

Indiana Land Resources Council
Thursday, June 24, 2021
Virtual on Microsoft Teams

<u>Members Present:</u>	<u>Others Present:</u>
Seth Harden	Katie Nelson
Kara Salazar	Olivia Wyrick
Mayor DeBaun	Andrew Carty
Beth Tharp	Emily Buice
David Kovich	Haley Mood
Jeff Healy	John Baugh
Jeff Page	Jeff Cummins
	Stacy Herr

1. Call to order at 1:05 p.m.
2. Roll Call of council members – 7 attending
3. Introductions of others on the call
4. Approval of March 22 Minutes
 - a. March meeting minutes were emailed to council members and are available on the website.
 - b. David Kovich made a motion to approve March minutes.
 - i. Jeff Healy seconded the motion.
 - c. Minutes were approved by roll call vote and the following members present voted to approve the minutes:
 - i. Seth Harden
 - ii. Kara Salazar
 - iii. Mayor DeBaun
 - iv. Beth Tharpe
 - v. David Kovich
 - vi. Jeff Healy
 - vii. Jeff Page
5. Katie Nelson presented the 2021 legislative session update:
 - a. Budget - HB 1001 included a \$693,000 cut for ISDA compared to fiscal year 2020.
 - b. Broadband - \$250,000,000 was appropriated for the Next Level Connections grant program.
 - c. Grain Buyers - HEA 1483 made a few changes for the Indiana Grain Buyers and Warehouse Licensing Agency, ISDA's sole regulatory function.
 - d. Home Based Vendors - SEA 185 has led to a summer working group on regulating home non-potentially hazardous food products. Recommendations must be submitted to General Assembly by Dec. 1, 2021
 - e. Carbon Credit Program - SB 373, which did not pass, has led to a summer working group exploring the future of this program in Indiana.
 - f. State Regulated Wetlands - SEA 389 changed the definition of Class II Wetlands.
 - g. Urban Agriculture - HEA 1283 allows for a qualifying farmer to apply for a designated area to be an urban agricultural zone.

- h. Solar Ordinances - HB 1381, which did not pass, would have established default standards for wind and solar projects for local units that hadn't passed standards before July 1, 2021.
 - i. Utility Grade Solar Energy Installation - HEA 1348
 - j. Advisory Planning Law Clarification - HB 1337 did not pass.
 - k. Jeff Healy - The wetlands bill has availability for public comment through June 29th on IDEM's website.
 - l. Jeff Page - Regarding the carbon credit program, in our world we're always looking for ways for private landowners to add value to land. It says that the state can buy land to develop carbon credits through the Benjamin Harrison Trust Fund. Why didn't the bill go through? Indiana is a private lands state and I'm a little concerned about the government buying private land to make profit.
 - m. Katie Nelson - The bill didn't go through because it proposed a big program with no line item in budget to fund it. The role of the working group is to figure out if there is a role for state government and whether it's regulatory or not.
 - n. Jeff Page - If the program is going to open windows for private landowners or if it allows the state to acquire land and capitalize on it more, landowners may feel like they're competing with their own government.
 - o. David Kovich - I don't know a lot about carbon credits. You mentioned that if the state government gets them, they can sell them to someone else. Who buys them?
 - i. Katie Nelson - Carbon credits are developed over time through carbon sequestration and quantified with soil sampling. The credits are then verified by a third party and then can be sold by entities to individuals or corporations. We've seen companies that sell to Amazon, Microsoft, Disney, etc. Carbon credits provide extra money for farmers and are good for the environment. ISDA is focused on making the carbon credit market easy to navigate and voluntary.
6. Andrew Carty presented on current funding opportunities from the American Rescue Plan (ARP):
- a. There are currently multiple stimulus programs but getting access to the funds can be confusing. We help to offer clarifications and streamline the process.
 - b. There are two types of READI grants. One type provides funds that go directly to the state, the other where funds going directly to municipalities.
 - c. In total, ARP has provided \$1.9 trillion in funding nationwide
 - d. At the local level, grants can cover revenue shortfalls, negative impacts on housing, paying salaries for essential workers, investments in water, broadband, etc. These projects have a 3.5-year timeline. The Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) and the National League of Cities can help deal with funds.
 - e. This is the time for the state and localities to think big and creatively to support businesses, advance digital equity, and promote regional growth.
 - f. At the state level, there is a regional growth \$500,000,000 grant program called the Next Level Regional Recovery Program with a max. \$50M per region. You have until July 1st to establish region. This grant can work on talent attraction, bettering quality of life, etc. Regions should engage stakeholders and make a regional development plan. A lack of specificity in the requirements increases flexibility.
 - g. There is a 1:1 local match component and a recommended 3:1 match for philanthropic and private sources
 - h. Recommendation is to take this information back to communities and view this as an opportunity to develop a strong/shared vision for your community and don't forget about farmers and agribusinesses.

