

CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CAC)
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2010
TIME: 5:15 P.M.
LOCATION: CITY HALL
MCCLOSKEY CONFERENCE ROOM
BLOOMINGTON, IN 47401
(812) 349-2020

CALL TO ORDER
5:20 p.m.

INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES

Tim Frazier
Jim Tolen
John Arnold
Kyla Cox
Steve Akers
Kevin Dogan

Scott Morgan, Director of Operations, MCSWMD
Steven Boggs, Indiana Department of Environmental Management

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dogan moved to approve and Tolen seconded.

MEMBERSHIP

Akers introduced Tim Frazier, new member of the CAC. Frazier said being responsible with waste is something he has worked on for some time personally and with Regions Bank. Akers said he would be a good addition to the board. Tolen welcomed Frazier and said congratulations to Dogan for his appointment to the county legal staff.

Akers said that B. Cox will be stepping away from co-chair and Akers and Barker asked Jerry Jochim to step in as interim co-chair.

STEVEN BOGGS, INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Boggs said IDEM has been collecting data on a volunteer basis and gathered information about operations, such as how much materials are collected and who is served. Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) programs do a lot with a little money, and at this time when budgets are threatened, it is easy for HHW budgets to be cut. The state has discontinued the HHW grant program along with others. Boggs said it would be a good time to do a report on the tangible benefits of HHW programs. It can be hard to measure and show the benefit of something that didn't happen, since it is about prevention. Akers asked what kinds of substances are within HHW. Boggs said pesticides, herbicides, motor oil, bleach, gasoline, such as leftover gas in the garage. Boggs said that IDEM gets phone calls from residents about HHW disposal. Tolen asked if prescription drugs fall into the category of HHW and Boggs said they do. Akers asked if Morgan has noticed an impact due to budget cuts. Morgan said to date, no, but next year the district may see some impact. Boggs said the district has already taken budget saving moves, such as charging for latex paint. Boggs said that latex paint can be safely disposed in the trash. Akers asked if the district offers free paint to community members who could use it, and Morgan said yes. Boggs said that is the great thing about the Monroe program. Boggs said HHW programs are very popular and people see them as having value, but that value is not always transferred to the people who make the budgets.

Akers asked if viewers could do anything to support the program. Boggs said all the districts around the state have some form of HHW programs, and talking to local representatives is a good idea so that they know it is valued. Akers asked how is the grant availability for the grants from the state. Boggs said it is still true that much of it is gone, and IDEM doesn't know when they will come back. HHW is still more

problematic than the recycling, which has a more dedicated source of funding. Boggs said that HHW funding has traditionally come from money that is for HHW clean-ups and that fund is pretty much exhausted. Dogan asked how many local programs have ceased operation with the expiration of the grants and tighter budgets. Boggs said he has not heard of any ceasing, though some may have reduced their programs. Boggs said there are alternatives, like charging fees, but the point of HHW programs is to keep waste out of the waste stream to reduce future expenses, and charging fees creates reduced attendance. Boggs said he is an advocate for charging for some things that aren't really that hazardous, but electronics disposal charges seem very reasonable. Akers asked Morgan if he sees any change this year, and Morgan said he has no indication that anything will change. Morgan said it has been discussed that charges can be implemented on other programs to offset costs. Morgan said that success comes with a price tag because the more materials disposed of, the more it costs. Morgan said it is much cheaper to do it in a proactive manner instead of a reactive manner. Morgan said that data has shown that product has gone down due to lack of advertising. Akers said it seems that there should be programs to recoup the funds on the front end of the sale, like motor oil disposal at the retailer. Morgan said that used motor oil brings in revenue, unlike many other HHW items. Boggs said that there has been a push for retailers to chip in.

