

Environmental Management Policy Committee

NIRPC – Virtual Meeting

April 1, 2021

Minutes

This meeting was convened as an electronic meeting, pursuant to Governor Holcomb's extended Executive Order 21-03. All persons were meeting remotely on a Zoom platform that allowed for real time interaction and supported the public's ability to observe and record the proceedings. When the agenda item was provided for public comment, this was supported as well. A roll call was taken to motion and approve the agenda items.

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

In attendance were Bill Emerson (Lake County), Brenda Scott-Henry (Gary), Geof Benson (Beverly Shores), George Topoll (Union Township), Kay Nelson (Forum), Lauri Keagle (SSCC), Susan MiHalo (Nature Conservancy), Jenny Orsburn (LMCP), Jan Bapst (Dune Acres), Celeste Kopperl, Dalia Zygas (Michigan City), Doreen Carey, Kathy Sipple, Nancy Moldenhauer, Sarah Nimetz (La Porte), and Heather Ennis (Forum).

NIRPC staff present were Kathy Luther, Meredith Stilwell, Candice Eklund, Joe Exl, Kevin Polette, Scott Weber, and Flor Baum.

The meeting minutes of January 7, 2021 were approved on motion by Jan Bapst and second by Susan MiHalo. A roll call was taken, and the committee voted unanimously to approve.

There were no public comments.

Kathy Luther reported on the Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory Project. There are 14 jurisdictions that committed to the project, including all three counties. All participating communities will receive an invoice from ICLEI to get the software. Kathy Sipple selected four additional interns, totaling six interns that will assist in completing the project. Kathy Luther will send out a survey to all participating communities. There will be a Cohort Kickoff webinar on May 6. Kathy Sipple added that they are looking forward to the next phase which is the Climate Action Plan. Funding will be needed to offer that to communities.

Celeste Kopperl and Brenda Scott-Henry (Gary) spoke on their previous experiences with NWI Climate Cohort. The City of Gary signed the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy agreement in 2017. They completed the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories in 2019. It is encouraged to identify resources like the department of energy and their better buildings as they are equipped with information to better help you collect data. A Climate Resolution was introduced, and the Climate Action Plan begins in the summer of 2020. The Resolution of the Common Council of the City of Gary regarding climate resilience and recovery directs The City to develop a Climate Action Plan that is data-driven and outlines emissions reduction strategies. They also oversee the planning and implementation process. Gary's departments and agencies coordinate to reduce emissions and prepare for climate change impacts. Community-wide emissions inventory for 2017 was presented. The inventory included but was not limited to transportation, industrial processes and products, and solid waste. The Climate Action Plan focuses on energy, air quality, environmental justice, waste, and wastewater. It will be introduced to the Gary Common Council by the end of 2021. Only local data was collected for the transportation sector. Laurie Keagle from South Shore Clean Cities can

assist in gathering transportation data. Regulated landfills report their information to IDEM. Please contact Brenda at bhenry@gary.gov or Celeste at eaintern@gary.gov with any additional questions.

Dalia Zygas and Nancy Moldenhauer (Michigan City) spoke on their 2017 experience with Northwest Indiana Climate Cohort. The Sustainability Commission (SC) has taken the lead on all of Michigan City's initiatives. Michigan City currently has not worked on a Climate Action Plan but are hopeful that the American Rescue Plan will have environmental leverage to do so. Thanks to the data collected, The Sustainability Commission placed recycling bins into all the city's parks. The lakefront beach is scheduled to have recycling bins as well. The SC is in the process of getting citizens signed up for Carbon Neutral Indiana where they offset their carbon use in various ways. The city has won grants for Electric Vehicle Charging Station. There are plans to hire solar installation contractors in the city as well.

Announcements were made. Lauri Keagle (SSCC) shared funding and educational events. For more information, please visit www.southshorecleancities.org or contact Lauri at lkeagle@southshorecleancities.org

The next EMPC meeting is scheduled for June 3, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the NIRPC offices.

Hearing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:11 a.m.