- i. Don't forget about smaller pots of stimulus funds for your communities from entities like OCRA and other agencies.
 - j. Jeff Healy - When is money for locales less than 50,000 people going out?
 - i. Andrew Carty - Christmas Hudgens from OCRA can help with this question. I'll get into contact with her and get that information to you.
 - k. Jeff Healy - This money is going straight to communities. They just don't know when.
 - i. Andrew Carty - Do you know if it's still going through the state?
 - ii. Jeff Healy - I'm not sure.
 - iii. Andrew Carty - I'll dig into it for you and share more information with you.
 - iv. Jeff Healy - I appreciate that. Thank you.
7. Kara Salazar provided an update on planning for the Indiana Land Use Summit:
- a. Summit agenda is almost complete. Registration isn't open yet, but it should be live the week of July 12th.
 - b. The summit will be 2 mornings, September 8th and 9th from 9:30-12:30 EST.
 - c. The summit will be virtual, and they are planning to record sessions. Attendance price is \$30.
 - d. The title of the summit is Innovations in Land Use Planning for Agriculture and Natural Resources.
 - e. Agenda summary with concurrent sessions - policy update panel, Matthew Mazotta from MIT keynote (architecture of social space), climate change and renewable energy community planning, community engagement processes for land use planning, innovations in environmental planning, Dr. Sarah Banas Mills from the University of Michigan keynote (proactively engaging your community in planning for solar energy)
 - f. Jeff Cummins - What's a charette?
 - i. Kara Salazar - It's a short intensive planning project the promotes decision making in short periods of time.
 - g. Katie Nelson - Once registration is live, we'll get it to you. Please send it to constituents. It'll also be on the ISDA website and we can help you with it.
 - h. David Kovich - Will you send this agenda out?
 - i. Katie Nelson - Yes.
 - i. David Kovich - Can you go ahead and talk a little bit about instructions to get to the different presentations?
 - i. Kara Salazar - We're currently figuring out how long they'll be up and where to store them. You'll have access to them for sure.
 - j. Jeff Healy and Katie Nelson - Thank you to Kara for leadership on the summit.
8. Katie Nelson led a brainstorm on what's next after Land Use Summit:
- a. We want ideas before the next meeting. Broad discussion from council members? Any public comments?
 - b. Mayor DeBaun - Are we getting specific requests for anything?
 - i. Katie Nelson - The council can promote Kara's materials from the summit by putting them on the ISDA website. Our past project on the solar guidebook has helped communities, but basically no we don't have any specific requests.
 - c. Mayor DeBaun - Any burning topics that staff have that you see proactively that would be of value?
 - i. Katie Nelson - I'd have to think about that more. We're currently thinking a lot about solar and carbon credits, as well as ARP guidance and the summit.

- d. David Kovich - We could focus on different ways to create low impact developments and how to do it and present it to county government. We can also see what ideas we have on what can be done to keep housing afford.
 - i. Katie Nelson - Is this like article you sent out to council members?
 - ii. David Kovich - Yes.
 - iii. Katie Nelson - We'll send it again.
 - e. Jeff Healy - Do you have a resource for understanding the carbon credit plan?
 - i. Katie Nelson - That is one of the problems with carbon credits. Every company is different. I will brainstorm with Shelby and send you a few things. We can also send a summary after the first working group meeting, although the meeting is not open to the public.
 - ii. Kara Salazar - Could you do a resource/guide sheet after meetings conclude to inform our constituencies?
 - iii. Katie Nelson - For our next meeting we could tour the DNR wood bus and have a presentation on carbon credits.
 - iv. Council members liked like this idea.
 - f. Jeff Cummins - We're seeing a need for a community guide on public participation as debates on wind and solar projects increase. Does the Land Use team do any public participation trainings? Is there a need for a program to help massage these debates?
 - i. Kara Salazar - There is a Purdue program called "Facilitative Leadership". Communities can use those techniques, but it depends on context of the debate to determine best fit. A first step would be to start with your local extension office.
 - ii. Jeff Cummins - I know this isn't a new idea. I'm just figuring out who does it.
 - iii. Mayor DeBaun - Public officials look for ways to handle these situations proactively, instead of reactively. Legislators are often wanted to mediate local solar/wind fights, but they can't really do anything.
 - iv. Jeff Healy - Solar parks are developing fast. Communities are trying to adapt. Anything science based that could help local planners.
 - v. Katie Nelson - This is a good idea. After the October meeting which will be carbon and forestry focused, we can spend some time assessing what is currently available as far as resources for public participation. If resources aren't readily available or don't cover what we want them to, perhaps that's a project for the ILRC.
9. Jeff Healy made a motion to adjourn the meeting.
- a. Mayor DeBaun seconded the motion.
 - b. Roll call was taken for adjournment and all members present voted yes to adjourn the meeting.
10. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.