

Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council

Minutes, December 11, 2007, Meeting 9:30 a.m.

Roll Call: Lt. Governor Pat Quinn, Don Barnes (Department of Central Management Services), Lisa Mattingly (Capital Development Board), Carol Pinkerton (Illinois Central Management Services), Rick Hughes (Illinois Central Management Services), George Vander Velde (Waste Management and Research Center), Kevin Greene (Illinois Environmental Protection Agency), Steve Massey (Illinois Department of Transportation), Laura Perna (Illinois Department of Natural Resources), Charlie Bowden (Illinois Board of Higher Education), Barb Bonansinga (Department of Central Management Services), Gary Miller (Waste Management and Research Center), Diana DeWeese (Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity), Thom Durr (Illinois Department of Labor), Michelle Kolar (Illinois Math & Science Academy), David Smith (Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity), Marcy Mitchell (Department of Agriculture), Diane Kitchen (Illinois Department of Natural Resources), Susan Weitekamp (Illinois State Board of Education), Jennifer Funderburk (Illinois Council on Development Disabilities), Fred Coha (Corporate Express), Richard Reese (Illinois Environmental Protection Agency), Chris Grissom (Illinois Department of Corrections), Cliff Creason (Illinois Department of Corrections), Tih-Fen Ting (University of Illinois Springfield), Chip Gass (Department of Central Management Services), Kathi Davis (Illinois Department of Natural Resources), Megan Borrowman (Illinois Department of Natural Resources), and Mike Jackson (Illinois Historic Perseveration).

By Phone: Geoff Potter (Department of Central Management Services) & Karen Shoup (Office of Management and Budget).

Other Attendees: Jamie Caston, Holly Copeland, Jeremy Kruidener, Cameron Schilling and Kate Tomford (Office of Lt. Governor).

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Kate Tomford welcomed the attendees to the eleventh quarterly meeting of the Illinois Green Government Coordinating Council.

Discussion of Previous Meeting's Minutes

The Council approved the minutes from September 25, 2007, with corrections to the Sustainable Transportation and the Green Building Advisory Committee update.

Update from the Office of Lt. Governor:

- ***Green Governments Illinois Act:***
Kate Tomford (LTG) reported that the Green Governments Illinois Act (Public Act 095-0657) establishes the Green Government Coordinating Council. The Act was passed in both the House and Senate and then was amendatorily vetoed by the Governor. The bill then went back to the Senate and was overridden by both chambers. It was then enacted on October 17 with an effective date of October 10, 2007. The Act lays out responsibilities

for the council, makes Lt. Governor the chairman, and names 14 member agencies. All state agencies must submit a sustainability plan which will then be posted on the Green Solutions website. The Council extended the timelines for the sustainability plans by 3-4 months. Each agency is required by law to convene an environmental sustainability team by January 1, 2008. The GGCC must meet quarterly.

- ***Green Cleaning Schools Act:***

Kate Tomford reported that the Green Cleaning School Act (Public Act 095-0084) was made effective August 13, 2007. It had strong support in both chambers of the General Assembly. The Act requires all Illinois primary and secondary (K-12) schools with over 50 students to use environmentally safe cleaning products. It does not define what the products are, but does ask the GGCC, state agencies, and other interested stakeholders to come up with standards within 180 days of the effective date of the law (February 11, 2008). The open committee has made progress on creating these guidelines and has posted public comments online. Public comment period closes January 8, 2008. Final guidelines will be posted in mid-February and schools will have 90 days after to comply.

- ***Sustainable Symposiums Update:***

Jamie Caston (LTG) reported on the Sustainable Cities Symposium, which over 200 people attended. The 2nd Annual Sustainable Cities Symposium was hosted by the City of Elgin on October 26, 2007. Speakers gave presentations on sustainable development, transportation, and storm water management. Participants took field trips to view LEED certified buildings at the Judson University Academic Center and Waste Management Transfer Station. The Sustainable Government Symposium will be held later on today.

- ***Cell Phone Recycling Update:***

Jamie Caston reported on the cell phone recycling drive that was hosted by the Council and held in the Stratton building in Springfield and the JRTC in Chicago. The drive took in 133 phones, 121 chargers, 32 cases, and 5 batteries. The totals do not include the Secretary of State's numbers. All donations will be given to the Verizon Hopeline Refurbishing program for victims of domestic violence.

Updates from Council Committees:

Green Purchasing: Rick Hughes gave the report on behalf of John Donato. Rick reported that CMS continues to purchase 1.2 million dollars or 20% of paper from recycled products. CMS expanded their major contract for recycled toner cartridges with corrections industries to include newer models. CMS has helped Correctional Industries to come up with a new line of green cleaning products. Also, CMS is working on the implementation of House bill 4137 that requires all vehicles purchased with state funds to be either flex-fuel or hybrid vehicles. This will include all police pursuit vehicles, which will be flex-fuel vehicles. This bid only included GM and Ford and excluded Chrysler. CMS assisted the development of the RFP for recycling bulbs. The bid opens later this month. Don Bullock (from the vendor) helped develop the data for the RFP to find out

where the bulbs are being used in the state. CMS has established biodiesel contracts and is accepting tanker loads of biodiesel. The cost of biofuel is coming down and has helped with contracts. With the help of George Vander Velde and Seattle-based Grays Harbor Paper Company, CMS organized a meeting with Office Depot to inform them of the Grays Harbor products, and hopefully it include them in their supplies to the state. CMS is working on developing a paint contract that will offer environmentally friendly paint products. Also, the state is working with other mid-west states to increase their cooperative purchasing potential and therefore lower prices. Although the Legislature did not give approval for the multi-state cooperative purchasing agreements, CMS will continue to work with the other states to help develop the contract. In addition, CMS is soliciting vendors for environmentally friendly carpeting.

