



Kane County

KC Energy and Environmental Committee

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

Meeting Minutes

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

Friday, August 16, 2024

9:00 AM

County Board Room

1. Call To Order

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

2. Roll Call

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

Also present: Co. Bd. members Juby*, Lewis, Molina*; Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik; Sustainability Mgr. Hinshaw; Recycling Coordinator Ryan; Spec. ASA Shepro*; ITD staff Peters; and members of the press and public, including Air Programs Waste Management Dir. Steve Niehoff.

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 Young attending remotely. There were no objections.

4. Approval of Minutes: June 14, 2024 & July 12, 2024

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Chris Kious

5. Public Comment (Agenda Items)

None.

6. Public Comment (Non- Agenda Items)

None.

7. Environmental (J.Wollnik)

A. Methane Gas from Kane County Landfills

Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik indicated that the Electric Aggregation Consultant sent a draft of the yearly letter to residents who want to opt out of the Electric Aggregation Program. The letter was sent to the State's Attorney. She reminded the Committee that the program's rates are currently the same as ComEd's.

Air Programs Waste Management Dir., Steve Niehoff, referenced a recent Tribune article about the Satellite Evaluations of Emissions and Landfills. He stated that his team has had easy access to emissions measurement readings for the past five years, with the capabilities of satellites, aircrafts, and drones. However, more work needs to be done for better quantification detections. He indicated that there are two closed landfills in Kane County, one of which is at Settler's Hill. The other is privately owned at Woodland. After landfills are closed, the gas generation drops considerably. Niehoff stated that in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from closed sites, it is important to continue to collect gas, maintain cover, and continue to offset power generation of fossil fuels. The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) rules for greenhouse gas reporting specifically tell them how to calculate emissions. Niehoff believes that with the full body of work between ground-based evaluations and satellite readings, calculations can continue to be reviewed and refined as more data comes in. The EPA recently refined the Greenhouse Gas Reporting calculation rule for landfills, and they are ready to add updated emission rules for next year. The EPA has been informed that all updated rules must be completed by the end of 2025.

8. Recycling/Solid Waste (C. Ryan)

Recycling Coordinator, Ryan, announced that last month's Kane County Recycling Extravaganza was a success. She is planning to submit a Composting and Food Waste Reduction grant application to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) which is due on September 4, 2024. Ryan indicated that there were concerns on how the Fabyan site's long-term plan will fit into the greater Fabyan property. The intention is to move forward with the project, and potentially divide the parcel off of the property. Lastly, Ryan highlighted the successful worm bin system that she started a year ago. A total of 400 pounds of food scrap has been composted. All worm composting information, and how to build your own system can be found on a new sub page of the Kane County recycling webpage. (Committee Member Allan arrived at 9:18 a.m.)

9. Sustainability (S.Hinshaw)

10. New Business

- A. Approving FY2025 Operations and Maintenance Agreement with USGS for the Stream and Rainfall Gages

KC Finance and Budget Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Finance and Budget Committee
MOVER:	Chris Kious
SECONDER:	Cherryl Strathmann
AYE:	Mavis Bates, Bill Tarver, Deborah Allan, Chris Kious, Bill Roth, Cherryl Strathmann, and David Young

- B. Kane County Climate Action Implementation Plan Kick-off Meeting Presentation

Sustainability Mgr. Hinshaw stated that the first Kick-off meeting for Climate Action Implementation was on Saturday, August 10, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Barbara Belding Lodge in the Brewster Creek Forest Preserve. There was a total of 45 people who attended. Over 800 people took the online survey, and currently there are five to seven people on each implementation team. Hinshaw indicated that the implementation teams were the leaders of the event. She reviewed the first actions to focus on for the implementation process, including cost savings, benefits to the community, how to improve air quality and public safety, and working with established partners. She reviewed the obstacles of the low, medium, and high priorities that will be focused on, including volunteer driven programs, education and outreach, financial incentives, changes in policies and ordinances, and community wide shift to more climate-friendly behavior. Hinshaw stated that by February, eighteen actions will be implemented. Hinshaw announced that on Thursday, August 22, 2024 there will be a re-cap meeting for anyone who could not attend the first meeting. She indicated that a volunteer pledge for people to sign is in the works, so that people understand that this a commitment. Lastly, Hinshaw considered reaching out to intergovernmental groups to avoid any duplicating of any information across Kane County.

C. IRS Tax Credits and ComEd Rebates

Sustainability Mgr. Hinshaw reviewed the Elective Pay and ComEd rebates for electric vehicles and chargers. She stated that ComEd business and public sector customers may qualify to receive a rebate for upgrading vehicles to electric. Kane County purchased two Electric Cargo Vans in 2023. Heidi Files applied for the rebate and received \$10K. She stated that Kane County purchased one electric vehicle charger for the Kane County Division of Transportation (KDOT) in June 2024, and will it be installed early next week. Once the charger is installed, a rebate of \$10,666 will be received back. Hinshaw reviewed the IRS Elective Pay. She stated that elective pay is for governmental and tax-exempt businesses. The elective pay has tax credits for numerous energy upgrades, such as roofs, building envelope, HVAC, and advanced energy projects for manufacturers. An IRS Clean Energy account has been listed. She stated that since the 30C Alternative Fuel EV charging station is located in a rural area, a qualified 30% is credited back. A 15% credit is received back for all Hybrid vehicles and 30% for Full EV's. Hinshaw reviewed the average cost savings for the cargo vans purchased last year by the IT department. The cargo vans were purchased at \$49,315 each, with a total savings between the IRS and ComEd \$12,500 for each vehicle, with a new total cost of \$36,816 for each van.

D. Tree Protection Ordinance Update

Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik provided a summary of the draft Tree Protection Ordinance. She reviewed the first draft and current draft, and spoke about possible revisions. Wollnik stated that it was considered to list only the protected trees, including the oaks and hickory trees, as well as all trees greater than 15". Anything smaller than 15" would be exempt from the ordinance, including the invasive trees. She indicated that with the two designations of the trees, it became complicated in how the different the trees were handled. The revised draft for property regulated trees currently considers single family homes on lots greater than 15 acres, as well as all other zoning properties. There is a separate process for properties being reviewed for building, storm water, zoning or subdivision permits. Wollnik noted that single family homes less than 15 acres, and commercial nurseries and orchards would stay the same. (Madam Chair Pierog arrived at 10:07 a.m.) Parkway trees within a public right-of-way, and government properties were taken out of the current draft due to the unfair aspect of properties that were not regulated. She stated that the current draft considers increasing the tree removal permit application fee to \$250. Wollnik noted that a purpose and/or need for tree removal needs to be justified in order to validate a tree removal. The current draft for tree protection during construction is proposing to incorporate a tree removal permit and a preservation plan into building and storm water permitting. A separate permit will not be necessary for residents. The subdivision and zoning portion is also proposing to include tree removal and a preservation plan into the application process for approval through the Development Committee. Wollnik noted that apps and websites will provide a guidance manual that can be used by property owners to identify invasive trees. Invasive trees can be removed with no further action by the owner. Much discussion ensued.

11. Chairs Comments

Chairman Bates thanked her staff for all their continued hard work.

12. Reports Placed On File

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Chris Kious

13. Executive Session (if needed)

None.

14. Adjournment

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Bill Roth
SECONDER:	Chris Kious

This meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Rachel Santora
Recording Secretary