

Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council

Minutes of the June 16, 2006, Meeting, 2:15 p.m.

15th Floor, James R. Thompson Center

Roll Call: Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, Don Barnes (Department of Central Management Services), Ron Burke (Illinois Environmental Protection Agency), Hans Detweiler (Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity), Kevin Greene (Illinois Environmental Protection Agency), Kim Janssen (Department of Agriculture), Prentis Johnson (Department of Central Management Services), Jeri Knaus (Waste Management and Research Center), Lisa Mattingly (Capital Development Board), Laura Perna (Department of Natural Resources), Geoff Potter (Department of Central Management Services), Karen Shoup (Office of Management and Budget), George Vander Velde (Waste Management and Research Center), Ron Wheeler (Department of Central Management Services), Ron Wright (Capital Development Board)

Other Attendees:

Mike Jackson (Illinois Historical Preservation Agency), Carolyn Brown Hodge, Catherine Malina, Katie McClain, Mary Beth Murphy, Dan Persky, Sodiqa Williams (Office of Lt. Governor)

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Lt. Governor Pat Quinn welcomed the attendees to the fifth quarterly meeting of the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council.

Discussion of Previous Meeting's Minutes

The Council approved the minutes from March 17, 2006, without corrections.

Update from the Office of the Lt. Governor

- ?? **Green Government Symposium and Awards :** Katie McClain (LTG) reported that the Council's Green Government Symposium, which took place in Springfield on April 19, was a great success. Nearly 140 people attended the event, representing state agencies, local government, nonprofits, and the private sector. At the symposium, Lt. Governor Quinn announced the 2006 recipients of the Council's Green Government Awards, recognizing the environmental accomplishments of Illinois state agencies and employees. The Lt. Governor said he would like to see the Council host and build upon the event every year.
- ?? **Council Newsletter and Green Solutions Website:** Dan Persky (LTG) noted that the Council's website has grown significantly since the last quarterly meeting. The site (GreenSolutions.il.gov) provides interested parties with resources including a new database on state facility recycling opportunities launched last month. The presentations from the Council's Green Government Symposium are available on the site, and presentations from the upcoming Sustainable University Symposium will be posted there as well. The Council's second quarterly newsletter is currently available at GreenSolutions.il.gov and has been distributed electronically to Illinois state agencies.
- ?? **Sustainable University Symposium:** Katie McClain (LTG) announced that, because the Council's Green Government Symposium received such a wide and diverse audience in April, the Council will be hosting a second conference designed specifically for university and college administrators. The event, which is modeled on the first symposium, will take place in Springfield on June 28. Its agenda will focus on projects and policies Illinois campuses can adopt to become more sustainable.

Laura Perna (DNR) asked whether any of the day's sessions would address renewable energy. The Lt. Governor responded that there would be a presentation on the topic from Northwestern University, which is the second largest purchaser of renewable energy among universities in the United States. Cathy Malina (LTG) outlined the symposium's agenda. She reported that more than 100 individuals representing more than 30 campuses had already registered to attend.

Katie McClain (LTG) mentioned that I-Go, the Center for Neighborhood Technology's nonprofit car-sharing program, would also be presenting at the symposium. I-Go is currently working with most of the universities in Chicago. Laura Perna (DNR) suggested placing an I-Go car at the Springfield Amtrak station, particularly given the increased Amtrak service at Springfield thanks to the new budget. The Lt. Governor seconded the idea, adding that the City of Chicago has embraced I-Go, seeing a tenfold increase in the number of people car-sharing since 2003.

Carolyn Brown Hodge (LTG) noted that Eastern Illinois University recently reduced water usage on campus by 40 percent by switching fixtures to water efficient models. She said EIU would be at the symposium to share information with other schools about its water conservation program.

