

## ENVIRONMENT GROUP MINUTES – IMAGINE GREEN B/N – NOV. 28-29, 2007

**People present** – Mercy Davison (Town Planner, Normal), Julie Elzanati (Program Mgr for Community Ed), Enid Cardinal (ISU Sustainability Coordinator), Ron Maier (Life Coach/Counselor), Tom Bierma (ISU, Environmental Health, Abby Jahiel (IWU, Environmental Studies), Rebecca Rossi (ISU masters candidate), Carolyn Treadway (Inconvenient Truth trainee), Jan Holder (Friends of Kickapoo Creek), Anne McGowan (formerly EAC), Joe Grabill (Children & Elders Forest), Emily Freese (U of I Extension, Program Coord. for Community/Economic Development)

**People interested** – Given Harper, Angelo Capparella, Marie Streenz, Rachael Masa, Mary Horgan, Sandy McGhee

The basic format of the minutes follows Mercy Davison’s analysis of the Aug. 18 notes. Mercy also helped prepare the current form of the minutes.

Note ...TON = Town of Normal, COB = City of Bloomington, HOA = Homeowners Association, IDOT = Ill. Dept. of Transportation

### Overall

1. Promote mass education
  - Regular forums at city councils
  - Booth at Farmer’s Market
  - Wellness Fairs
  - Presentations at churches
  - Get buy-in from powerful players as much as possible: TON, COB, County, State Farm, Unit 5, District 87, Country Companies
  - Work with Pantagraph to publish a regular column on various sustainability issues, with pieces submitted by local experts (**Anne McGowan** to spearhead; Sandra Steingraber lead editorial); get Green corner in Pantagraph, Green spot on WJBC
  - Community-wide sustainability campaign, make B/N green tourist destination
  - Presentations to City and Town Councils; contact David Suzuki, U.S. Mayors org.
  - Use Sadhu from Chicago as keynote at Expo
2. Develop recognition/metric system for rewarding green improvement in varied categories of green activity (**Tom Bierma**)
  - Set up green symbols as incentives for improvement categories (i.e. IWU senior project on “Green Enterprises:”)
  - Give kits to individuals/groups to help them improve
  - Use ISU/IWU interns to help; connect with AASHE (Am. Asso. for Sus. In Higher ED.)
  - Ask Tom Bierma, Angelo Capparella, Given Harper, Abby Jahiel, Enid Cardinal and others (Heartland: Mary Beth, Widmer, Julie) to help set categories
  - Link with Angelo’s Listserve
  - Conduct a Greenhouse Gas Inventory of Bloomington-Normal (universities could be key)

### Water ..

1. Water efficiency standards, building codes
2. Charge real cost of water
3. Lobby TON/COB to stop chemical use on public land
4. Neighborhood groups/HOA’s could be better educated
5. Stream restoration in town
6. Emphasis on water conservation (xeriscaping)
7. Investing in better drinking water source for COB (i.e. ground water)
8. Rain gardens

9. Cisterns/rain barrels
10. Storm water management: native vegetation, tree planting
11. Prohibit fertilizers and pesticides, etc
12. Require posting, education/Yard Smart
13. Better regulation of septics – require annual inspections
14. Require educational materials with home purchase
15. No bottled water; market metal water can
  - Jan Holder** will check with Wild Country
16. Erosion and sediment control ordinance AND enforcement
17. Total “buy in” to Total Max Daily Load’s/watershed planning
18. Celebrate water
19. Build green roofs
20. Plant shrubs around parking lots, i.e, Mugsy’s in Bloomington

#### **Air**

1. Better monitoring and public info—publicize existing air monitoring; consider air quality in future development
2. Lobby IDOT for Mitsubishi air emissions ... ask **Larry Shapiro**
3. Interstate
4. Clunker buyback program
5. Native plantings on roadsides
6. Require air pollution offsets
7. Vehicle emissions testing
8. Bus retrofits (esp. schools)—lobby U5 and D87 to do this
9. County to adopt roadsides for wildlife
10. Anti-idling regs—lobby for adoption via School Boards and Munis
11. Increased hybrids in fleets (i.e. taxis, TON, State Farm)
12. More interconnected greenspace
13. 2 million trees by (date?!) (all native)

#### **Land**

1. Increased native and organic landscaping; Metcalf composting
2. Greenbelt around B-N i.e. forest preserve in Chic
3. Increased pocket parks
4. Increased space allotted for passive recreation and natural habitat
5. TON/COB to:
  - Buy more land far out for future greenspace
  - Get state grant \$
  - Partner MUCH MORE with local nonprofits i.e. Parklands & Audubon
6. Get native planting areas at all major inst’s to be examples: BroMenn, TON City Hall, COB City Hall
7. Native Species
8. Biotic inventories, starting with parkland
9. Increased emphasis on backyard habitat (native)
10. Less habitat fragmentation
11. Increased public education and appreciation of our native heritage
12. public park needs x % native area
13. Ecological restoration on public lands
14. Better management of existing habitat .Code to require biotic inventory pre-development
15. Partner with ISU/IWU nonprofits
16. Local code to not prohibit native landscaping
17. Much better education via web
18. Angela Smith—Sugar Grove

19. In code, more clearly rec. native planting with web refs, etc.
20. Lobby McLean County Board ad TON/COB to protect farmland
21. Connect with Amer. Farmland Trust and Research other communities' initiatives
22. Establish "Purchase of Dvmt Rights" with real estate tax
23. Need to co-opt developers OR Recruit an experienced out-of-town developer to do a "green" development here OR Hire a non-local engineering firm
24. Show developer a less palatable regulatory option to encourage better development AND giving them a clear alternative/actual plan
25. Development "consumers" need to be more educated and then must "demand" green development

### **Food**

1. Increased local organic food from small farms
2. Real farmland protection regs
3. Develop local markets: major institutions purchasing it, local restaurants
4. Greater awareness of local food issues
5. Better use of leftover food from local sources and local restaurants
6. Ensure no HOA restrictions on gardens/compost
6. Tell everyone to ask, "Where's the local food?" when they eat out
7. Investing cost savings of composting
8. Local rest's to publicize use of local food
9. Increased community Gardens on existing public parks and at churches
10. Work w/religious groups on circulating excess food
11. Healthy food in school lunches

### **Energy**

1. Distributed pwr—all bldg's create energy (renewable/sust.)
2. Decreased gas consumpt .. efficient vehicles, better BN Public Transit System, bike/ped friendly
3. Carbon neutral
4. Retrofitting residential and communal strucs
5. Increased energy efficiency in building codes
6. Communities signing on to declarations, etc.
7. Ideas from existing initiatives i.e. other communities to learn how to do renewables; ISU/IWU/HCC classes could do work
8. Local environmental "think tank" with adequate access to decision makers
9. Stripe bike lanes
10. Local financial incentives for energy retrofit
11. Increased public education via government and local retailers
12. Curriculum in schools for energy and sustainability
13. Work more with local Senator and State Reps
14. Work with very local politicians
15. Increased use of on-demand water heaters
16. Hang out laundry
17. Promote state conservation codes on residences
18. Connect with professional energy consultants, APEC

**Next meeting – Wed., Jan 23, 11:30 a.m., Conference Rm. C, Normal City Hall**

### **Topics:**

1. **What is the mission of the Environment Group?**
2. **What are our priorities?**
3. **Who is willing to take a leadership role?**