

Athens City Environment and Sustainability Commission  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Athens City Building  
Tuesday, January 05, 2016

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1. Call to order: Cliff Hamilton called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Members present include Cliff, Mat Roberts, Elaine Goetz, Richard Linscott, and Meredith Price-Mullins. Jennifer Cochran and Ed Newman reported their absence in advance. Quorum was established. Erin Sykes from Rural Action was our guest.

2. Disposition of Minutes: The minutes from the December 2015 regular meeting were reviewed by the commission. Meredith motioned to approve the minutes. Richard seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

3. Next Meeting Date: The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 5:30 PM. A work session is set for Tuesday January 19 at 5:30 PM at City Hall.

4. New Business

A. Erin Sykes, Rural Action—Erin introduced herself to the commission. She is director of the Zero Waste program. The Zero Waste program takes a multi-pronged approach to waste in the district include working with schools, securing pledges from businesses, illegal dumpsite cleanups, event waste intervention such as Nelsonville Music Festival, and planning services. 25 steps in the 2013 zero waste plan have been completed so far.

Within the city, ZW is working on a project with 12 Athens bars to recycle more glass. 4 of them are new glass recyclers and the others wanted to improve their system. Space is needed in order to expand the program to other bars. They are working with the city to address this. They are also working to improve aluminum and plastic recycling at the bar. Straws and plastic cutlery cannot be recycled at this time.

The plastic bag program is in process. ZW will be doing 1-on-1 meetings with store managers at Lowes, Big Lots, Kroger, and Follett's this month as well. The movie Bag-It will be screened on 2/24 at 7 PM at the Athena Cinema.

ZW has hosted a recycling competition in the Athens school district. Beacon won the contest. Bins are going into the schools right now. The MRF will be accepting school milk cartons in 2016. There are no plans for composting at schools until the compost center gets a shredder to deal with the cutlery. O'Bleness hospital will start a recycling program with ZW in a few weeks.

ZW has about 10 businesses that have made ZW pledges. Recent pledges in Athens include Jackie O's, Smiling Skull, Cool Digs, and Beacon School. City is moving forward with new recycling carts for residential recycling to replace the red bins.

ZW tracks # of students that have been educated, # of adults educated, and amount of trash removed from woods. Erin has a map of some known illegal dump sites but nothing in city. Erin expects

to have follow-up waste assessment data in 2017. She suggested we use the Annual District Report submitted to OEPA annually for plan data that can be tracked (Roger can provide).

There's a movement within the recycling sector to look at tracking waste reduction rather than waste diversion. Erin encouraged us to use a waste reduction measurement—possibly use waste per person/customer served in the plan.

Erin also referred us to <http://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/> for information on some hard to recycle plastics.

#### 5. Old Business

A. Sustainability Plan—work session set for January 19 at 5:30 PM.

#### 6. Updates

There were no updates.

#### 7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.