



# Kane County

## KC Energy and Environmental Committee

### Meeting Minutes

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

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**Friday, May 17, 2024**

**9:00 AM**

**County Board Room**

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**1. Call To Order**

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

**2. Roll Call**

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

Also present: Co. Bd. members Daugherty\*, Gumz\*, Juby\*, Lewis, Linder\*, Molina\*; KC Development Exec. Planner Karen Miller; Sustainability Mgr. Hinshaw; Recycling Res. Coordinator Ryan; Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik; Spec. ASA Shepro\*, ASA Cermak\*; ITD staff Peters; and members of the press and public.

**3. Remote Attendance Requests**

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

**4. Approval of Minutes: April 12, 2024**

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

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

Kane County resident Michelle Bettag spoke on the struggling business owners within the county. She encouraged the Committee to talk with local business owners.

Kane County resident Victoria Davidson-Bell spoke on the tree ordinance. She stated that it is important to be intentional about when to choose to move a tree. Davidson-Bell stated that she endorses the Climate Action Plan. She believes this plan is needed for the county, and believes climate change is real.

Kane County resident Pam Gripe spoke on the removal of gas powered landscape equipment and machinery and how it will affect the economy of Kane County. She stated that being required to get a permit to remove a tree does not solve the problem. She believes that requiring contractors to provide warranty's is misguided.

Kane County resident Billy Malecki spoke on his support for the Climate Action Plan. He believes it is a good plan for the County, and provides a roadmap for the county's future.

Kane County resident Vicki Rybak (remote) spoke on her concerns on the Climate Action Plan. She questioned the toxicity of electric vehicles, and solar panels. Rybak suggested to the Committee list the cost next to the resolutions on the agendas.

Kane County resident Steve Brueschwitz spoke on his support of the Climate Action Plan. He believes that this plan is a step in the right direction for the county.

Kane County resident Jonathan Gripe stated that the removal of trees would be a finable offense without permission, permits, and governmental approval. He stated his opposition on the assumption that everything electric is "green." Gripe stated his opposition to the Climate Action Plan.

Kane County resident Jean Meyer stated her opposition to the Climate Action Plan. She spoke on the fight for scientific proof and serving green peace. She stated that the whole climate crisis is not only fake news, but it's fake science, and believes that the climate crisis is a politically, motivated agenda.  
(Committee Member Allan arrived at 9:36 a.m.)

Kane County resident Terrence Lally spoke on the economic cost to regulation laws that are passed by the government. He stated that the conclusions on pro-climate change are consistently wrong.

Kane County resident Larry Bettag spoke on his opposition of the Climate Action Plan.

Kane County resident Brian Anderson spoke on his opposition of the Climate Action Plan.

**6. Public Comment (Non- Agenda Items)**

None.

**7. Environmental (J.Wollnik)**

No report was made at today's meeting.

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

No report was made at today's meeting.

**9. Sustainability (S.Hinshaw)**

**A. Kane County Tree Protection Ordinance Presentation (Karen Miller)**

Kane County Development Department Exec. Planner Karen Miller presented several slides of information on the Tree Protection Ordinance for unincorporated Kane County. She noted that the urban forest is a collective resource that will rely on for physical and mental health, improved property values, air and water quality, storm water reduction, and wildlife habitat. She indicated that the County Board asked staff to draft a tree protection ordinance for unincorporated Kane County. The county staff formed a team, including staff from the Development Department, State's Attorney's Office, Forest Preserve District, and Kane County Division of Transportation (KDOT). Miller thanked Assistant State's Attorney Francis Cermak for providing his legal expertise for the ordinance. She shared a graph that showed the unincorporated Kane County Tree Canopy Cover created by Kane County planner Catherine McKenna.

Kane County Forest Preserve Dir. of Natural Resources Patrick Chess provided background on the Kane County Tree Protection Ordinance. He spoke on the impacts of trees in our society. With respect to air quality, storm management, and carbon sequestration, Kane County has a 16% tree cover, which provides \$13M worth of benefits. Those benefits are primarily derived from larger, older trees. He provided several slides on the history of acre growth in Oak trees within Kane County.

KC Dev. Planner Miller stated that tree protective ordinances are necessary to preserve and protect resources and infrastructure; same as water, streets, parks, sewers and utilities. She listed the key components of the Tree Protection Ordinance. She indicated that the Kane County Tree Protection Ordinance is based upon the City of Elgin's established Tree Preservation Ordinance. Much discussion ensued.

**B. Adopting a Kane County Climate Action Implementation Plan**

Pale Blue Dot, LLC., Co-Founder Ted Redmond (remote) provided information on the Kane County Climate Action Implementation Plan. He stated that the planning process took nineteen months, with 82 planning team members, plus input from 1,200 community members. The Plan is based on Kane County specific foundational research. Redmond highlighted that his team anticipates an increase of ten degrees fahrenheit average temperature by the end of the century. Redmond highlighted that 85% respondents have noticed climate change, and 74% have reported being personally impacted by the affects of climate change. He stated that the goal through the plan is to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. The Plan focuses on nine sectors of Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions and Climate adaptation. Those sectors are supported by 44 strategies, which identify sub-goals for each sector. Redmond indicated that moving forward with the Climate Action Implementation Plan does not automatically make any policy or ordinance change. He stated that a successful implementation plan would reduce countywide emissions by 26.5% by 2030. Much discussion ensued.

Committee Member Roth made a motion to move the resolution to the Executive Committee meeting. Committee Member Young seconded the motion. Motion carried by roll call vote. The motion failed.

Committee Member Kious made a motion to call the question. Committee Member Tarver seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote. Motion passed.

KC Executive Committee

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

**10. New Business**

None.

**11. Chairs Comments**

Chairman Bates thanked her staff for their hard work on the resolution for the Kane County Climate Action Implementation Plan.

**12. Reports Placed On File**

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

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

None.

**14. Adjournment**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Cherryl Strathmann
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Chris Kious

This meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Rachel Santora  
Recording Secretary