

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT POLICY COMMITTEE

NIRPC AUDITORIUM, PORTAGE, IN

March 7, 2013

Members/Guests Present: Kevin Breitzke, Geof Benson, Andrew Pelloso, Charlotte Read, Jim Sweeney, Erin Nolan Higgins, Jennifer Gadzala, Leslie Dorworth, Lee Botts, Pat Wisniewski, Nick Minich, Michael Kuss, Arber Himaj, Mardanna Soto, Michelle Caldwell, Ashley Snyder, Deb Backhus, Lauri Keagle, Kris Krouse, Kay Nelson, Dennis Rittenmeyer, Carl Lisek

NIRPC Staff: Kathy Luther, Joe Exl, Amanda Pollard, Bill Brown, Meredith Stilwell

Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Breitzke called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance and self-introductions.

Approval of February 7, 2013 EMPC Minutes

On motion by Geof Benson and second by Mardanna Soto the February 7, 2013 EMPC minutes were approved.

NIRPC Business:

a. **Committee Leadership Appointments**

Kathy explained that NIRPC's new Chairman, Mayor Uran from Crown Point appointed new Committee Chairs, bumping up the former Vice Chairs to Chair. Kevin Breitzke was the former EMPC Vice-Chair and now takes the position of Chair of EMPC for 2013.

b. **TAP Application Approval**

The proposed changes to the TAP application by EMPC were approved by the NIRPC Board at their last meeting. Environmental projects will be receiving 10% of the TAP funding received and should be around \$100k. Projects submitted will need to be from cities and municipalities and not from EMPC.

c. **MS4 Program Update**

For the past eight years NIRPC has been responsible for the public education and outreach and regional aspects of the MS4 Program. With some communities having developed the staff and capacity to handle some of the education and outreach portions and State regulatory agencies requiring communities to have more local participation there was a desire from some of the MS4 partners to revise the program. The revised program will have less funds and NIRPC is moving away from some of the education and outreach portions but will still have a regional media portion and some Hoosier Riverwatch activities and Minimum Control Measure workshops. The six minimum control measures currently required in the storm water permits are public education; public involvement; illicit discharge detection; erosion control in construction properties; post-development controls and good housekeeping.

Presentations:

a. **Green Fleets Program Update** – *Carl Lisek, South Shore Clean Cities*

South Shore Clean Cities has been working with Lake, Porter and LaPorte counties on implementing a green fleet program. There has been work on implementing alternative fuels; award criteria; collaborating on grants and equipment purchases with the focus on improving quality. Any Government entity in Lake, Porter and LaPorte Counties are eligible for the Green Fleet Program. South Shore Clean Cities will be working specifically with two communities or agencies, basically selected on a first come first serve basis, from each county. A solicitation will be sent out requesting participation. Very shortly there will also be opportunities for online training sessions/courses. On behalf of NIRPC, South Shore Clean Cities will provide training on alternative fuels/emission reduction technologies; assist organizations with petroleum reduction opportunities and associated cost savings and provide specific new technology opportunities. A variety of round tables will begin in April with dates to be announced. South Shore Clean Cities is also focusing on the Diesel Oxidation Catalyst (DOC) Program which is available to all government entities in the three counties to retrofit older diesel equipment with DOCs. It is a 100% reimbursable grant/project with around \$170k available on a first come, first serve basis. School buses were done in the first round and the retrofits are around 80% complete. Carl noted some of the planning focuses at the alternative fuel roundtables will be electric vehicle and charging stations; diesel emission reduction, with idle reduction campaigns partnering with NIRPC and the National Park Service; alternative fuel vehicles; alternative fueling infrastructure and the Green Fleet Program. Information about compressed natural gas (CNG) will also

be coming out. South Shore Clean Cities is attempting to train and ready communities to have the right ordinances in place for electric, CNG and propane vehicles. Upcoming South Shore Clean Cities events were reviewed by Carl. The region has shown the biggest increase of biodiesel usage in the country and the majority of mills are currently using a variety of blends of biodiesel. Implementation of biodiesel at US Steel began about five years ago as a pilot program and has now gone worldwide in all their equipment. Discussion took place regarding a natural gas corridor project with Fair Oaks Farm and cost savings of alternative fuels over gas and diesel. Carl stressed establishing partnerships is a big thing. A dialog was held regarding the status of the Idle Air program. Michael Kuss reminded the group of the CNG symposium held in Michigan City last year that included representatives from several states and they are hoping to do another this year. Michigan City has a CMAQ grant to pay for about 80% for a vector truck and is out on bid currently. A new natural gas refuse truck is also going to be purchased. Lee Botts thanked Carl for his persistence in aided the Dunes Learning Center with the progress in their transportation issues. Providing success stories and cost savings were brought up as ways to handle negativity regarding CNG.

