

*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
March 6, 2014**

The Zero Waste Task Force met on Thursday, March 6, 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, Deirdre Davis, Brian Gregory, Connie Handel, Marc Johnson, Ken Koch, Greg Maurice, Jerry Smith, Christel Springmire and Steve Wolf. Task Force member absent: John Emerson, Mike Hey and Roy Plote. DeKalb County Health Department staff present: Cindy Capek and Jane Lux.

The Task Force introduced themselves to Brian Gregory, City Manager for Sycamore. Brian replaces John Laskowski as a task force member.

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Marc Johnson moved to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2014 meeting, seconded by Connie Handel. The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence

Cindy noted that she distributed an email that was forwarded to her by Dan Kenney on the topic of food composting. Steve Wolf provided the task force with an article on food composting as well.

Jane Lux, Administrator for the DeKalb County Health Department, provided the Task Force with a breakdown of revenue and expenditures for the DeKalb County Solid Waste program. She explained that the average revenue from tipping fees was approximately \$92,500. The Agreement with Waste Management for the landfill expansion will provide an annual contribution of \$200,000, with annual cost of living adjustments to fund the Solid Waste Program. Jane noted that she was unsure of when these fees would be collected but did not anticipate this revenue until sometime in 2015. The tipping fees would no longer be in effect under the new agreement. Mrs. Lux followed with a review of the program expenditures noting that they exceeded total revenue. The deficit is being made up through the fund balance. She explained that the fund balance was diminishing and that \$25,000 needed to be maintained for cash flow.

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Mrs. Lux noted that the Agreement also provides \$25,000 annually for a hazardous waste collection program, four drop boxes for recycled material at no charge, methane recovery program at the landfill and the collection of non-hazardous waste at county facilities.

Old Business

Cindy Capek noted that the ideas generated by the Task Force were updated and that the recommendations presented by Marc Johnson at the February meeting were distributed to the Task Force. She asked for comments or additions to the list. There were none.

It was noted that the meeting schedule was revised to reflect the remaining work projects. Ms. Capek explained that representatives from the Health Department had conflicts with the July 10th meeting and asked the membership to review their availability for a meeting on July 1, 2, or 3. Rescheduling will be discussed at the April meeting.

New Business

The Task Force discussed whether or not they should recommend adopting Zero Waste as a Guiding Principal. Ms. Capek explained that we were half way through the meeting schedules and the group was more knowledgeable on the concept and issues surrounding Zero Waste. The Task Force consensus was that we should move forward however setting an exact date relative to Zero Waste was not realistic. Ken Koch said that we should create intermediate milestones even though some areas were problematic due to current technologies and funding. Marc Johnson said that he favored adopting Zero Waste as a guiding principle, that this was an on-going process and that more attention would be paid to the issue. Jerry Smith commented that by having a guiding principle of Zero Waste we are sending a message to the community. Brian Gregory also supported setting intermittent goals.

Marc Johnson recommended that the Task Force moves to adopt Zero Waste as a Guiding Principle, seconded by Jerry Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

The existing Tasks # 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the Solid Waste Plan was reviewed by staff. Christel said that task 6-1 which includes county wide curbside pick-up as well as multi-family has been met with resistance. Several communities do not have municipal waste agreements; and the resident must contract directly with the hauler as in the case with Sandwich who has three separate companies performing trash removal. Task 7 focuses on Commercial and Institutional recycling. She explained that, a multi-unit of four or larger was considered commercial. Christel commented that the Task Force may wish to make a recommendation with regard to commercial accounts. Task 8 revolved around construction and demolition which was negligible in 2013 due to the economy. In 2012, new laws required that any state funded construction required recycling by the contractor. Task 9 encompassed annual reporting to respective officials. Christel recommended that landfill rate should be reported in the future.

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Steve Challgren asked Christel to name three to four concepts that would have the greatest impact on Zero Waste. Christel responded as follows: harvesting organics since food waste is heavy, addressing commercial recycling and curbside recycling throughout the county. Steve said that we should be focusing on these three items as we begin the recommendation phase of our responsibilities. He said he believed there was sentiment in the business community to support recycling but in the case of commercial accounts we may need to be more aggressive. Marc Johnson said that the County could pass a resolution or ordinance requiring commercial recycling. Christel mentioned Kane County has such a policy. Brian Gregory noted that if an ordinance or resolution were passed, it would require direction and education.

The membership agreed that we focus on these three items as we begin to recommend priorities for the implementation of Zero Waste. They felt we needed more education on food waste and the available alternatives. It was suggested that Mike Hey be contacted to see if he or someone from Waste Management could provide an overview of this topic at the next meeting. Anaerobic and aerobic digesters was discussed, separation of food waste and commercial and residential wastes were a few areas discussed by the Task Force.

Persons to Be Heard from the Floor

None.

Adjournment

Marc Johnson moved to adjourn, second by Steve Wolf at 2:45 pm. The next meeting will be held on April 3, 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