

Environmental Management Policy Committee

Lake Michigan Room

<https://www.youtube.com/live/JOxXk72Cpq4?si=G4I4HrGeSTvouUtl>

May 2, 2024

Minutes

Bill Emerson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Emerson, Joe Exl (LMCP), Silvia Lombardo, Nicole Mesinger, Phil Gralik, Reggie Korthals (MS4), Andy Vazques, Bonnie Hawksworth (Dune Acres), Kay Nelson (Forum), Kathy Sipple, Nancy Moldenhauer, and Ryan Lisek (DCI) were in attendance.

NIRPC staff present were Kathy Luther, Tom Vander Woude, Grace Beninger, Kevin Polette, and Flor Baum.

The meeting minutes of February 1, 2024, were approved on motion by Reggie Korthals and second by Andy Vazques.

Public Comments

No public comments were submitted.

NIRPC Committee Restructuring

Kathy Luther spoke on the 2024 committee restructuring. The current committee will be put into NIRPC's statutory areas. Streamlining the committees aligns with the focus of the *NWI 2050+* Plan.

- The Technical Planning Committee (TPC), the Transportation Resource & Oversight Committee (TROC), the Surface Transportation Committee (STC), and the Ped Pedal & Paddle Committee (3PC) will be placed into the Transportation Committee.
- Freight, local government assistance, the Economic Development District, and the Land Use Committee will be placed into the Economic Development Committee.
- The Environmental Management & Policy Committee (EMPC) will remain the same.

The EMPC started in 1995. Seven goals were presented, among them being to educate and hold discussions on environmental issues in the Region. Other goals set for EMPC included forming coalitions and providing a vision for area-wide sustainable development. Attendance was also discussed. Over time, attendance has declined.

Municipal Stormwater Permitting

Reggie Korthals presented on Maximizing the Effectiveness of Your Public Education, Outreach, and Participation MCM with a Campaign. Stormwater management education is most effective when applied on a regional scale, creating collaboration opportunities within neighboring jurisdictions and watershed organizations. Material distribution and determining appropriate best-management practices were discussed. A regional campaign should reach a diverse audience. Local strategies should be used to address the concerns of various communities, including disadvantaged and minority groups. Social Media and internet-based outreach is also important. The Northwestern Indiana Stormwater Advisory Group (NISWAG) has started a regional process incorporating public meetings, volunteer water quality monitoring, volunteer educators/speakers, storm drain stenciling, community clean-ups, and "adopt a storm drain" programs. Building on the NISWAG regional process was discussed. For information, contact Reggie at reggie.korthals@ohm-advisors.com.

Climate Action Plan Updates

Kathy Luther presented the Climate Action Planning (CAP) updates. Indiana is identifying potential projects for inclusion in IDEM's CPRG implementation application. This project intake proposal requests any projects a municipality, local government, non-profit organizations, or private sector companies that IDEM may partner with to receive funding under the CPRG Ph II Implementation Grants General Competition program (CRPG). IDEM used Implementation Grant Evaluation Criteria to develop a project intake proposal identifying the measures eligible for immediate implementation projects. IDEM's draft measures were discussed, which include sectors in transportation, waste & materials management, residential & commercial buildings, industry, electric generation, and agriculture/natural & working lands.

Announcements

Announcements were made.

Reports from Planning Partners

For more information on events and programs with Drive Clean Indiana, please visit <https://drivecleanindiana.org/>.

The next EMPC meeting is slated for May 2, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the NIRPC offices.

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.