

Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council
Minutes of the March 31, 2005 Meeting

Call to Order: Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, called the meeting of the Council to order at 1:30pm in dual locations in the James R. Thompson Center, Chicago and the State Capitol, Springfield.

Roll Call: Per roll call taken, council members present were:
Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, Kevin Greene (Environmental Protection Agency), George Vander Velde (Waste Management and Research Center), Micheal Rumman (Department of Central Management Services), Joel Brunsvold (Department of Natural Resources), Hans Detweiler (Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity)

Others Attendees: Joe Shacter (Environmental Law and Policy Center), Carolyn Brown Hodge, Daniel Persky, Katie McClain, Michael Norbeck, Mary Beth Murphy, Mercedes Lyson (Office of Lt. Governor Pat Quinn)

Call to Order and Opening Remarks :

Lt. Governor Pat Quinn welcomed the attendees to the meeting of the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council. He then provided a history of the Special Task Force for the Condition and Future of the Illinois Energy Infrastructure. The Task Force conducted a comprehensive study, *Blackout Solutions*, and issued a set of thirty-two recommendations.

Lt. Governor Pat Quinn then indicated that the Goal of Green Government Council is to broaden and continue work on existing missions, such as *Blackout Solutions*. *Blackout Solutions* is a comprehensive study that was undertaken to assess Illinois energy infrastructure. Another goal of the Council is to help agencies be good stewards of the environment. Finally, he stated that the 2nd Quarterly meeting will be June 10th.

Green Government Coordinating Council Overview:

Under executive order, members of the Council are required to report on the progress of practices being engaged in that are environmentally friendly. This can be broken down into 4 categories: waste reduction, green buildings, green purchasing and policies.

On or before September 1, the Office of the Lt. Governor will submit a report to the Governor's Office detailing agency activity. Reports from agencies need to be submitted to the Lt. Governor on or before April 15. The Council will then reconvene on June 10.

The report should describe what actions are currently in progress and how they are occurring in an environmentally positive manner. This will hopefully serve to call attention to and inspire others to follow their example.

Reports from Council Memembers:

George Vander Velde, of the Waste Management and Research Center (WMRC) in Illinois:

WMRC is tasked with pollution prevention in Illinois. The Waste Management and Research Center works with clients in the industrial sector to decrease the amount of waste they generate. The Center also works extensively with other state agencies, particularly the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). There has been a lot of discussion about assisting municipal governments with energy efficiency and pollution prevention. The Center is conducting an awards program for various agencies, whereby incentives have been created in an effort to encourage agencies to achieve environmental goals. The awards and ceremonies given provide participating agencies with high visibility and this has successfully helped to promote environmental goals.

Kevin Greene, of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA):

IEPA has done a significant amount of work with the IDNR. In particular, they have advanced educational outreach through special programs that target schools and hospitals. The IEPA has put together an Environmental Resource Guide and has gotten people involved by conducting a series of workshops.

Four major points from IEPA were discussed. First, the State has embarked on its first green building project. Heartland Community College in Bloomington, Illinois will be the first LEED certified state facility. There exists the potential for a celebratory event upon completion of this project. Second, under the General Assembly, a multi-agency task force was created, and the report, "Opportunities to Enhance the Purchase of Environmentally Preferable Products" was published this past February 2005. Two or three executive orders were adopted under the previous administration, where minimum green guidelines were codified. These could be used as a benchmark as we continue to move forward. Currently the goal is that by the year 2010, 5% of state used electricity will come from renewable sources. The third point discussed was the importance of determining the state's ecological footprint, and establishing some common environmental indicators. Massachusetts and Washington are both model states in terms of environmental awareness, protection, and action. We should look to them for examples and guidelines. It is important to set priorities for where our activities should be focused. Finally, we need to think about how to institutionalize "green thinking" on a daily/regular basis. This includes creating incentives that will stimulate people's incentive to integrate green activity into their daily activities.

There also exists a federal program that was created under executive order, whereby each agency has to have an Environmental Management System (EMS). This requires each agency to think through their own ecological footprint and the impact their activities will have on the environment.

Joel Brunsvold, of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources:

Director Brunsvold discussed the Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) that is in place to levy fines when environmental damage occurs. NRDA is very active in promoting environmentalism, outdoor tourism, and general green issues throughout Illinois. On October 1, NRDA completed a Comprehensive Wildlife Management Plan. NRDA also has the most environmentally friendly building in Illinois state government.

It is important to look at local businesses which manufacture/sell environmentally friendly products. For example, Green Products from Illinois sells the soy-based roof coating that is on top of the Shedd Aquarium. It's important to uncover these economic connections whenever possible.

Director Brunsvold also discussed two main issues. The first concerned the effort to deal with electronic waste. This is a mounting problem across the US. The efforts of other states have been studied. The second issue involved soy-based insulation, which is sold by a Chicago business "BioFoam." There is going to be a demonstration of the product on April 8.

Hans Detweiler, of the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO):

DCEO has shifted much of their focus away from the government and toward the private sector. They have increasingly deferred to CMS and their leadership on most of these issues. The four main Green Government Council areas that DCEO is concerned with are: environmental efficiency, renewable power, renewable fuels and recycling/waste reduction

Two main issues were then discussed. First, per House Resolution, DCEO conducted a study surrounding energy efficiency at Universities. The results indicated that there exists significant potential for energy efficiency savings. However, there have been no new developments since the study. There has been no subsequent follow-ups. Secondly, attention was turned to Biofuels/Biodiesel. DCEO worked with EPA, IDOT, and CMS to get the state to begin purchasing biodiesel, and promoting flexible-fuel vehicles.

Micheal Rumman, of the Department of Central Management Services (CMS):

Director Rumman touched on two main issues, namely procurement and energy efficiency. Much work remains to be done with respect to the latter.

Executive Order 10: CMS gained control of all state property. They recently hired Don Barnes, who came from CPS and has done solid work launching energy initiatives. CMS is hopeful to follow this lead.

Procurement is highly structured and regulated in Illinois. "Best value" might not account for possible ramifications, such as indirect environmental costs. It is unclear whether there should be a preference or a set-aside for environmentally friendly products

Director Rumman is the chair of the Governor's Travel Control Board. At this point there has not been great priority placed on this issues. The Travel Control Board is promoting use of train travel and carpooling. CMS also oversees all Information Technology infrastructure for the state and has recently substantially updated the telecommunications equipment, notably all the new teleconferencing equipment, which saves on fuel costs.

Energy performance contracting can be effective but more often than not it is not followed through with. Current legislation is proposed to extend the time frame from 10 to 20 years, which will encourage more performance contracting.

General Discussion

The Office of Management and Budget, Illinois Department of Transportation and Department of Corrections are proposed for future consultations.

Association of Professional Energy Consultants (APEC): there have been a number of studies and audits done, but the follow-up is the problem. It is important for us to find good examples of energy efficiency and popularize them.

The Lt. Governor's composting initiative was discussed and future updates were promised.

Miscanthus is a perennial plant, which can be burned with coal and can prolong the burning time of coal. It is used extensively in Europe. Steve Lang, a Miscanthus expert, is now currently a University of Illinois professor. There appears to be an emerging possibility for cultivating this crop in Illinois. However, there needs to be studies done on the impact that this plant may have on wildlife.

Date for Next Quarterly Meeting

Date for the next meeting was set for June 10th.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned