

Lake County Illinois

Meeting held by Video Conference

Physical Location:

18 N County Street (10th Floor), Waukegan, IL 60085



Meeting Minutes - Final

Wednesday, July 7, 2021

10:30 AM

Register for remote / virtual attendance at <https://bit.ly/3vTxbrU>.

Energy & Environment Committee

Pursuant to Section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, if there is a current Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation and a Written Determination by the Lake County Board Chair, this meeting will be held by audio and video conference.

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE: There are two options for the public to attend the meeting: (1) in-person attendance on the 10th Floor of the County Administrative Tower, 18 N. County Street, Waukegan, Illinois, or (2) remote / virtual attendance through registration at the link on the front page of this agenda.

RECORDING: Meetings, including Public Comment, will be recorded.

PUBLIC COMMENT: The public will be afforded time to comment on matters related to the business of the County Board. A total of 30 minutes will be permitted for Public Comment and no more than three minutes per Comment. In general, Public Comment on items not on the agenda will be presented near the beginning of the meeting. Public Comment on agenda items may be presented during consideration of that item.

Individuals attending in-person or remotely may present their Public Comment during the meeting. Individuals not in attendance may provide written Public Comment that must be received by 3:00 p.m. the day prior to the meeting (emailed to PublicComment@Lakecountyil.gov or delivered to the County Board Office 18 N. County Street, Waukegan, Illinois (10th floor)). Public Comment will proceed in the following order: (1) Public Comment by individuals in attendance on the 10th Floor, (2) Public Comment by individuals who registered via the link on the front page of the agenda and are attending remotely , and then (3) written comments.

Individuals providing Public Comment will provide the following information:

- * Meeting: Energy and Environment Committee (Subject line for written Public Comment)
- * Name (REQUIRED)
- * Topic or Agenda Item # (REQUIRED)
- * Street Address, City, State (Optional)
- * Phone Number (Optional)
- * Organization/Agency/etc. Represented (If representing yourself, put "Self")

***To view County Board Rules, click here: <https://bit.ly/3idRdrV> ***

0 [21-0069](#)

Chair's determination of need to meet by audio or video conference.

Attachments: [Determination - Chair Hart 12.30.20](#)

1. Call to Order

Chair Wilke called the meeting to order at 10:31 a.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Wilke led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Roll Call of Members

Present 5 - Member Altenberg, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Parekh, Member Wasik and Chair Wilke

Absent 1 - Member Barr

Others present:

Matt Meyers, County Administrator's Office

Gary Gibson, County Administrator's Office

Blanca Vela-Schneider, County Administrator's Office

Jessica Vealitzek, County Board

Ann Maine, County Board

Al Giertych, Division of Transportation

Eric Waggoner, Planning Building and Development

Krista Braun, Planning Building and Development

Joe Arcus, Planning Building and Development

RuthAnne Hall, Finance and Administrative Services

Patrice Sutton, Finance and Administrative Services

Chad Wright, Finance and Administrative Services

Michael Wheeler, Finance and Administrative Services

Stephen Rice, State's Attorney's Office

Carl Kirar, Facilities and Construction Services

Walter Willis, Solid Waste Agency of Lake County

Harry Benson, Standard Solar

Alex Carr, Communications

Bailey Wyatt, Communications

Chris Anderson-Sell, Communications

Abby Scalf, County Board Office

Travis Haley, resident

Kristen LaManna, resident

Matthew McNeill, resident

Steve Smart, resident

4. Addenda to the Agenda

There were no additions or amendments to the agenda.

5. Public Comment (Items not on the agenda)

There were no comments from the public.

6. Chair's Remarks

Chair Wilke said he appreciated the Committee members who attended the special meeting planned in close proximity to the Independence Day holiday.

7. Unfinished Business**8. New Business****CONSENT AGENDA (Item 8.1)****8.1 [21-1031](#)**

Minutes for May 5, 2021.

Attachments: [E&E 5.5.21 Minutes.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Member Hewitt, seconded by Member Wasik, that Consent Agenda item 8.1 be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 5 - Member Altenberg, Member Hewitt, Vice Chair Parekh, Member Wasik and Chair Wilke

Absent: 1 - Member Barr

REGULAR AGENDA**8.2 [21-1026](#)**

Discussion on Renewable Energy Credits (RECs).

