

LIVINGSTON COUNTY BOARD

AGRICULTURE, ZONING AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 8, 2013 MEETING

The committee chair called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm at the Livingston County Historic Courthouse, 112 W. Madison St., Pontiac, Illinois and roll call was taken.

Present: Bob Young, Bill Flott, Earl Rients, Bill Peterson, Ronald Kestner, and Paul Ritter.

Absent: Mike Ingles

Others

Present: Collins Miller and Donovan Gardner representatives of a recreation committee. County Board member Bob Weller, County Planning Commission Representative Chuck Schopp, Livingston County Administrative Resource Specialist Alina Hartley, Livingston County Finance Resource Specialist June Slagel, Candi Bradshaw coordinator of Liv Com 911, Liv Com 911 Manager of Communications Randy Wittenberg, and Roger Wahls representing the Livingston County Farm Bureau.

Committee Chair Young noted the agenda requesting that proposed business item e. ETSB report be considered first. Bill Peterson then moved, seconded by Earl Rients, that the agenda for this meeting be approved as outlined by the committee chair. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

Minutes of the August 23, 2013 committee meeting and the minutes of the September 12, 2013 continued portion of the August 23, 2013 committee meeting were referred to the committee. Bill Peterson moved, seconded by Bill Flott, that these meeting minutes be approved as presented. This motion was approved by a voice vote of all ayes.

ETSB Report:

Randy Wittenberg, 911 manager of communications, addressed the committee. Mr. Wittenberg related as to how he has been working with June Slagel in finalizing a draft budget for his department. Mr. Wittenberg then commented about more long range funding issues, including user fees, supporting the increase of cell phone surcharges and the potential of unpopular tax increases. Mr. Wittenberg remarked that now is a good time to start or continue the discussions on permanent funding solutions for Liv Com 911. Mr. Wittenberg then mentioned that he and Candi Bradshaw continue to evaluate existing and proposed technology relating to communications systems including texting, and new mapping systems.

Route 66 Bike Plan:

Collins Miller introduced himself and Donovan Gardner, also present at this meeting, as members of a recreation committee. Mr. Miller declared that this recreation committee has determined a desire exists to explore the development of a bike trail(s) in Livingston County. Mr. Miller then noted that Donovan Gardner, Kevin McNamara of the Village of Dwight and David Winters of the County Highway Department are members of the Route 66 Trail Executive Council.

Mr. Gardner has served as chairman of this executive council. Mr. Miller then made reference to the State of Illinois, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Route 66 Trail Concept Plan. Mr. Miller commented about how this plan in part relates to the potential of developing a bike trail along Route 66. Part of this bike trail plan focuses on using the abandoned lanes of Route 66 as the route courses through Livingston County. Mr. Miller noted that the Route 66 bridges south of Pontiac remain in place, and that only one bridge along the Route 66 right of way(that could be part of a bike trail) north of Pontiac has been removed. Mr. Miller then mentioned the potential of applying for a \$500,000 grant for the development of a Route 66 bike trail in Livingston County, along with how the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is willing to cooperate in the development of the bike trail. Mr. Miller then explained a need for the county to adopt the Route 66 Trail Concept Plan, as part of the process of considering potential grants for this project.

It is stated within the Route 66 Trail Concept Plan, on page 1, in Chapter One, Concept Plan Purpose, "... The plan therefore provides a framework for development of the trail, citing needs and offering recommendations. The recommendations can be used to direct decisions for trail actions on a statewide basis. Since trail development will be accomplished using a partnership approach, among state, regional, and local interests, the plan's recommendations will also be useful in making various trail development decisions. This plan is intended as a general guide for the entire trail corridor, to improve awareness of the trail throughout the state. Local communities and partners in the trail are encouraged to use the plan to undertake development and management actions that best serve their areas, while keeping the overall vision of the trail. The plan isn't a mandate but offers recommended actions. However, to pursue the further development of the Route 66 Trail, following the plan and developing commitments within and between communities will be needed. It is expected the concept plan will be a tool for working together to make the trail a facility that benefits all of the partner communities. As the concept plan is adopted and used to develop the trail further, the Route 66 Trail will gain greater public recognition as a unique recreational, tourism, and alternative transportation resource...."

Mr. Miller then commented to the committee that this is just the beginning in what will be a long process in considering the development of a Route 66 bike trail in Livingston County. Mr. Miller then related that it is the intent of the recreation committee to come back to this Agriculture, Zoning and Emergency Services committee as this project proceeds.

The committee questioned how the figures used in the Route 66/Trail Mileage Totals table on page 26 of the Route 66 Trail Concept Plan had been arrived at, with Donovan Gardner offering to get an answer to that question. The steps in further developing this trail were then further discussed. A County Board presentation on this Route 66 Trail Concept Plan was then talked about. Bill Peterson then moved, seconded by Ron Kestner that this committee recommend to the County Board that Livingston County should adopt the Route 66 Trail Concept Plan. This motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Solid Waste/Landfill Issues:

A monthly synopsis of landfill information and correspondence was presented to the committee members. The monthly information synopsis relating to Livingston Landfill report focused on NPDES reports, a landfill gas migration monthly report, private well sampling results, a semi-annual monitoring report, leachate analysis and report copies pertaining to groundwater testing. In regard to the Streator Area Landfill a gas probe monitoring report was mentioned, along with a comment on closure/post closure care and a groundwater report was mentioned. A copy of Deigan & Associates, results of Split Sampling 3rd. Quarter 2013 was also provided to the committee members. Hoosier Energy is proceeding with their upgrade of the Livingston Landfill gas to energy facility. Host agreement information was also presented to the committee. Host fee amounts being paid appear to remain steady over the last few months.

Wind Energy Update:

The committee members were informed that property owners have been notified that the footprint, of a proposed Deer Run Wind Energy by Iberdrola, is being reduced. The committee members were informed that the legal action on the previous approval of a similar wind energy project is still pending. Comments were made to the recent Iroquois County Wind ordinance, which in part revise the setback distance requirements, which have been perceived by some as a possible deterrent to the development of wind energy in Iroquois County.

Comprehensive Plan Review:

The Western Illinois University's Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs, MAPPING the Future of Your Community program was noted to and discussed by the committee members. The considerations of this program as it relates to comprehensive planning was briefly discussed. The consensus of the committee was to wait to consider this program later.

Other Issues to Come Before the Committee:

The household hazardous waste program that recently took place in McLean County was discussed. The installation of an Enbridge pipeline that is taking place throughout the county was mentioned. The county is economically benefitting from several of the contractors and workers staying, eating etc. in Pontiac and Livingston County.

Public Comment:

No public comments were made.

Review and Approval of Bills:

The committee was presented with a statement from AMS Environmental, Inc. in the amount of \$2,577.60 for the cost of recycling 2138 pounds of batteries, as part of a joint county battery recycling program. Ron Kestner moved, seconded by Paul Ritter, that this statement be paid. This motion was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Then Bill Flott moved, seconded by Bill Peterson, that this meeting be adjourned. This motion was approved unanimously.

This meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Charles T. Schopp, Administrator
Livingston County Regional Planning
Commission