

Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Zero Waste Task Force at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.

DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Zero Waste Task Force Minutes
April 3, 2014**

The Zero Waste Task Force met on Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 1:15 pm in Conference Room West of the County Outreach Building, 2550 N. Annie Glidden Road. In attendance were Zero Waste Task Force Members Deirdre Davis, John Emerson, Brian Gregory, Connie Handel, Marc Johnson, Ken Koch, Greg Maurice, Roy Plote, Jerry Smith, Christel Springmire and Steve Wolf. Task Force members absent: Steve Challgren and Mike Hey. DeKalb County Health Department staff present: Cindy Capek.

Approval of Agenda

Marc Johnson moved to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Connie Handel. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Jerry Smith moved to approve the minutes as corrected of the March 6, 2014 meeting, seconded by Marc Johnson. The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Cindy distributed a variety of material provided by Mike Hey to include information on a pilot food waste program in Oak Park as well as statistical data on recycling rates and recycling mandates for different states.

Old Business

1. Review of Zero Waste Task Force Concepts: There were no new additions for the list at this time.
2. Revised Meeting Schedule: The Task Force agreed to change the meeting in July from the originally scheduled date of July 10 to July 1, 1:15 p.m., due to staff work conflicts.

New Business

1. Residential Organics: Cindy noted that Mike Hey was unable to attend the meeting due to a last minute conflict but suggested the Task Force review the material provided by Mike regarding the community of Oak Park's Food Waste Pilot Program. The Task Force questioned whether or not the program was still in place, if it had been formally

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adopted, as well as similarities of DeKalb and Oak Park. According to email correspondence, it was noted that this program was still being piloted. The Task Force agreed to ask Mike Hey to provide further information about the program at the next meeting to include successes, challenges, community receptiveness and any other pertinent data. It was noted that implementing a food waste program may not be feasible for certain haulers and that in order to keep organics out of the waste stream incentives may be necessary. Examples included pay as you throw, offering composting machines to the public, establishing regional centers utilizing obsolete hog buildings or construction of new facilities. When asked about the limitations on organics, Christel explained that self-generate waste is not regulated; however, if you accept other waste it would be regulated.

2. Discussion and Recommendations for Tasks #10,11, 12: Christel Springmire reviewed the tasks explaining that these items will not change as we move forward with the adoption of a solid waste plan since they addressed program administration, funding, monitoring, evaluation and legal review. Christel went on to explain that the Health Department was a member of the Product Stewardship Institute, a think tank organization that is committed to impacting legislation both locally and nationally to advance recycling and to have industry be more accountable for recycling their products. An example would be the Illinois E Scrap Law which requires electronics recycling. Current initiatives include carpeting, medication, latex paints, and the packaging industry. Christel said that carpeting and paint recycling were two areas where momentum has grown.

Jerry Smith asked if the state was viewed favorably from an economic development perspective regarding waste regulations. Ken Koch noted that this is generally an industry concern and cited soft drink bottlers who would address items such as water quality and availability. Christel said she believed Illinois is viewed favorably.

3. Discussion of process and report development: Cindy distributed the list of the three Priority areas as determined by the task force at the previous meeting: Curbside Recycling, Commercial Recycling and Harvesting Organics. Within the priority areas; the ideas generated by the Task Force throughout the course of the meetings were then placed in the respective priority areas. The Task Force will utilize this list to begin to develop their recommendations. Should the Task Force determine additional items for consideration; they can be added.

The Task Force was in agreement that we should begin the prioritization process at the next meeting. There was discussion as to the number of recommendations that should be

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made ranging from three to ten, establishing short term and long term recommendations, looking at projects which could be successful in a short time frame, whether or not costs should be considered when making recommendations, and a suggestion that the Task Force continue in some fashion after the report is provided to the County Board.

Roy Plote asked if education was on the priority list. Christel explained that education will always be part of the programs, and that the identified areas were those that would impact the outcome of striving toward zero waste.

The Task Force was in agreement to begin to prioritize recommendations at the next meeting and that each member will have the opportunity for input. Staff will also begin to collect data on financing projects; although some may not be realistic such as the construction and operation of a MRF (County Run Recycling Center).

Persons to Be Heard from the Floor

None.

Adjournment

Christel Springmire moved to adjourn, second by Brian Gregory at 2:35 pm. The next meeting will be held on May 1, 2014, 1:15 pm, in the Conference Room West of the County Outreach Building, 2550 N. Annie Glidden Road. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Capek
Zero Task Force Facilitator