Attachments: [21-1026 REC Information.pdf](#)

Matt Meyers, Assistant County Administrator, introduced Harry Benson, Standard Solar, who is working with the County and its ongoing solar efforts, which will be addressed later on the meeting agenda. He will first provide some background on Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)

Mr. Benson gave an overview of RECs, explaining the framework, the types of RECs and the Adjustable Block Program (ABP). The ABP is a state incentive program created to facilitate the development of new community solar projects through the issuance of Renewable Energy Credit delivery contracts. Significant discussion ensued.

He continued to give an overview as to the work the County has done to install solar panels at County facilities. Among the current projects he provided a status update were in Libertyville, Mill Creek and Des Plaines. He added discussions are still underway to also implement a number of smaller projects.

Matt Meyers, Assistant County Administrator, said agenda items 8.2 and 8.3 have been combined.

8.3 [21-1027](#)

Update on Lake County's Solar Installation Initiative.

The update associated with this item was provided under item 8.2.

8.4 [21-1028](#)

Discussion and presentation on the County's Cafeteria as it relates to single use plastics.

Attachments: [21-1028 EE Presentation 7.7.21 FINAL 2.pdf](#)

Matt Meyers, Assistant County Administrator, said this is a follow up after numerous discussions at previous Committee meetings regarding what can be done to reduce or eliminate single use plastics in the cafeteria in the County's Waukegan Administrative Complex.

RuthAnne Hall, Finance and Administrative Services, provided background as to the current contract with Aramark for the County Cafe. The initial scope detailed the County's commitment to green and sustainable practices and good environmental stewardship. The company has made changes to use recyclable materials. Based on the Committee's direction, staff reached out to Aramark to price out ways to reduce single use plastics. This includes straws, 9-by-9 food containers, wooden cutlery, pre-wrapped utensils and 12-ounce paper cups. Staff also is partnering with the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County to also talk about next steps.

Mr. Meyers said based on the information provided, if the County is to generate a different type of waste, the County wants to ensure they have ability and option to dispose of it properly.

Walter Willis, Solid Waste Agency of Lake County Director, said the county wants to ensure it is making a good decision on choosing products and then following up to set up a collection of items to be composted and ensuring individuals follow the instructions to dispose these items correctly.

Ms. Hall discussed connections the County has developed with community partners to further study the topic, including creating a component to educate how to recycle properly and seeing efforts by other agencies to reduce single use plastics that are sustainable and successful.

After significant discussion, the Committee came to consensus to continue developing a plan to researching reducing or eliminating the use of single-use plastics in the County Cafe. Mr. Meyers said a status update will be provided at the next Committee meeting.

8.5 [21-1029](#)

Discussion on Lake County's Sustainability Statement in Procurement.

Attachments: [21-1029 SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT INSTRUCTIONS - Redlined vers](#)
[21-1029 SUSTAINABILITY STATEMENT Revised 5-7-21 CLEAN COPY.p](#)

RuthAnne Hall, Finance and Administrative Services, presented information about the County's sustainability statement, which has been incorporated in the Request for Proposals in response to the County's strategic plan. The focus has been on the vendors' sustainability, looking at practices they have adopted.

The revised sustainability statement will focus more on the procurement sustainability. Vendors will be required to submit their sustainability policy, a narrative with specific criteria and sustainable approach options including initial cost variances and life cycle costs. This new sustainability statement will be incorporated into the next procurements. The goal is make sure vendors are communicating with the County ways not considered before to make a product or service more sustainable.

8.6 [21-1030](#)

Status update on Lake County's Clean Air Policy Project.

Eric Waggoner, Planning Building and Development Director, presented an update on the County's clean air policy project, explaining a Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued to waste haulers to review waste hauling options within the County's four quadrants. Staff received several RFPs to evaluate.

Director Waggoner provided a summary of the public outreach components of the project.

Director Waggoner addressed the process going forward, including further discussions with members of the Public Works Planning and Transportation (PWPT) Committee and potential action brought to the PWPT Committee and the County Board in September.

Discussion ensued.

9. County Administrator's Report

Matt Meyers, Assistant Count Administrator, had nothing to report.

10. Executive Session

11. Members' Remarks

Member Wasik requested the Committee consider a new program request to hire a sustainability director. He said the director would oversee the sustainability program that the Committee wishes to pursue and move it forward. Discussion ensued, followed by consensus to address this topic at the next Committee meeting.

12. Adjournment

Chair Wilke called the meeting to be adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Next Meeting: August 4, 2021

Minutes prepared by Abby Scaf.

Respectfully submitted,

Energy and Environment Committee Chair