The Lt. Governor asked that everyone in attendance help register people for the Sustainable University Symposium. Ron Burke (IEPA) mentioned that IEPA has many ongoing projects with Illinois campuses; he will get this list to the Lt. Governor's staff. George Vander Velde (WMRC) observed that the symposium is a great idea because it will create a positive environment of peer pressure among universities and community colleges to become more sustainable.

Update from Council Member Agencies

- ?? **Green Building Advisory Committee:** Lisa Mattingly (CDB) reported that the Green Building Advisory Committee met for the first time on April 26 to develop the state's green building strategy. The committee's members, who include state and city officials, architects, and business partners, discussed the committee's mission statement and timeline for green building projects. The committee will meet again on July 25 at the Chicago Center for Green Technology.
- ?? **State Energy Efficiency Projects:** Karen Shoup (OMB) confirmed that \$300,000 has been designated in the state budget for energy efficiency projects in FY 2007. Don Barnes (CMS) said Mark Pruitt at the UIC Energy Resource Center would work with CMS to provide an analysis of state energy audits. The projected annual savings, at \$500,000, will give the state leverage to increase budget funding. Karen Shoup noted that the state's energy efficiency projects would not be limited to these alone; OMB has identified 15 additional projects in the capital budget. Don Barnes added that CMS is looking at facility condition assessments to find additional opportunities.
- Ron Burke (IEPA) asked how many of the capital projects going forward today are aiming for LEED certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Lisa Mattingly (CDB) said most large projects are looking towards LEED, including a new building at Heartland Community College, which is already underway. Ron Wright added that Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville is also constructing a building aiming for LEED Silver certification.
- ?? **Computer Equipment Disposal Commission:** Hans Detweiler (DCEO) said the Computer Equipment Disposal Commission has completed and presented to the state legislature its report of recommendations for handling electronic waste in Illinois. In its preparation of the report, the commission held hearings and reviewed comments from interested parties including retailers,

manufacturers, and recyclers. The fundamental debate on the issue concerns who is responsible for cleaning up and recycling electronic equipment at end of life. The commission determined that the responsibility falls on the manufacturers; retailers are best placed to educate consumers and collect unwanted items. The commission recommends manufacturers pay a fee for the equipment they produce and that this fee be processed by a third party for the funding of collection and recycling.

Another aspect of the debate concerns how broadly “electronic waste” ought to be defined. The term can include computers, televisions, printers, and cell phones, among other items. The commission recognizes the need for a responsible, well-organized disposal system, particularly given the sensitive nature of a lot of the information stored on electronic equipment. As the commission’s report heads to the state legislature, Ron Burke (IEPA) noted that State Senator Susan Garrett has said she is interested in introducing a bill based on the report. The commission will complete a second report by 2008 on the implementation of its recommended policies.

- ?? **IDOT RFP for Traffic Signals:** Don Barnes (CMS) said that there is nothing new to report on the Illinois Department of Transportation’s RFP for traffic signals. The Lt Governor encouraged the Council to push IDOT to promote bicycling through its programs and policies.
- ?? **Illinois Farming and the Chicago Climate Exchange:** Ron Burke (IEPA) reported that the Illinois Conservation and Climate Initiative is encouraging farmers and landowners across the state to aggregate carbon credits and sell them through the Chicago Climate Exchange. The program offers financial and environmental incentives for no-till farming, planting grasses and trees, and capturing methane with manure digesters. The Initiative is a partnership among the state, the Delta Institute, and the Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Its program is unique, according to Ron Burke, because it is using existing infrastructure to increase participation, improve conservation practices, and address climate issues.
- ?? **Guaranteed Energy Savings Contracts:** Don Barnes (CMS) said CMS has collected energy use statistics from its first target agency, the Department of Corrections, and is currently filtering through the data. In a few weeks, CMS will submit this information to DCEO. CMS is also talking with CDB to determine how the state will structure its program so projects are guaranteed to enhance building performance and save money. He believes starting with Corrections is a good strategy because Corrections uses a significant amount of energy for all of its facilities. Jeri Knaus (WMRC) asked whether anyone was auditing utility bills at the Department of Corrections. Don Barnes (CMS) said personnel at Corrections manages the agency’s bills.

