

WILL COUNTY BOARD
LEGISLATIVE & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

July 8, 2009

6:00 p.m.

Will County Office Building
County Board Room
302 N. Chicago Street
Joliet IL 60432

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Goodson called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Present were Members: Wilhelmi, Brooks, Jr., Rozak, L. Smith, and Goodson.

Absent were Members: Konicki and Traynere.

Also Present: Moustis, Bilotta, Adamic, Kusta, Jr., Babich, Dralle, Seiler, B. Smith, Stewart and Winfrey.

Present from State's Attorney's Office: Melanie Manning.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Senator Wilhelmi led the committee in the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion Re: SB1607

Ms. Goodson read into the record a letter from the Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan concerning SB1607.

Mr. Stewart arrived at this juncture.

Mrs. Dralle arrived at this juncture.

Mr. Olson addressed the committee with his concerns regarding SB1607.

Mrs. Dralle questioned is there any inspection of the debris from the buildings before it is put on a truck.

Mr. Olson stated we do not regulate the sites so I am not sure.

Mr. Moustis stated currently clean dirt is allowed in these sites. This bill will allow certain levels of contaminated materials into these sites. I find it interesting that we now want to talk about levels of contamination. I am concerned about that.

Mr. Olson stated I agree, any level of contamination is a problem.

Mr. Phillips, attorney from the Illinois EPA, addressed the committee regarding the IEPA's stance on SB1607. Currently the IEPA is neutral on the bill.

Ms. Goodson questioned can you tell us what the nine criteria are for siting these quarries.

Mr. Phillips stated siting is for waste handling activities such as a landfill or incinerator. I can look up the act if you would like me to.

Ms. Goodson stated Will County has a very shallow watershed and the likelihood that this will get into our watershed is high.

Mr. Phillips stated the analysis is different for these types of locations as compared to a landfill. That is why we need rigid controls on what sites can accept.

Mrs. Rozak stated I cannot believe that the IEPA is neutral on this. I want the IEPA to protect us.

Senator Wilhelmi stated I have voted no on this bill. That was due to the communication I have had with the leaders in Will County. Once ground water is contaminated it is very difficult to rectify. I stand committed with you. This bill has stalled in the House but it did pass the Senate. I will continue to monitor this bill.

Mrs. Rozak stated I do not think that the owners and operators should be self monitoring.

Mr. Adamic stated there is no grey area; the IEPA needs to monitor the drinking water. Every load needs to be monitored. I am against this bill.

Mr. Friefeld stated the bill and the existing law may be inadequate. That should be the discussion in the legislature.

Mr. Wilcox, president of the Land Reclamation Recycling Association, addressed the committee regarding the SB1607.

Mr. Wilcox stated the Land Reclamation Association worked on this bill with the IEPA because there are quarries in the state that are taking in loads that are not being

monitored. Currently there are quarries and mines that put up a sign 'clean fill' but are not testing the loads in any way. We want to put a stop to that.

Ms. Goodson questioned will every load be tested at the construction site or the dump site.

Mr. Wilcox stated currently every load at a permitted site is tested with a PID meter. That will stay the same. Incoming loads will be tested by a third party and once the dirt is placed it will be tested in a random pattern at the rate stated in the legislation. We are therefore adding two levels of testing.

Ms. Goodson questioned do you object to adding ground water testing to the bill.

Mr. Wilcox questioned who will do that testing and how will it be done.

Mr. Moustis stated it only takes one mistake to contaminate the ground water. Why not protect against that one mistake? There needs to be additional protections if you want to bring this forward. Monitoring does not prevent anything.

Mr. Wilcox stated you would like to see more. Many groups were concerned about the costs. Putting a liner in is something that we looked at but a lot of people were not happy about the added cost.

Mr. Kusta, Jr. questioned what is the cost of a liner.

Mr. Wilcox stated that depends on what type of liner.

Mr. Bilotta left at this juncture.

Mrs. Rozak left at this juncture

Ms. Demarco, executive director of the Forest Preserve District of Will County, read a letter from President Singer regarding the Forest Preserve's opposition of SB1607.

Ms. Stark from CARE addressed the committee opposing SB1607.

Mrs. Rozak returned at this juncture.

Mr. Hoekstra, Director of Operations for Waste Management, recited the nine criteria needed for a landfill. It needs to be consistent with the County's solid waste management plan; there needs to be proof that there are no traffic impacts; there are no negative real estate impact; you must show that the facility will be operated to minimize impact to the surrounding area; the site will not be located in a 100 year flood plain; the site is not in a recharge zone for ground water; there is proof that there is a

need for the facility; there is proof that it is designed correctly; and the site must be compatible with the area. This bill will allow higher levels of contaminants to go into quarries throughout the state of Illinois.

Mrs. Bilotta, environmental health director of the Will County Health Department, addressed the committee regarding remediation of ground water contamination.

Mr. Kusta, Jr., left at this juncture.

Mr. Keith Landovitz, a homeowner in Elwood, addressed the committee with his concerns regarding SB1607.

Ms. Bercenski, from CARE, addressed the committee regarding SB1607 concerns.

Ms. Rendulich, from CARE, addressed the committee regarding SB1607 concerns.

Mrs. Rozak questioned when there is a violation do you notify the County.

Mr. Phillips stated I do not know. I can check that.

Mrs. Rozak stated that is something that would be very valuable at the County.

Mr. Moustis stated I do not think that quarries should be used as landfills.

Other Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mrs. Rozak, seconded by Mr. Brooks, Jr., to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 pm. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.