

**Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council**  
Minutes of the December 20, 2005, Meeting, 10:30 a.m.  
15<sup>th</sup> Floor, James R. Thompson Center

**Roll Call:** Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, Ron Burke (Illinois Environmental Protection Agency), Hans Detweiler (Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity), Steve Frenkel (Governor's Office), Kevin Greene (Illinois Environmental Protection Agency), Warren Goetsch (Department of Agriculture), Prentis Johnson (Department of Central Management Services), Ken Page (Illinois Environmental Protection Agency), 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), Joe Kelly (Illinois Solar Energy Association), Joe Shacter (Environmental Law and Policy Center), Carolyn Brown Hodge, Katie McClain, Cathy Malina, Mary Beth Murphy, Michael Norbeck, Dan Persky, Sodiqa Williams (Office of Lt. Governor)

**Call to Order and Opening Remarks**

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

**Discussion of Second Quarter minutes**

The Council approved the minutes from its September 9, 2005, without corrections.

**Update on Council Activities**

?? **IllinoisCarpool.org:** Dan Persky announced the recent unveiling of IllinoisCarpool.org, an online carpool matching service open to state employees and the general public. The program encourages shared driving responsibilities and fuel conservation, and the Lt. Governor's staff is working with state agencies, including Illinois Tollway, to promote the website. Fewer than 100 people have used the service to date. The Lt. Governor would like to see specific statistics going forward. Ron Burke said it is wise to focus on promotion outside the Chicago metropolitan area because commercial carpool programs in Chicago are relatively strong.

?? **Report on State Agency Designees:** Cathy Malina noted that 29 state agencies have appointed designees to the Council since October. This list does not include the seven agencies represented by Council members (DCEO, DNR, IEPA, WMRC, Agriculture, CMS, and CDB), which means nearly half of the state departments have representation on the Council. To increase inter-agency communication and coordination of statewide environmental policies, the Lt. Governor's staff is in regular contact with the designees. They had a very successful meeting with the environmental team at Illinois Tollway and plan to continue to meet individually with designees at other agencies to set environmental priorities related to the goals of the Council. Kevin Greene suggested the Council survey state agencies' areas of interest to determine where it might want to initiate specific campaigns.

?? **I-CYCLE Program at State Facilities:** Katie McClain reported that the Lt. Governor's staff is currently working with Chip Gass at I-CYCLE to expand and improve the Illinois state facilities

recycling program. The Lt. Governor wants the improvement of I-CYCLE to be one the Council's main missions for 2006. Steve Frenkel is also concerned with the current performance of the program. He noted that the recently completed six-month pilot program managed by Solid Waste Solutions at the Thompson Center and Bilandic Buildings in Chicago exposed some of I-CYCLE's weaknesses. He will distribute to the Council the final report prepared by Solid Waste Solutions, which recommends the consolidation of state recycling contracts, as soon as the Governor's Office reads through it.

Kevin Greene said IEPA's Springfield facility has a strong recycling program on which other agencies can model their own. He acknowledged that a debate exists on whether to privatize state building recycling. George Vander Velde said I-CYCLE's problems are systemic. He believes the Council has to address the issue of how to recycle non-profitable materials.

?? **GGCC Paper-Free Campaign:** Cathy Malina said the Lt. Governor's staff has reached out to state agency designees to see if there is interest in a GGCC "Paper-Free" Campaign. Half a dozen agencies have responded enthusiastically, reporting initiatives already in place to reduce the amount of paper used by their offices in daily and annual operations. The Governor's Office of Management and Budget is currently conducting a survey to learn how many agency forms are processed electronically rather than on paper. The results of this survey are due mid-January.

?? **Green Cleaning Products Contracts:** Katie McClain reported that the Council is working to include a preference for green cleaning products in the state's contracts for procurement. The current procurement code allows agencies to purchase Green Seal products. Kevin Greene suggested the Council initiate pilot programs at a handful of state agencies, working with the vendors of these products. IEPA, DNR, and the Department of Public Health already purchase a number of Green Seal products. The Lt. Governor said government purchasing could help create a strong market for environmentally-friendly cleaning products. He would like to hear more on this topic at the next Council meeting.

