

Indiana Land Resources Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 24, 2013
1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
The Nature Conservancy Efrogmson Conservation Center

Present: Bob Burke, Bruce Everhart, Gina Sheets, Mary McConnell, Eric Kelly, Nancy Cline, Fred Walker

Absent: David Compton, Gene Schmidt, Vacancy (municipal gov rep)

The meeting began with a motion by Bruce to approve the November 2012 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Bob and passed unanimously.

The council then received an update from Amy regarding county assistance provided on behalf of the ILRC since the last meeting. Amy provided assistance to Hancock, Jennings, Washington and Wells Counties. Amy also updated the council on a presentation that she gave at the Indiana Horticultural Congress regarding the ILRC agritourism planning guide. Amy informed the council that Jamie Palmer and multiple farm families requested assistance from the council regarding preparing guidance for communities that annex agricultural land.

Amy provided a legislative update of agricultural and land use issues. The council requested follow-up information on septic, livestock and annexation issues.

Eric gave an update on Discussion Paper: Planned Growth for Indiana. The council has been talking about sensible growth issues for some time. This paper introduces some new ideas into the discussion. The council generally agreed that the restatement of the commitment to planning is not controversial. Although state law says planning is mandatory there is nothing that requires a community to have an updated comprehensive plan to qualify for state funding. OCRA might be a good partner for pilot program on this concept. The required elements of a comprehensive plan are not burdensome. Other states have laws that require communities to follow their comprehensive plans and if they don't they must acknowledge they are ignoring the plan and state why they are doing so. The council also discussed urban growth boundaries and recognized that planners generally do not like them. In general, the Growth Areas section is more controversial and might need to be separated from the rest of the document. However, these ideas present the greatest opportunity for difference. Jamie Palmer submitted written comments that were provided to Eric. The council will review the document in April after Eric has had a chance to make revisions.

Eric presented Policy Comments Regarding Septic Systems. The document is intended to provide guidance to counties and communities. The council recognized that the state needs to collect more data on septic systems. The document is a first draft designed to be used as a starting point for conversation. There is a jurisdictional fight between the state and local health departments and/or IDEM. At this time, the council is not aware of any studies regarding location for density. Some of the concepts are similar to bills discussed during the legislative update. It can be difficult to get an alternative system approved in Indiana then though EPA says it works.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy K. Cornell
Executive Director