



**Champaign County Board
Environment and Land Use Committee (ELUC)
County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois**

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MINUTES – Approved as Distributed March 4, 2021

DATE: Thursday, February 4, 2021
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Putman Meeting Room
Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E Washington, Urbana, IL 61802
and remote participation via Zoom

Committee Members

Present	Absent
Aaron Esry (Vice-Chair)	
Stephanie Fortado	
Mary King	
Kyle Patterson	
Jacob Paul	
Chris Stohr	
Eric Thorsland (Chair)	

County Staff: John Hall (Zoning Administrator), Susan Monte (Planner), and Mary Ward (Recording Secretary)
Others Present: None

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Thorsland called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Roll Call

A verbal roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum

MOTION by Ms. King to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Fortado.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously to approve the Agenda.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. January 7, 2021

B. Closed Session Minutes of August 6, 2020

MOTION by Mr. Esry to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2021 meeting, seconded by Mr. Stohr.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

MOTION by Mr. Esry to approve the Closed Session minutes of August 6, 2020. Seconded by Ms. Fortado.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

V. Public Participation

None

VI. Communications

There were no communications to be shared with the committee.

VII. New Business: For Information Only

A. Champaign County Solid Waste Management – Information Series (Part 2 of 5)

Ms. Monte presented the second of five review sessions on Champaign County Solid Waste Management. The purpose of the series is to provide a better understanding of what solid waste management/planning has occurred at the county and the extent to which Champaign County presently is involved in solid waste management. During 2021 work to complete the next 5-year update to the Champaign County Solid Waste Management Plan will take place. Hopefully, that update will include some suggested improvements to the Plan. This review can assist in preparing for a review of the update. Any input that the committee may want to provide before the update review process will be valuable.

Topics to be covered include: infrastructure: landfills, transfer stations, etc.; the Champaign County Regional Pollution Control Facility Siting Procedures ordinance; estimating waste generation and landfill diversion, and the Champaign County waste hauler license fee.

In the early 1980's there were hundreds of small dumps and landfills in Illinois and few recycling opportunities. One estimate is that approximately 90% of discarded materials were landfilled. (More recently, in 2017, it's estimated that 52% of solid waste generated in the U.S. was disposed of in landfills.) In the 1980's, Illinois had no state-level approach to managing solid waste. Ms. Monte went over landfill history in Champaign and Urbana. To Ms. Monte's knowledge, there is post-closure monitoring ongoing at eight "basins" that comprise three former landfill sites within the Champaign-Urbana city limits. One of the biggest challenges is controlling leachate leaks, which can be very costly to address.

Ms. Monte discussed the Illinois waste management hierarchy. Landfills are at the bottom as the least desirable method of managing solid waste materials. The IEPA has not updated this hierarchy in recent years. Other waste management hierarchies recognize 'legacy landfills' as an unregulated type of landfill as a least preferred management option.

The trend is that the number of landfills is decreasing over time. There are three standard landfill types: Municipal Solid Waste, Industrial Waste and Hazardous Waste. Ms. Monte shared a graphic available from the Illinois State Geological Survey and provided by Mr. Stohr showing where legacy landfills are located in Illinois.

IEPA Region 4, which includes Champaign County, is now down to six operational landfills with a life expectancy of 28 years. Landfilling is the most dominate but least desirable management method. In Illinois, although the number of landfills is decreasing, the total capacity is increasing because existing landfills are expanding.

Graphics were shared of the Mahomet Aquifer and where operational landfills and legacy landfills are situated over the Aquifer. Landfills are the third largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the U.S.

Based on statewide data estimates, a waste generation rate for our region shows that each person generates 7.1 pounds of municipal solid waste per day. These are hard numbers to track as they don't consider composting and recycling activities. An ongoing challenge for counties is to track waste generation, recycling and composting activities. Municipal solid waste disposal rates are the easiest to track with recycling rates being the most difficult to track.

The Champaign County Regional Pollution Control Facility Siting Procedures Ordinance may need to be updated. It should be looked at every 5 to 10 years. A list of transfer stations is included in the memo in the ELUC packet. More transfer stations are the current trend, and inquiries have been made about establishing a transfer station in Rantoul and one north of Urbana. These would benefit local waste haulers and make their operations less costly.

The Champaign County Waste Hauler License Fee was recently reviewed and corrected and made more equitable. It generates some income to the Solid Waste Fund for the County. Ms. Monte would recommend looking at this again and updating to require some basic reporting by local haulers as many other counties do.

B. Online Registration Opens March 8, 2021 for IEPA One-Day Household Hazardous Waste Collection

This information is provided as advance notice of the media release to be distributed in mid-February and opens on March 8.

C. Public Review and Comment for Proposed Federally Enforceable State Operating Permit from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to Regulate Air Emissions for Beauty Quest Group Facility at 205 Shellhouse Drive, Rantoul

This is just for the committee's information. The Beauty Quest Group is the former Conair facility. We are not required to do anything about the proposed permit.

