

Environmental Management Policy Committee
NIRPC – Virtual Meeting
April 7, 2022
Minutes

Bill Emerson called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and roll call.

In attendance were Bill Emerson (Lake County), George Topoll (Union Township), Lauri Keagle (DCI), Joe Exl (DNR), Jennifer Gadzala (Chesterton), Kay Nelson (Forum), Cathy Csatari (IDEM), Jenny Orsburn (DNR), Ashley Sharkey (DNR), Katherine Balkema (DNR), and Nancy Moldenhauer (MCSC).

NIRPC staff present were Kathy Luther, Meredith Stilwell, Kevin Polette, and Flor Baum.

The meeting minutes of February 3, 2022 were approved on motion by Lauri Keagle and second by George Topoll.

Public Comments

No public comments were submitted.

Resolution 22-07

Kathy Luther spoke on Res. 22-07, a resolution to adopt the 2017 regional inventory of community greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as the regional baseline for future climate action planning, and for measuring current and future emission-reducing activities. In September 2020, NIRPC authorized the application to the Indiana University Environmental Resiliency Institute for internship and technical support to assist in conducting a regional GHG inventory. In 2021 Lake, Porter, and LaPorte counties, along with 13 municipalities, partook in the development of local GHG emission inventories using 2017 as the baseline. In 2019 the cities of Gary and Michigan City also conducted local a GHG emission inventory using 2017 as the baseline.

On motion by Kay Nelson and second by Jennifer Gadzala, the EMPC approved to recommend Res. 22-07 to the Commission for approval.

NWI Regional Climate Action Planning

Kathy presented on the Regional Climate Action Planning (RCAP) Framework. The 2017 Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GHGE) has been completed in 15 communities within The Region. The 2017 GHGE baseline total for carbon dioxide equivalents were 49M metric tons from sources such as commercial and residential energy, industrial, transportation, solid waste, and water treatment within The Region. The focus was narrowed into three scopes. Scope I focuses on GHGE from sources located within the community boundary. Scope II focuses on GHGE occurring because of the use of grid-supplied electricity, heat, steam and/or cooling. Scope III focuses on all other GHGE that occur outside the community boundary as a result of activities taking place within the community boundary. The RCAP process is slated to form a working group between March through May. The working group will develop and implement outreach and engagement strategies, goals and objectives. A draft of the RCAP framework and development of local CAP support plan and performance metrics is slated for August 2022. By November, the working group will finalize and adopt a NWI regional climate action framework. For more information, please contact Kathy at kluther@nirpc.org.

Partners for Clean Air Promotion

Lauri Keagle (DCI) presented on becoming a partner with Partners for Clean Air (PCA). Drive Clean Indiana's (DCI) mission is to promote fuel and technology-neutral sustainable transportation and

clean energy options in Indiana. DCI's programs improve air quality, promote domestic fuels, reduce dependence on imported oil and supports local jobs and the local economy. Part of DCI's partnership with NIRPC is to manage air quality programming via social media and media relations for NWI PCA and serves on the PCA Steering Committee. PCA is managed by the IDEM NWI office, along with NIRPC support. PCA is comprised of NWI businesses, industries, local governments, and community groups committed to better air quality and public health through voluntary actions. Members develop Air Quality Action Plans designed to be implemented on Air Quality Action Days (May – September) to reduce harmful air pollutants, such as ozone and PM 2.5 (air pollutant). Free annual memberships are available and involve one to three voluntary action commitments, such as recycling or packing a lunch to work. To become a member, go to <https://www.in.gov/idem/partnerships/partners-for-clean-air/>. PCA also awarded \$12.5K in scholarships to five high school seniors in the Region who are planning to pursue careers that will benefit clean air. Furthermore, PCA hosts and participates in a myriad of educational events throughout the year that are aimed at increasing participation in clean air activities. For more information, contact Lauri at lkeagle@drivecleanindiana.org.

Reports from Planning Partners

Lauri Keagle (DCI) presented on the Drive Clean Indiana NIRPC EMPC Report. Please go to <https://files.constantcontact.com/b4f049b7201/1eba7c5f-a4fa-4d1c-a9a0-bdd7587a71c1.png> to view the full report. For more information, please visit <https://drivecleanindiana.org/> or contact Lauri at lkeagle@drivecleanindiana.org

Announcements were made.

The next EMPC meeting is slated for August 4, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in the NIRPC offices.

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:47 a.m.