Tolen asked if the district has discretion on the kinds of products. Boggs said there are some expectations, there is a state law that requires the collection of mercury and mercury-containing items. Boggs said no one dictates the manner in which they do it, and some have just a one-day event. Akers mentioned that ReStore is a good place to drop things off and buy used products. Morgan said that ideally one would only purchase what they need and take a proactive approach. Dogan said that being proactive means only buying the most toxic items when necessary and buying the less-toxic items when possible. Morgan said that when Elisa Pokral does her presentations, she focuses on that idea. Boggs said he is constantly referring people to Washington Toxics Coalition. They have huge amounts of information on the topic of buying the least hazardous items. Boggs said IDEM did a grant for ReStore that funded a truck to remove items from houses that will be demolished. Tolen said ReStore has been a great asset to the district in the Bulky Item Days. Tolen said they use discretion, which is good to keep useless items out of the store. Akers said that Hoosier Disposal provided the disposal, which was nice.

SCOTT MORGAN, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Morgan said that the Spring Bulky Item Days will be April 9 and 10 and exactly like what's been done in the past. K. Cox mentioned that the new reusable bags will be distributed. Frazier asked if it takes place at the South Walnut location and Morgan said that it will take place at the Fairgrounds and that a CAC member will greet participants with a reusable bag and then participants drive on to dispose of their items as needed. Akers explained the waste disposal and said that it was very well managed. Dogan said that most of the materials that get reused are furniture. Akers said ReStore and St. Vincent DePaul picked up reuse in the past. Akers explained that the bags contained items about the district.

Morgan said that Fall Bulky Item Days will be October 8 and 9. Morgan said that in today's H-T there was a press release about the sidewalk program, which allows community members to drop off and pick up reuse materials. It initially said it would be closed on Tuesdays and Saturdays, but there was a retraction and they will be open on T-S, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. It closes one half hour earlier than the Station to give time to clean up. Dogan asked how the capacity was, and Morgan said the facility as a whole is maxed out on space. Morgan said a lot of people are using the services. Dogan asked if all rural stations have a reuse area, and Morgan said yes.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY

Akers said that on April 8, 9, and 10 IU will hold the second e-waste collection days at the Purple Lot of the Stadium. Akers listed many electronics, including most computer waste, cell phones, and office equipment. Akers said it does not include hazardous waste. Akers said there is an effort for cell phone recycling, and Dogan said there are a number of charitable organizations that will refurbish them for reuse. Dogan said the timing of the e-waste days and bulky item days is ideal because both groups can do referrals. Akers said he will notify the intern who is managing it. K. Cox asked if there would be a specific day designated for the public, and Akers said he would look into that. Akers said they recycled almost 800,000 pounds, and they are hoping to hit a million. Frazier asked how it is publicized to the business community. Akers said last year it was put out on the H-T, IDS, and CATS TV. Frazier recommended

sending notification to the business community, such as IT departments and operations managers. Frazier said that he would mention it at an upcoming Chamber meeting. Akers said that the Web site for electronics waste is www.indiana.edu/~sustain.

Tolen asked if the Greening of the IMU grant is in danger and Akers said no, the project is up and running.

OLD BUSINESS

Akers said that he and Barker reviewed the membership roster. Akers said that he called Michael Cullers and he will be calling back to let us know if he will be able to join us. Akers said he called Warren Henegar and he has a meeting conflict but remains a supporter. Jennifer Larson has a class conflict and will be stepping away for the semester. Akers said that Barker informed him that the CAC needs to have a private disposal representative on the committee, so Akers contacted Ron Howard at Hoosier Disposal who may join us. Morgan said he spoke to Howard and he had hoped to make it this evening. Shelby Walker and Barker will remain ex-officio members. Dogan asked if the board has approved the appointments, and Akers said that Frazier was approved at the January meeting. Akers said that the CAC would continue to recruit members from the county. Dogan asked how long B. Cox intends to step aside, and Akers said he didn't know. Dogan said it would not be unreasonable for someone to take a definitive period, like a semester, off, but it would be best if someone step down and be reappointed at a later date if it is indefinite or a long period.

ADOPT-A-ROAD

Akers reminded the CAC that the group did adopt a road, which is Old 37 S from Rhorer to Wayside Road. K. Cox suggested that the CAC consider doing a pick-up in March and watch the instructional video in February. It was determined that CAC members would watch the video via the Internet using a laptop and projector. Akers said he would check with Jochim about borrowing a projector.

2010 MEETING SCHEDULE

Akers said that there is a schedule included in the packet and the next meeting will take place February 23, 2010.

ADJOURNED

6:15 p.m.