



# Kane County

## KC Energy and Environmental Committee

Government Center  
719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. A  
Geneva, IL 60134

### Meeting Minutes

BATES, Tarver, Allan, Kious, Penesis, Strathmann, Young, ex-officios Roth (County Vice Chair) and Pierog (County Chair)

---

**Friday, September 12, 2025**

**9:00 AM**

**County Board Room**

---

**1. Call To Order**

Chairman Bates called today's meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

**2. Roll Call**

<b>PRESENT</b>	Board Member Mavis Bates Board Member Deborah Allan Board Member Chris Kious Board Member David Young Ex-Officio County Board Vice Chair Bill Roth
<b>REMOTE</b>	Board Member Ted Penesis Board Member Cherryl Strathmann
<b>ABSENT</b>	Board Member Bill Tarver Ex-Officio County Board Chair Corinne M. Pierog

Also present: Co. Bd. members Gripe, Juby\*, Lewis, Molina\*; Environ & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik; Recycling Coordinator Ryan; Sustainability Mgr. Hinshaw and staff Powell; Spec. ASA Shepro; ITD staff Kash; and members of the press and public.

**3. Remote Attendance Requests**

Chairman Bates announced the remote attendance requests for today's meeting. She asked if there were any objections to Committee Members Penesis and Strathmann attending remotely. There were no objections.

**4. Approval of Minutes: August 15, 2025**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Chris Kious

**5. Public Comment (Agenda Items)**

Committee Member and Kane County resident David Young addressed trans-gender violence, domestic terrorism acts, and hate crimes happening in the United States. Young stated that these violent actions were all performed by members of the LGBTQ group. He stated that the Democratic Party embraces this group and the culture of evil. Young expressed his concerns on when the LGBTQ group will be denounced by Democratic leaders.

**6. Environmental (J.Wollnik)**

**A. Environmental Management's FY2026 Budget Presentation**

Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik stated that the Development Committee is this department's primary committee to report to. She provided a chart listing all environmental and water resources and subdivision staff members. She provided an overview of the general fund budget. She compared the 2024 actual expenses to the 2026 proposed amounts, along with their differences. Wollnik also included the 2025 budget showing the salary and commodity variations. In total, the department is \$8,600 above the 2024 budget for salaries. This increase is due to the 2% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) provided in the 2025 budget. Commodities are slightly above by \$1,682. This increase is due to licenses for professional engineering, as well as certification for the flood-plane managers. In total, Wollnik stated that the 2026 budget is above the 2024 budget by \$11,235. An increase for Storm Water fees has been requested. Staffing hourly rates are higher than they were in 2019. She anticipates a conservative increase in revenue of \$5K due to a higher volume of solar applications submitted. She noted that currently there is no revenue being generated for zoning petitions. By adding a zoning fee, it could provide an increase to the General Fund of \$2,500. This could cover the difference between the 2024 and 2026 budget. An increase of \$6,185 from the 421 Fund Electric Aggregation to the General Fund was suggested. This increase would cover additional staff and salaries for programs. A 3% decrease from the 2024 to 2026 budget is being accomplished by moving \$70K in salary and benefits to the Riverboat Fund 650. Further discussion ensued.

**B. Kane County Groundwater Study Update**

Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik provided an update on the Kane County Groundwater Study. She stated that the Illinois State Water survey is in the process of installing monitoring wells in Northern Kane County. They are also working on the chloride modeling of the shallow groundwater system. Wollnik explained that one of the biggest impacts to shallow groundwater is reduction in stream base flow. This creates an ecological challenge causing dry streams. She explained that low flow in streams occurs after a period of no rain. The majority of the time the base flow is occurring due to effluent discharges into the stream, or due to groundwater discharges flowing through the subsurface. She shared a graph depicting the sub-watershed demands. The Mill Creek watershed has shown to have a significant amount of demand due to withdrawals, and shallow aquifer usage. Overall, the sustainable usage varies in sub watersheds throughout the county, and effluent flows are offsetting the base flow loss. In regards to the chloride data sources, Kane County Communities provides 290 observations from 17 wells, and the Illinois Groundwater Database provides 84 observations from 9 wells. In total, there were 502 groundwater observations used in the modeling process. Wollnik explained that utilizing the land use data to input potential milligrams per liter of chlorides within the aquifer system is the primary focus when looking at modeling chloride. More information will be presented at next month's meeting. Much discussion took place.