?? **Illinois Plumbing Code, Water Conservation:** Katie McClain updated the Council on the Lt. Governor's staff's efforts to facilitate conversations between the Department of Public Health, IEPA, and municipalities that are interested in installing waterless urinals or grey water systems, both of which encourage "greener" building practices with water conservation measures. Ron Burke said IDPH is currently an obstacle to the installation of these systems. According to Ron Wright, CDB supports both waterless urinals and grey water as part of the LEED program.

Warren Goetsch suggested the Council promote the use of recycled water for plantings on next year's State Fair grounds, and Carolyn Hodge Brown encouraged looking into this option. Kevin Greene would also like to see the state pilot waterless urinals at next year's fairs. George Vander Velde said many models for water conservation exist in the South and Southwest, especially Florida, California, and Arizona. He added that municipalities, golf courses, cemeteries, and universities benefit greatly from grey water systems. Ron Burke believes this is an important issue to follow up on because he foresees water shortages in Chicago exurbia.

?? **Computer Equipment Disposal Commission:** Katie McClain announced that the Computer Equipment Disposal Commission is meeting in Springfield on January 11, 2006, at 10:00 a.m. Hans Detweiler, who noted that evolving industry standards create problems for state-generated

e-waste, said he would distribute the agenda to Council members. At the Springfield meeting, Joe Shacter will provide recommendations from the Environmental Law and Policy Center.

Prentis Johnson said CMS is responsible for the disposal of surplus state property, and it has recently hired staff to cleanse old state computers and confirm that they are free of sensitive material. He added that CMS is currently developing an electronic waste donation policy. Carolyn Brown Hodge said the Lt. Governor's office recently donated a number of old computers to a non-profit. She cited an article about e-waste not being disposed of properly.

- ?? **CDB Green Building Workshops** : Ron Wright reported that CDB has held three green building workshops so far: two in Chicago, one in Rockford. Over 100 architectural firms have participated to date, and attendance is steadily climbing. Five more are planned for the spring. Hans Detweiler asked if CDB has invited the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to make presentations about its clean energy grant program at the workshop series. When Ron Wright said CDB had not, Hans Detweiler suggested it would be valuable for architects to have ready knowledge about the grant money available for green building projects from ICECF.
- ?? **Other Council Activities**: Dan Persky announced that the "Green Solutions" website is now up and running at [www.GreenSolutions.il.gov](http://www.GreenSolutions.il.gov). The site promotes ways that state government, municipalities, employers, and individuals can be more environmentally friendly. The site also provides links and resources for interested parties.

Hans Detweiler raised the issue of energy performance contracting, noting that a bill extending the period for contracts did not pass last session and the bureaucratic process has been hindering its success. He believes there has been confused discussion about the subject and that projects need significant support going forward. He proposed that the Council organize a meeting between CMS, DCEO, CDB, GOMB, and the Energy Resource Center. The Lt. Governor believes energy performance contracting highlights the importance of energy efficiency. He wants to see significant energy efficiency projects succeed in this administration.

Ron Burke reported that IEPA recently worked with IDOT on the Dan Ryan Expressway to develop a model program for mitigating construction-related environmental problems. He noted that it was one of the largest programs of its kind in the country and that the state needs more publicity for this success. IEPA and IDOT are looking to expand the policies of the program to other state construction projects. Dan Persky added that Illinois Tollway is also adopting the Dan Ryan policies to ease congestion along the highways it operates.

Kevin Greene said IEPA, DCEO, and DNR are meeting to authorize the state purchase of 20-30 hybrid vehicles with strong fuel efficiency. CMS is currently surveying other state agencies to learn of their interest. The Council noted that General Motors is looking into ethanol hybrids.

## **Legislative Priorities and Ideas**

- ?? **Composting** : Katie McClain said that this year's composting bill uses last year's language. It is geared towards the transportation of both composting and composted materials, and it will not undermine IEPA's current regulations. The legislation will help create a market to sell composted materials and support small horse farms and the organizers of county fairs.

