

REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION OF IOWA COUNTY

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2024

The regular meeting of the Regional Environmental Improvement Commission of Iowa County was called to order at 7:00 p.m. December 11, 2024 at the Iowa County Annex Bldg., Marengo Iowa by John Gahring.

Members Present: John Gahring, Dale Faas, Gary Boland, Ethan Morford, Matt Fults, Garrett Dozark, Adam Rabe, Earle Hall, Jim Reinhart and Tyler Marshall.

Members Absent: Alan Schumacher, Brian Ward, Jamie Abernathy

Also Present: David Randall, Director; Diane Yoder, Todd Whipple, HLW Engineering; Alicia Presto, ECICOG; Aaron Sandersfeld, City Manager City of Williamsburg; Eric Tindal, City Attorney City of Williamsburg; Winona Whitaker, Hometown Current reporter.

Agenda:

Approve motion Reinhart, second Boland, motion approved: unanimous

Secretary's Report / Minutes:

Minutes of the Sept. 11 regular meeting were distributed and reviewed. Motion by Boland to approve, second Faas, motion approved: unanimous.

Concerned Citizens: None present

Treasurer Report:

- Have one CD left at Farmers Trust. All others have been moved to a money market account as of Dec 2nd. Pulling cd's to pay for cell expansion, waiting on final invoice, which will be around \$400,000. Hoping to have enough to not have to use the line of credit. Still have \$180,000 in checking and \$250,000 in the money market.
- Will have to borrow for the next phase of the project in fiscal year 2025/2026.
- The budget is pretty much on track for budget and revenues and expenses.

Motion by Marshall to approve Treasurer's Report, Reinhart seconded, motion approved: unanimous.

Approve Assessment Resolution (see roll call)

- Need to look at adjusting rates annually to adjust for inflation rather than waiting and doing big jumps. Future expenses; First cell was \$1.4 million. Second one will be about \$1 million, third about \$1 million. Recommending a \$1 increase, bringing in additional \$16,000 for the 25-26 budget year.

Motion by Faas to approve assessment resolution increase of \$1, from \$29 currently to \$30 for 2025-2026, second Rabe, motion approved: unanimous.

HLW Update:

- Site visit done, report should be ready soon

ECICOG:

- Environmental education update.
- Participation in EMS is completed. Currently under the ECICOG comprehensive plan through 2028.
- Continuing monthly safety training for staff that goes toward certification: continuing education requirements.
- 28e agreement approvals complete and filed with the state.
- Bylaws amendment - changing meeting date from second Wed of the month to third Wed, from 7pm to 6pm, as per previous minutes.

Motion by Faas to approve update to REIC Bylaws, Rabe seconded, motion approved: unanimous.

- HHM building currently just has a fire extinguisher on the outside. There is a DNR grant that will pay for installation of fire suppression system with no matching funds from REIC.

Motion by Rabe to approve authorizing grant application, Morford seconded, motion approved: unanimous.

Directors Report:

- 2024 ram truck received.
- Lowered lagoon for winter storage.
- Seeding quantity from plans was exceeded. Temporary seeding done due to timing of construction. Landfill staff did a second round of seeding at about \$250 per acre, compared to contractor cost of \$1,500 per acre.
- Culverts from County repurposed to construct a sedimentation basin.
- Leachate lines jetted.
- Manhole adjacent to well 105 adjusted by landfill staff.
- Detailed out of county waste coming into landfill.
- 5 to 10 year plan developed, preliminary. Looking at assessment fees, revenue based on population, tonnage revenue, and total revenue including assessment. Plan includes a 10 year schedule for capital improvements, new cell, and equipment replacements. Currently projecting annual shortfall based on 10 year total. Need to look at raising rates, raising tonnage, increasing out of county waste, and/or reducing expenses.
- Look at reducing the fee of \$20 to \$15 to match the minimum tonnage fee for trucks that only want a total weight.

Motion by Faas to lower weight fee to \$10, seconded by Reinhart, motion approved: unanimous.

- ICAP risk assessment says fuel tanks are supposed to meet NFPA 30 requirements. Need new tanks.

Motion by Marshall to purchase required new fuel tanks from Whiteys, Marengo, Reinhart seconded, motion approved: unanimous.

- Open records policy proposed to deal with records requests. Draft provided, which is going through attorney review. Action tabled until January meeting to allow time for review.

Chairman Report:

- Review of requirements for trash haulers for all trash going to landfill. 28e agreement states that they are required to bring it to the facility designated in the comprehensive plan. Regional comprehensive plan stipulates that wastes stay within the region, and that facilities will not accept waste from each other's jurisdiction. ECICOG has a role in approving cases where wastes need to go out of the region. Waste haulers are subject to comp plan requirements. The question appears to be how to deal with waste haulers potentially not following this procedure: the options are track and pay, cite and fine, or do nothing.
- Discussion of how City of Williamsburg dumpsters are being handled. All contracted wastes with ABC are supposed to be delivered to Iowa County landfill. Non contracted wastes are not going to Iowa County Landfill- applies only to City facility dumpsters. Per comprehensive plan, ABC is allowed to take waste to their transfer station. Discussion with City of Williamsburg representatives followed. City staff agree to have ABC scale before and after weekly City dumpster pickup and pay the equivalent tonnage fees for wastes currently going out of the county. ABC will generate a report summarizing total waste hauling for a month. Tonnage report will be examined to try to validate the reported contractual residential tonnage coming from Williamsburg,
- Substantial completion of cell B1 as of September 2024.
- Discussion on executive decision on accepting out of county soil. Current case is looking at 5,000 tons of soil from a project in Cedar Rapids. Waiting on environmental reports and need IDNR consultation/approval for disposal and/or use techniques.
- Discussion on Director having flexibility in negotiating and accepting wastes down to a lower rate down to in county rate of \$70 per ton for up to 4,000 tons.

Motion by Rabe to approve giving Director authority to negotiate rates on out of county waste, seconded by Boland, motion approved; unanimous.

Adjournment:

Motion by Reinhart to adjourn at 9:30p.m., seconded by Faas, motion approved: unanimous.

Schedule of Meetings:

JAN 15, MAR 19, JUN 18, SEPT 17, DEC 17

Tyler Marshall
Recording Secretary

***Minutes are unofficial until approved at the next board meeting.**