**C. Authorizing Amendment to Master Power Supply Agreement for the Kane County Electrical Aggregation Program (RFP# 25-035-TK)**

KC Executive Committee

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE</b>
<b>TO:</b>	KC Executive Committee
<b>MOVER:</b>	Chris Kious
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Deborah Allan
<b>AYE:</b>	Mavis Bates, Deborah Allan, Chris Kious, and Cherryl Strathmann
<b>NAY:</b>	David Young
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Bill Tarver, and Corinne M. Pierog
<b>AWAY:</b>	Ted Penesis

**7. Recycling/Solid Waste (C. Ryan)**

**A. Recycling Program Update**

Recycling Coordinator Ryan provided a modified poster of the Blue Bin Recycling Guidelines that will be displayed in Building A. The poster shows examples of specific items to recycle and items that are either trash or special recycling. She announced that the last fall shred event of the year will be on Saturday, September 27 at the Circuit Clerk's Building. The event will focus on collecting shredding materials, clothing and textiles, shoes, small home goods for reuse, latex paint for recycling, and bicycles for reuse. Lastly, Ryan announced that the launching of the Regional Recycling Education and Outreach Campaign will begin late October. More details will be presented at next month's meeting. Further discussion took place.

**8. Sustainability (S.Hinshaw)**

**A. Presentation on Grant for Residential Energy Efficiency in Neighborhoods (GREEN) from Max Weiss MPA, Assistant City Administrator and Project Manager, City of Batavia**

Sustainability Mgr. Hinshaw introduced Assistant Project Manager for the City of Batavia, Max Wise, to present information on the GREEN Program.

Assistant City Project Manager for Batavia, Max Wise, stated that the GREEN program stands for Grants for Residential Energy Efficiency and Neighborhoods. The program provides free home audits for energy efficiency improvements and upgrades to Batavia residents. He stated that the program is funded by the city's six-cent share of the single-use bag fee. After completing a Request for Approval (RFP), a contractor based in Batavia called Sustainability Ability Construction was chosen. This company will perform the energy audits for the program, coordinate scheduling with residents, manage liability waivers, and ensure building codes are adhered to. Wise added that the city allocated \$95K in year one of the program, which allowed the program to serve twenty-five residents. To be eligible for the program, residents must meet the requirements which include being a Batavia resident, or current on all bills, and have no code violations. Wise noted that low income residents are eligible for grants up to \$3K, and non-low income residents are eligible for grants up to \$1K. These grants are offered for home improvements such as insulation, air sealing, and energy-efficient appliances. There were a total of 160 applications that were submitted this year. (Committee Member Allan arrived at 9:22 a.m.) By the end of the program, there will be more data analysis available to determine the effectiveness of the recommendations. More reports and results of the program will be presented at next month's meeting. Further discussion took place.

- B. Authorizing the Provision of Funds to the City of Batavia for the Implementation of an Energy Efficiency Program

KC Finance and Budget Committee

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE</b>
<b>TO:</b>	KC Finance and Budget Committee
<b>MOVER:</b>	Chris Kious
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Mavis Bates
<b>AYE:</b>	Mavis Bates, Deborah Allan, Chris Kious, Ted Penesis, and Cherryl Strathmann
<b>NAY:</b>	David Young
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Bill Tarver, and Corinne M. Pierog

- C. Approving FY2026 Operations and Maintenance Agreement with USGS for the Stream and Rainfall Gages

KC Finance and Budget Committee

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE</b>
<b>TO:</b>	KC Finance and Budget Committee
<b>MOVER:</b>	Chris Kious
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Cherryl Strathmann
<b>AYE:</b>	Mavis Bates, Deborah Allan, Chris Kious, Ted Penesis, Cherryl Strathmann, and David Young
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Bill Tarver, and Corinne M. Pierog

## 9. New Business

Committee Member Young stated that ComEd bills have increased. He discovered that the reason for this is due to coal-fired power plants potentially being shut down, which will cause states to purchase energy from other states. He shared his concerns for this increase and asked what can be done.

Chairman Bates stated that the State Legislators and several environmental groups are working on implementing renewable energy online for wind and solar. She stated that the main reason for the increase in electrical rates is due to the increased electricity use from data centers, and artificial intelligence. Currently, the most affordable energy is renewable energy through solar panels.

**10. Chairs Comments**

Chairman Bates stated that she visited the Fabyan Recycling Center and thanked Recycling Coordinator Ryan for all her hard work on the event.

**11. Reports Placed On File**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Chris Kious

**12. Executive Session (if needed)**

None.

**13. Adjournment**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	David Young
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Chris Kious

This meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Rachel Santora  
Recording Secretary