved by the Board of Health, the DeKalb County Planning and Zoning Committee and finally by the DeKalb County Board. All of the information is readily available on the website. Lastly Greg reviewed the 2012 Annual Report of Recycling Rates and different reporting methods to include Recycling Rate and Landfill Rate. The Recycling Rate is dependent on voluntary reporting while the Landfill Rate is actual weight and required by the Illinois EPA.

The question was raised as to waste that comes to the landfill from out of county jurisdictions followed by comments of waste generated in DeKalb going out of county. It was explained that Waste Management weighs all trucks and there is a maximum of 10% of out of county waste at the landfill. With the expansion of the landfill, this number will be capped at 500,000 tons per year. The amount would change should DeKalb County waste increase from current levels. Also, 25% of the waste generated in the county goes out of county and may include construction debris.

Cindy Capek encouraged the Task Force to review all of the material that was available on the DeKalb County Health Department website to assist with their personal education and formulation of concepts and recommendations as the group moves forward.

County Jurisdiction

Gary Hanson, DeKalb County Administrator thanked the Task Force for their participation and time, noting that County Board approved the formation of the Task Force and as a result they are bound by the Open Meetings Act. With 13 members; 7 members constitute a quorum and 4 members are a majority of the quorum, which requires an agenda and compliance with open meetings protocol. He reviewed the timeline for the group and approval process for policy recommendations with the first being the Board of Health, next the DeKalb County Planning and Zoning Committee and lastly the DeKalb County Board.

Gary further explained jurisdictional rights the County might exercise on any policy recommendations. He cited several Attorney General Opinions of the Solid Waste Planning and Recycling Act which

reinforced the ability of County Government to require recycling in incorporated areas such as townships and cities as well as areas within the County. He explained that an approach of collaboration and buy-in would be more successful than imposing policies on local government. Finally he explained that the new Solid Waste Host Fee Agreement will provide approximately \$200,000 annually for the implementation of the solid waste program, or approximately twice the current rate of funding.

Future Meeting Schedule and Agendas

It was agreed that the meetings would be held on first Thursday of the month from 1:15-2:45 PM, with the exception for holiday conflicts or if the Task Force saw a need to add additional meetings. General items noted: (1) A list of members will be distributed to the Task Force at the next meeting. (2) The Task Force would be addressing solid waste and not waste water. (3) Should data be available by municipality; this information was requested. (4) A comment was made on the positive publicity received.

Persons to Be Heard from the Floor

A representative from Nestle Corporation Distribution Center said that the site had a Zero Waste Policy and applauded the efforts of the Task Force. The written policy is on the corporate website.

Adjournment

Greg Maurice moved to adjourn, second by Marc Johnson at 2:17 PM. The next Task Force Meeting will be held on December 5, 2013, 1:15 PM, in the Conference Room West, County Outreach Building, 2550 N. Annie Glidden Road.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Capek
Zero Waste Task Force Facilitator