Question from David Vaught: Does the existing master contract for Green Cleaning Solutions help the schools comply with the new law?

Rick Hughes: Yes. It gives the school district the option to use the contract but does not mandate them to use it.

David Vaught: Do a large number of school districts participate in the contract?

Rick Hughes: It depends on the product. Generally, they find our contracts useful. We have elevated our campaign to get local governments to use our contracts so their volumes help our volumes get lower prices.

Kate Tomford: Carol Pinkerton in purchasing at CMS has been involved in writing model language that a school could include in their specs. And we are going to publicize that if the school is involved in the program they are able to take advantage of the master contract pricing.

Jeff on the phone: Schools who do not participate can call the vendor to try and get the same pricing as the master contract.

Water Conservation: Laura Perna (IDNR) reported that a memo has gone out to state government agencies that no more water will be bought in plastic bottles unless it is part of the bargaining agreement. Laura is also working on the potential use of rain barrels in state government. Currently, one state agency is collecting water from rain barrels and using it to water their rain garden. Potential for state government to collect water is great. However, this is tricky because disconnecting down spouts and collecting rainwater can be subject to local ordinances.

Question from Lt. Governor: Can you change the standard so state agencies won't be affected by local ordinance?

Laura Perna: That would take legislation.

Lt. Governor: What state agency is using the rain barrel?

Laura Perna: The Department of Human Services located in Chicago. Tracy Loggins is the head person on the project.

Lt. Governor: You should work with Jamie to find out how many state agencies have rain gardens.

Greening the State Fair: Holly Copeland (LTG) reported that a subcommittee of the GGCC has been formed to work on Greening the 2008 State Fair. The committee has 12 members on 5 subcommittees, which are Recycling, Establishing a Green Area Within Conservation World, a Green Vendor Award, Green Cleaning Products, and Solar. Recycling sub-committee members are working on setting a meeting up with the building grounds manager to find out about the current waste collection services being utilized at the fair and if they can be expanded. The sub-committee, working to establish a green area within Conservation World, has confirmed a commitment from CMS to provide an E-85 hybrid to display in Conservation World. Also, the sub-committee is exploring ways to use renewable energy to power vendors. The Green Vendor sub-committee is creating “ten standards” for the Green Vendor award. These standards will be distributed to State Fair Vendors that receive packets from the Department of Agriculture in early 2008. The Green Cleaning sub-committee confirmed with the Department of Agriculture that the building grounds manager will use green cleaning products on the fairgrounds in 2008. The sub-committee plans to work with the Department of Agriculture to determine which green cleaning products are preferred. The Solar committee is working with the University of Illinois to obtain the engineering program's submission to the solar decathlon in the hopes that it can be displayed at the 2008 State Fair. Also, the Solar sub-committee is working on a permit to get solar panels at the state fair.

Lt. Governor: Minnesota is way ahead of us as far as the Green State fair. They have already done many of the things we are pursuing.

Greening the Office: Jamie Caston (LTG) reported that green tip fact-sheets will be located on the Greensolutions.il.gov website. The Lt. Governor is chair of the GGCC and can determine if I-Cycle is running efficiently. At some point the Council will need to sit down and talk about I-Cycle and how we should proceed. According to another Council member, the state's recycling contract only includes paper and cardboard and does not include plastics. Please contact Jamie Caston or Kate Tomford if there are any new ideas or initiatives the Council can pursue in the next year.

Lisa Mattingly: In the Stratton we are recycling aluminum as well as paper and we are doing our own recycling for plastics. CMS provided us with the recycling receptacles.

Jamie Caston: When I talked to Cal, he said CMS was not aware that we had a recycling bin on our floor in the JRTC.

Donald Barnes: The issue is being looked at and we are re-tooling the efforts at CMS.

Laura Perna: We also need to look in Du Quoin to see what is being done there as far as recycling.

David Smith: There are reasonable contacts within DCEO for recycling efforts in the Du Quoin area they just need to reach out to us. Also, there are some individuals who make recycling efforts that are not part of a central program that are willing to do more. They should be recognized for their individual efforts.

Lt. Governor: That is a good point. The new law has given the Council a little more authority in this area and we need to take advantage of that in the next year.

Please note that the Green Building Advisory Committee, Recycling, Sustainable Transportation and Energy reports were presented by the sub-committee chairs during the Sustainable Government Symposium and are available on our website at: www.greensolutions.il.gov

Other/Miscellaneous

- **Green Fest** - Kate Tomford stated that Green Fest would be held in Chicago this coming next year. Green Fest is an expo devoted to sustainability that all types of agencies, organizations, and companies use to promote Green practices. IEPA, DCEO, and CMS all contributed to getting a table at GreenFest last year that was held at McCormick Place last April.
- **Upcoming Meetings:** Kate Tomford stated that the Council would meet again to vote on approval for the final Green Cleaning Schools guidelines on January 24, 2008 in the JRTC and in Springfield. Also, the next quarterly meeting will be in March but we do not have a date for the yet so we will be in touch with soon.

Questions and Comments:

Lt. Governor: We should do a census of what's recycled where in state government.

David Smith (DCEO): I think state law requires government to recycle aluminum cans.

Laura Perna: There is a component to the bill that says that recycling efforts are not meant to be a top down approach. It is meant to bubble up from the agencies and individuals within the agencies.

Enid Cardinal (ISU): Is there any momentum for a bottle ban law?

Lt. Governor: We did that a couple years and we couldn't even get a hearing in committee. We did not get much support from the recycling community on that bill. A lot of local programs wanted cans and bottles. We could look at it.

Michelle Kolar (IMSA): Are there any efforts to recycle batteries?

Lt. Governor: We should work on that.

Date for Next Quarterly Meeting

TBD

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.