VIII. New Business: Items to be Recommended to the County Board

A. Resolution Authorizing Brookfield Properties and Champaign County Event Agreement for IEPA One-Day Household Hazardous Waste Collection on April 10, 2021

This is one of the agreements for the three community collection events this year. This is the lease agreement for Market Place Shopping Center. The plan is to have use of an expansive parking lot North and East of J.C. Penney. There is a cost that is shared between the County and the three municipalities listed.

Mr. Stohr asked a question to clarify if it was at Market Place and not at Parkland. Parkland will not host the Household Hazardous Waste Collections. Mr. Stohr also asked what roll the Champaign County Environmental Stewards have in this. They were formed as a non-profit to have an awareness campaign about the need to have improved options for the collection of household hazardous waste, e-waste, etc. The systems we have now are not convenient and not the most efficient use of our resources. One of the interests of that non-profit is to explore having a Regional Household Hazardous Collection Facility here in Champaign County.

MOTION by Mr. Esry and seconded by Ms. Fortado to approve the motion as read. Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- B. Resolution Approving an Agreement between the County of Champaign, Parkland College and A-Team Recyclers with regard to the Residential Electronics Collections on May 21-22, 2021 and October 15-16, 2021.

MOTION by Ms. King and seconded by Mr. Stohr to approve the motion as read.

Discussion followed. Ms. Monte said the agreement is designed to be flexible to expand to meet demand to expand from one to two days. Since we're still in the pandemic, many people seem to be cleaning and getting rid of e-waste, TV's and such. We also cannot have as many community service workers as we've had in the past.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- C. Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Cost-Sharing Agreement between the County of Champaign, the City of Champaign, the City of Urbana and the Village of Savoy for the Residential Electronics Collection events and IEPA-Sponsored Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event in 2021.

MOTION by Mr. Stohr and seconded by Ms. King to approve the motion as read.

Ms. Monte said to note that the typical cost these events would be \$13,000 but with the pandemic cost is \$23,000. Mr. Stohr asked if there has been any additional money made available? We fought to get these events here in the past and now we seem to have them regularly. Ms. Monte said we are spending down the Champaign County Municipal Waste Fund. This an Intergovernmental Cost Share Agreement, so the costs are shared, plus we invite contributions from all municipalities that want to participate. The Waste Fund is holding steady with the additional amounts coming in from the increase the Waste Hauler License fees.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- D. Resolution Approving Champaign County Opt-in Form to Illinois EPA to Participate in Manufacturer E-Waste Program in 2022.

MOTION by Ms. Fortado and second by Mr. Patterson to approve the motion as read.

We continue to look for a permanent site for this. It is an ongoing search.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

- E. Resolution Accepting a Grant from the Illinois Housing Development Authority Strong Communities Program

MOTION by Ms. King and seconded by Mr. Esry to approve the motion as read.

Mr. Hall said the County Board approved the application for the Grant in September of last year. The Grant application was for \$69,500 for the demolition of dangerous structures in rural Urbana Township, Foosland and possibly in rural St. Joseph Township. We have been approved to receive \$69,300 in the Grant. The County will have to spend the monies first in order to be reimbursed. It will be for a two-year period beginning no later than June 2021.

Mr. Thorsland asked if this was only good for demolition work because we don't have a building code for improvements. Mr. Hall said that's correct. This is different than the APP Grant. This grant would allow rehabilitation of structures, but rehabilitation assumes that you have a building code that sets a standard. Champaign County has never adopted a building code. So, all we are doing is demolition. The Land Bank applied with a couple of Vermilion County municipalities and received close to \$250,000 to spend on rehabilitation. A building code is something we may want to think about in the near term.

Mr. Stohr asked if we had a list of properties that are ready for demo. We do have a list and hopefully the grant will pay for the list. There is property in Urbana Township, one in Foosland and one in rural St. Joseph Township.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

F. Resolution Approving Contract for Sale of County Property Located at 504 South Dodson Dr., Urbana

MOTION by Mr. Esry and seconded by Mr. Paul to approve the motion as read.

This was recommended to the County Board in August, but it was pulled from the agenda due to major changes to the contract that had been requested by the State's Attorney's Office. This Contract for Sale is for a "quit-claim deed" rather than a warranty deed. This saves the State's Attorney's office a lot of time in preparing paperwork. The prospective purchaser has been able to review a title search, so they are comfortable with the fact that there are no liens against the property. The purchaser is aware of the changes and has already signed the contract. Since this was such a big change from what we had done earlier, thought it best to bring this back to the committee so everyone knew what was going on.

Upon vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously.

IX. Other Business

A. Monthly Reports

- i. November
- ii. December

The November and December reports were received and placed on file.

X. Chair's Report

There was no Chair's Report.

XI. Designation of Items to be Placed on the Consent Agenda

Items to be placed on the Consent Agenda include 8. A, B, C, D, and E. After a brief discussion it was decided that due to the changes in item 8. F., it would be left off the consent agenda and placed on the regular agenda.

XII. Adjournment

Mr. Thorsland adjourned the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

Please note the minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.