

Minutes

Environmental Advisory Board

13 August 2014

Ogden Dunes Town Hall

The Environmental Board met on 13 August 2014 at 5:30 pm at Town Hall. Attendees were Sue MiHalo, Jim Biancotti, John Morris, Bob Cattani, and Tom Clouser.

Jim moved to accept the minutes of the last meeting of the Environmental Board, for 11 June 2014, and Bob seconded. The motion carried.

Regarding the MS4 exemption, Jim had presented the status of the effort to the Town Council at their 4 August 2014 meeting, but since Reggie Korthals of the Indianapolis IDEM office had not let him know when she will be visiting, there was little definite that could be said. He will need information concerning how many wells are in town. He recently found that at least one house has geothermal wells, but those are not used for drinking water supply.

There was a meeting of the Septic System Coordination Work Group on 19 June 2014, and Jim attended. He recently received an email from the Work Group asking what our town had done in the past. Since Jim joined the ODEAB after the previous Septic Awareness week, he was apprised of our efforts, including the banner, the web page information, the Facebook quiz, and the brochure included with the water bill. Septic Awareness week will be in the fall this year, starting 22 September 2014.

Regarding recycling, Sue informed the group that Indianapolis was switching to a single stream for trash and recycling, with separation done at the destination. While easier for the public, this could be costlier and less effective. She wanted to alert us, should there be a push for the same in our area.

Sue wants to pay John Olsen from the unspent funds the Board has to spray Purple Loosestrife. Suggested amount was \$100 to \$150. Bob so moved and Jim seconded. The motion carried.

Bob Cattani said that he has contacted the Bells from Beverly Shores about the Dark Skies Initiative. They can meet us on a Friday, so it was proposed that we have a special meeting on either 5 September or 12 September. If funds are needed for the changes to the lights, a grant from the Community Fund would be appropriate, with matching from residents. We need to get any questions ready for the Bells before the meeting.

Comments should be prepared for the proposed rule for the oil trains published in the *Federal Register* on 1 August 2014. All should examine this document from the standpoint of how it affects our town. Comments will be exchanged and compiled at our next meeting, on 10 September 2014. Sue has volunteered to compile them into a document for the Department of Transportation. The 60 day comment period ends 30m September 2014. It was suggested we look at the comments already submitted, which can be found on the *Federal Register* website attached to the proposed rule. Note the proposed rule may be found at:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2014/08/01/2014-17764/hazardous-materials-enhanced-tank-car-standards-and-operational-controls-for-high-hazard-flammable>

Included with these minutes are some documents Bob presented, including a report from the Congressional Research Service maintaining that the commodity (Bakken crude) was no more flammable than most other crude oils, comparing to WTI crude, and the material safety data sheets for these oils. The point being made was that railroads were more responsible for the series of noteworthy accidents with oil trains through lack of track maintenance and operator error, than the oil companies by shipping a hazardous product.

John moved to adjourn, Bob seconded, and the motion was approved at 6:55 pm.

Submitted by John Morris.