- ?? **Phosphorus in Detergents:** This legislation is modeled on bills that have succeeded or been proposed in 23 other states. The Lt. Governor wants to see IEPA's support when the bill comes to hearing. He noted that all wastewater agencies have signed on.
- ?? **Flex-fuel Vehicles, Renewable Fuels:** This bill will require that the state, whenever feasible, purchase flex-fuel vehicles and use renewable fuels. Katie McClain reported that 14% of Illinois state vehicles are currently using E-85 (1,638 vehicles out of 12,129). The Lt. Governor noted that public E-85 usage has increased significantly this year, with 70 fuel stations offering E-85, up from 14 last year. Hans Detweiler reported that E-85 gallonage has increased 14-fold and bio-diesel gallonage 28-fold. Michael Norbeck added that the bill contains a mandate that all Illinois fueling stations sell fuel with 10 percent ethanol. This goal should be attainable because roughly 90 percent already do.
- ?? **Regulating Ballast Water:** Katie McClain said that this bill is modeled on a piece of legislation in Michigan and would do well with IEPA's support. Ron Burke mentioned that IEPA is discussing the issue with Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality, but it will not back the bill until Michigan successfully develops its program.
- ?? **Preference to ENERGY STAR and Green Seal Products:** This bill will require that the state give considerable preference to ENERGY STAR and Green Seal products in state government purchases. Ron Wright asked whether the legislation would include construction materials. Kevin Greene noted that requirements established in 2002 or 2003 place preference for Green Seal paints. He proposed meeting with CMS to identify a group of projects in which ENERGY STAR and Green Seal products might be used, working on a case-by-case basis, rather than through legislation, because approach might be more successful.

### **Miscellaneous/New Ideas**

- ?? **Benchmarking for the ENERGY STAR Challenge:** Katie McClain reported that Don Barnes at CMS and Mark Pruitt at the Energy Resource Center are working together to gather state energy usage data. They hope to organize the data in the proper format by the end of January and initiate a handful of pilot programs at various state agencies soon thereafter. The Lt. Governor suggested starting with the Department of Natural Resources and IEPA.
- ?? **U.S. EPA Green Power Partnership:** Although Illinois joined the U.S. EPA Green Power Partnership in 2000, the state has not yet met the program's requirements and needs to revise its targets. Kevin Greene said the state should establish a coordinated plan for purchasing renewable energy because it is not purchasing the appropriate amount. Katie McClain said Illinois might have to leave the program if it cannot meet the minimum requirements. Steve Frenkel noted that the Governor's Office and the Office of Management and Budget support purchasing 3% renewable energy in future state contracts. Hans Detweiler suggested that the inclusion of state universities would increase the state's overall use of renewable energy. The Lt. Governor would like to see Illinois improve its numbers more substantially.
- ?? **U.S. EPA Mercury Challenge Program:** The Council is looking into the U.S. EPA Mercury Challenge Program, which offers its partners guidance on ways to identify and properly dispose

of products and equipment containing mercury. Kevin Greene said the state ought to establish a proactive program, providing services and support to state agencies and facilities.

?? **GGCC Newsletter, Symposium, and “Six Weeks to a Greener Illinois” Program:** Dan Persky announced that the Lt. Governor’s staff is preparing the first issue of the Council’s newsletter, slated to come out before the end of January. It will be distributed electronically to state employees via GGCC designees as well as state contacts within the non-profit environmental community.

The Lt. Governor’s staff is also planning a symposium on methods for “greening” state government and local communities that will take place in Springfield in March. The event should draw a good number of state employees and Illinois environmental leaders. Kevin Greene suggested the Council establish a planning committee for the symposium. He will forward the Lt. Governor’s staff a list of people at DCEO, DNR, and IEPA to help the Council create an agenda.

Just after the March symposium, the Council will kick off a “Six Weeks to a Greener Illinois” program, which will offer state employees weekly projects to “green” their offices and agencies. The program will culminate during Earth Week in April.

?? **GGCC Environmental Awards Program:** The Council plans to establish an awards program in the spring to recognize the environmental accomplishments of Illinois state agencies. GGCC designees will be notified of the program in the January newsletter and submit their nominations in March. The Council will determine the recipients of the awards at its next quarterly meeting and announce the winners during Earth Week in April.

#### **Date for Next Quarterly Meeting**

March 17, 2005, 10:30 a.m.

#### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.