

*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  
July 1, 2014**

The Zero Waste Task Force met on Tuesday, July 1, 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 Steve Challgren, Brian Gregory, Connie Handel, Marc Johnson, Greg Maurice, Roy Plote, Jerry Smith, Christel Springmire and Steve Wolf. Task Force members absent: Deirdre Davis, John Emerson, Mike Hey and Ken Koch,

**Approval of Agenda**

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

**Approval of Minutes**

Steve Wolf moved to approve the minutes of the May, 1, 2014 meeting, seconded by Marc Johnson. The motion carried unanimously.

**Correspondence**

None

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

1. Review Draft Report

Chair Capek commented that the draft of the Zero Waste Task Force Recommendations had been forwarded to the membership for review. She noted that in addition to the report, there were three questions for consideration. The first was whether or not the recommendation of an ordinance included both commercial and multi-unit accounts, second should multi-unit accounts be a phased in process, and finally was the ordinance to be a county wide ordinance or individual ordinances leveraged by municipalities. The three key areas the Task Force was recommending included expanded opportunities for rural recycling, commercial recycling, and harvesting organics. Chair Capek explained that a variety of attachments would be included with the report; all of which were reviewed by the Task Force. These attachments were utilized to educate the Task Force and would be beneficial to the education of the County Board.

Jerry Smith commented that the term commercial recycling may need clarification since this included multi-unit housing. It was suggested that when referenced it would be noted as commercial/multi-unit throughout the recommendations. He also expressed his concern that phasing in commercial/multi-unit recycling did not capture the spirit and discussion of the Task Force; and that it should not be phased. Steve Wolf was in agreement. Brian Gregory commented that for smaller multi-unit housing complexes, with limited parking, this might create some zoning issues if parking space was lost.

There was discussion of the costs to the small business owner if commercial recycling was required. Marc Johnson noted that the details could be worked out which might include options to alleviate costs. Steve Wolf said that he was not sure that there would be additional cost based on his experience at Valley West where recycling was expanded and trash reduced. Steve Challgren noted that the large proportion of waste was coming from larger industries and business; and that it was important to look at the bigger picture. The Task Force agreed that requiring commercial/multi-unit recycling was an important component to reaching zero waste.

The recommendation of an ordinance at the county or local level was debated. Marc Johnson said that in order to get as close as possible to having zero waste, a county wide ordinance made sense. Greg Maurice said that a county ordinance would keep the playing field level; instead of leaving it up to each municipality. There was discussion as to whether or not there would be any flexibility in a county ordinance; and that it may be too rigid. The rate haulers might charge a business or landlord was discussed with concern expressed for large increases. It was noted that education would be important for all commercial/multi-unit accounts.

Jerry Smith explained that he did not think that he nor the task force were equipped to discuss “costs” and pricing strategies, and that this was not part of the responsibilities of the task force. He expressed the need for collaboration and coordination among municipalities. Christel Springmire noted that Kane County has a commercial recycling ordinance which was implemented more than 15 years ago. Steve Challgren clarified that it was instituted in 1996.

The language of the recommendation was reviewed. The Task Force supported eliminating the word “pass” an ordinance; and instead recommends “propose” an ordinance. This will help to bring discussion to the adoption of an ordinance. The change of language will be reflected in the report.

The last topic area was the harvesting of organics and the initiation of a pilot program. The question was raised as to how often organics needed to be picked up; Christel Springmire said once a week; explaining that this could reduce trash pick up to a bi-weekly schedule. The Task Force was in support of implementing a pilot program to harvest organics.

Finally, there was a discussion on whether or not a measurement or goal should be included in the report. There were varied opinions; with the majority of the members of the Task Force

present in favor of adding the goal of reducing the per capita landfill rate by 50% in the next 20 years. (Current rate is 4.28 pounds per person: suggested goal is 2.14 pounds per person)

**2. Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting August 27, 2014**

The recommendations of the Zero Waste Task Force will be presented to the DeKalb County Planning and Zoning Commission prior to full Board review. The Task Force Membership was encouraged to attend the meeting. It was agreed that Steve Challgren will be the Task Force spokesperson.

The regular meeting of the Task Force scheduled for August 7, 2014 was cancelled since the group discussed and approved the revisions to the Task Force recommendations thus completing their work.

**Persons to Be Heard from the Floor**

None

**Adjournment**

Christel Springmire moved to adjourn, second by Greg Maurice at 2:45 pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cindy Capek  
Zero Task Force Facilitator