Announcements:

Deep River-Portage Burns Waterway TMDL Meetings

When: Wednesday, March 13, 2013

2:00 p.m. Meeting – Lake County SWCD & Extension Office
800 E. 99th Ct., Suite A, Crown Point, IN 46307

6:00 p.m. Meeting – Portage Lake Front and River Walk
100 River Walk Dr., Portage, IN 46368

Joe Exl Reminded the group that it was the EMPC that got the project going by submitting a NIRPC Board approved letter to IDEM. The hopes are the study will support the development of a watershed management and implementation plan. The 319 grant application submitted by NIRPC has made the first cut through IDEM and has gone to EPA for further review.

World Water Day Summit **Registration required

When: Friday, March 22, 2013 / 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m..

Where: Purdue University Calumet

2200 169th Street, Hammond, IN 46323
Student Union and Library, Room with a View, First Floor (Enter off 173rd Street)

Registration Required: <http://webs.purduecal.edu/pwi/wwd/>

Partners for Clean Air Annual Luncheon Meeting **Registration required

When: Thursday, April 18, 2013 / 11:00 a.m.

Where: Lost Marsh

1001 129th St., Hammond, IN 46320

Registration Required: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/5P9SYK6>

Calumet Summit 2013: “Connecting for Action”

When: May 14-15, 2013 – Save the Date – agenda and logistic details coming...

Where: Marquette Park Pavilion

1 N Grand Blvd., Gary, IN 46403

Contact Information: Mark Bouman mbouman@fieldmuseum.org (312)665-7466

Environmental Boot Camp **Registration required

When: May 7 - 9, 2013

*Full Pass - \$85.00 - *2 Day Pass \$65.00 - *1 Day Pass \$45.00
(Lunch and snacks included)

Where: NIRPC

6100 Southport Rd., Portage, IN 46368

Registration Required: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/WXZVMB9>

Kathy explained that the event is an EPA events hosted by NIRPC. The boot camp is targeting local government officials. Day one and two will cover rules that should be followed in day to day operations and managing properties and day three will cover applying the information covered in day one and two, as well other information, in brownfield remediation. The group was encouraged to talk to the local governments about attending. Actual sites from Gary, Hammond and East Chicago will be used as examples.

Get Outdoors Day, Open House

When: Saturday, June 8, 2013

Where: Dunes Learning Center

700 Howe Rd., Chesterton, IN 46304

Contact Information: Geof Benson gbenson@duneslearningcenter.org (219)395-9555

Earth day is Monday, April 22 and there will be an event at the Porter County Expo center on Saturday, April 20.

Chairman Breitzke encouraged the group to watch the movie *Everglades of the North* about the Kankakee River. The DVD has been shown Lakeshore Public Television and they can be contacted to purchase a copy. The DVD was produced by meeting attendee Patty Wisniewski, as well as Jeff Manes, Brian Kallies and Tom Desch. Patty noted they are talking about creating a similar story up north and showing all the restoration efforts.

Kay Nelson briefed the group on her recent trip to Indianapolis where she discussed the current state of affairs and concerns with Tom Easterly, Bruno Pigot, Keith Bogus, Bruce Palin and Dan Schmidt. She noted the next Environmental Rule Making Board will be hearing an emergency rule for the ozone redesignation for this area and the PM2.5 for Marion County at their next meeting. She also spoke about her trip to Washington where she had discussions with Congressman Visclosky, Senators Coats and Donnelly, Representative Stutzman and others, including a General from the US Army Corps of Engineers, on issues that included the change in Asian Carp markers and the Great Lakes Mississippi River Interbasin Study.

Geof Benson updated the group regarding the Town of Pines situation. He met with the Pines Town Council, Larry Jensen and Paul Kysel along with Congressman Visclosky, Mark Lopez and Nancy Adams. Since the meeting Mark Lopez has contacted Geof and stated he is meeting with the EPA to find out where things stand and ask questions. Dennis Rittenbacher and Kathy Luther discussed their offers to garner university assistance regarding the testing of the site in question, but neither has heard further word regarding the offers. Dennis stated he is still willing to establish that university connection.

The next EMPC meeting will be April 4, 2013.

Meeting adjourned.