Katie McClain (LTG) reported that the state legislature recently passed a bill allowing local governments, universities, community colleges, and park districts to extend the maximum length of energy performance contracts from 10 to 20 years.

- ?? **State Energy Savings from Winter 2005:** Don Barnes (CMS) reported the statistics on the state’s energy savings from reducing the temperature in state buildings to 68 degrees in December: 227 accounts in northern Illinois save a savings of 781,000 therms and \$1.5 million dollars. If implemented statewide, Illinois would see a savings of 2.2 million therms and \$4.8 million dollars. These projected savings are based on averages from the past three years. The Lt. Governor suggested that CMS convert this numbers to emissions diverted.
- ?? **Renewable Energy Procurement:** Don Barnes (CMS) said CMS would soon advertise two new energy procurement contracts and hopes to increase the proportion of renewable energy use at state

facilities from 3 percent to 4 percent this year. By 2014, the state hopes to acquire 7 percent of its total energy for facility consumption from renewable sources.

- ?? **Green Cleaning Products Contracts:** Geoff Potter (CMS) announced that the state's green cleaning product contracts would be awarded by June 30. He said the state's hybrid vehicles contract was posted and the draft award recommendation made. Ron Burke (IEPA) added that the contract was unique because it included a used hybrid vehicle option. The Lt. Governor asked if the state is the largest user of biodiesel in Illinois. George Vander Velde (WMRC) said some municipalities are large users; Dan Persky (LTG) identified the City of Chicago in particular. Ron Burke said the Chicago Transit Authority started using low sulfur diesel a few years ago.
- ?? **Other Council Member Activities:** Ron Burke (IEPA) asked if there was an update on state recycling. Mary Beth Murphy (LTG) said the Council has a list of facilities and is working with Chip Gass at I-CYCLE to expand recycling opportunities at all buildings. Ron Burke said he would like to see the Lt. Governor call a meeting with the State Fair committee to "green" the fairgrounds. Dan Persky (LTG) said he and Jeri Knaus (WMRC) are working with the state fair managers to establish an aluminum/plastic recycling program at fairgrounds. Kim Janssen (Agriculture) said she would bring the topic up at the Department of Agriculture's senior staff meeting.

Future Projects and Programs

- ?? **Soybean Roofs in Illinois:** Katie McClain (LTG) reported that there are 40-50 soy roofs slated for this summer. She will have a complete list of the projects soon. The Lt. Governor wants to see more public buildings install soy roofs. Ron Wheeler (CMS) said he would incorporate information on soy roofs into the state's green lease. He will also see if any of the 360 facilities managed by the state are within three years of needing a new roof, because those buildings might be ideal soy roof locations. Jeri Knaus (WMRC) said there would be a display of the product at the state fair.
- ?? **State Grants and Green Initiatives:** Katie McClain (LTG) suggested that the Council encourage the incorporation of green principles in proposals for state grants from Illinois businesses.
- ?? **U.S. EPA Change-A-Light Campaign:** Katie McClain (LTG) also suggested that the Council actively promote the U.S EPA's Change a Light Campaign in the fall, which encourage homeowners and businesses to replace traditional light bulbs with compact fluorescents.

Other/Miscellaneous

- ?? **Agency Reports due June 30, 2006:** Dan Persky (LTG) announced that the Council will be looking to collect reports from state agencies and departments on their environmental achievements by June 30 for the August 2006 Annual Report. He asked Council members to reflect on the accomplishments of their own agencies and begin to write their submissions. Cathy Malina (LTG) noted that the forms are available on GreenSolutions.il.gov; agencies may submit them electronically.

Date for Next Quarterly Meeting

September 15, 2006, 2:30 p.m.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.