

**MINUTES  
CITY OF ST. CHARLES  
NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION MEETING  
LOREN NAGY, CHAIRMAN  
APRIL 8, 2021**

**Members Present:** Kathy Brens, Angela Churchill, Heather Goudreau, Lee Haggas, Loren Nagy, Pam Otto, Daniella Taylor, Bryan Wirball.  
Present via WebEx: Tom Galante, Suzi Myers.

**Members Absent:** Elli Chivari, Ryan Johnson.

**Others Present:** Marcelline D'Argento, AJ Reineking.

**Visitors Present:** Nancy Van Beest.

**1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

The meeting was convened by Chair. Nagy at 7:01p.m.

**2. Introduction of Visitors, Comments and Concerns**

Nancy Van Beest was in attendance as a member of the Kane County League of Women Voters environmental team [League]. Ms. Van Beest discussed the League's interest in the Greenest Region Compact [GRC], concern with climate change and support of the St. Charles Natural Resources Commission [NRC]. Ms. Van Beest also discussed and distributed information regarding the Clean Energy Jobs Act. This information is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

**3. Minutes Review and Approval**

Motion to approve and place into the public record the minutes of the March 11, 2021 NRC meeting. Motion by Comm. Goudreau, second by Comm. Brens to approve the minutes. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:02 p.m.

**4. Old Business**

**A. Greenest Region Compact II**

Chair. Nagy and Mr. Reineking reported updates had been made to the Land section of the GRC. A copy of the updated Land section will be emailed to the NRC by city staff. Chair. Nagy proposed forming a sub-committee to focus on the NRC's goals working with city staff and possibly through internships. The Commissioners concurred and will consider leading and/or joining the sub-committee. Ms. D'Argento confirmed a maximum of three persons could meet as a sub-committee in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. The GRC sub-committee will be further discussed at the May 2021 NRC meeting.

**B. Arbor Day**

Chair. Nagy reported Mayor-Elect Vitek and possibly Mayor Rogina will attend the city's Arbor Day event at St. Charles East High School. Ms. D'Argento reported the superintendent of School District 303 would like the NRC Student Commissioners to coordinate the time of the event on April 30th with the assistant principal of the school. The time and maximum number of persons in attendance will be determined by the high school principal.

**C. Earth Day Clean-Up**

Comm. Otto reported the Earth Day clean-up will be done at five separate locations throughout the city on April 22nd from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Student Comm. Taylor stated there should be approximately 25 to 30 high school students participating in the clean-up.

**5. New Business**

None.

**6. Committee Reports**

**A. Education Committee**

None.

**A. Langum Woods Clean-Up Committee**

Comm. Otto stated a clean-up at Langum Woods would likely be done in the fall. There are spring wildflowers blooming that could be trampled. A controlled burn might be considered as well.

**B. New Committee**

Comm. Goudreau proposed having a native plant sale for the community in early June in connection with the GRC Land section. Additionally, Comm. Goudreau proposed a one-day cooking oil collection, possibly after Thanksgiving, which would keep the oil out of drains and facilitate conversion into biofuel. The NRC will consider these proposals.

Comm. Goudreau discussed the possibility for scrap metal collection. Mr. Reineking noted the city presently has a scrap metal container for collection and is compensated for the collected metals.

Additionally, Comm. Goudreau noted the holiday/Christmas lights recycling be could be resumed this year [there was no collection in 2020 due to public health concerns]. The lights recycling program was well-received by the community. Daily collection from some drop-off locations may be needed, such as at Blue Goose. The central drop-off location will remain at Public Works; additional satellite drop-off locations will be further discussed by the NRC.

**C. Single-Use Bag Committee**

Chair. Nagy reported the Committee is awaiting the upcoming transition with the new Mayor and City Council members to continue the NRC's progress on this issue.

**7. Public Services Division Tree Activity Reports**

Deferred until the May 2021 NRC meeting.

**8. Additional Items**

**A. Commissioners**

None.

**B. City Staff**

Mr. Reineking reported that Public Services staff who are working on inappropriately mulched trees in the parkways will be reaching out to the adjacent property owner to educate them on proper mulching techniques. He indicated that a door-hanger will be updated also to convey proper mulching practices and left for homeowners.

**9. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion by Comm. Wirball, second by Comm. Churchill to adjourn the meeting. Voice vote: unanimous; nays – none. Motion carried at 7:50 p.m.

# THE CLEAN ENERGY JOBS ACT

SB1718 (CASTRO) / HB804 (WILLIAMS)

The Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA) is a comprehensive climate and energy bill that centers equity and puts Illinois on a track to achieve 100 percent renewable energy by 2050. It is the product of hundreds of listening sessions with community members and represents the voices of the 100+ organizations and businesses that make up the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition.



## 1. Equitable Workforce & Business Development

CEJA puts workers first, recognizing structural, historical, and institutional barriers faced by workers and contractors that identify as Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) and directing resources and support to reduce those barriers. CEJA invests \$82 million/yr in workforce development and contractor equity and will draw \$1.5 billion/yr of new private workforce investment to Illinois.



## 2. Energy Access & Solar for All

Without deliberate policy, most of the benefits of renewable energy flow to existing privilege and wealth. CEJA counteracts that trend through policies designed to bring the benefits of the clean energy economy to BIPOC, low income, and environmental justice communities. CEJA invests \$2 billion in these communities by 2030, while providing \$50 million/yr in rate relief to low-income consumers.



## 3. Renewable Energy

To avoid the worst impacts of climate change, we must transition our current energy system to clean, affordable, and renewable energy. By creating a path to 100% renewable energy, CEJA is one of the most ambitious plans for renewable energy development in the country, developing 17,000 MW of solar and 6300 MW of wind and putting tens of thousands of Illinoisans to work.



## 4. Energy Efficiency

CEJA saves consumers \$700 million/yr through an expansion of electric and gas energy efficiency programs. Of the tens of thousands of clean energy jobs in Illinois, 72% of them are in efficiency. Expanding these programs will drive efficiency investments, energy burden reductions, and job creation.



## 5. Carbon-free Power

CEJA transitions the Illinois power sector from fossil fuels to clean energy while supporting energy workers and communities impacted by the decline of the coal industry. It achieves a carbon-free power sector by 2030, closing the most harmful polluters first while expanding clean energy generation and good-paying clean energy jobs.



### 6. Capacity Market Reform

Capacity charges have grown increasingly expensive and now make up more than 20% of ComEd customers' electric bills. We don't need this much capacity and these payments are keeping uneconomic dirty fossil fuel plants afloat at the expense of consumers. CEJA calls on the state to take over ComEd's capacity market procurements. By running our own auction, Illinois can stop paying for unnecessary capacity, creating substantial savings for consumers.



### 7. Electric Transportation

CEJA supports electrifying the equivalent of 1.2 million vehicles by 2030, the electrification of public transit and medium and heavy duty fleets, Electric Vehicle (EV) rebates and EV access for low income communities, and a substantial build out of EV infrastructure.



### 8. Support for Fossil Fuel Workers & Communities

In Illinois and across the country, the transition away from coal is underway. Out-of-state energy corporations have made risky investments in expensive and aging Illinois coal plants and mines, and then closed them with little warning or support for workers or communities. CEJA puts coal workers and communities first and guides an orderly transition from coal to renewable energy, investing up to \$137.5 million/yr in transitioning communities.



### 9. Utility Accountability

CEJA sets bold goals for utilities to make the grid more affordable, clean, and equitable, with utility profits contingent upon meeting those goals. CEJA creates a transparent process for making big decisions about our electric grid, and empowers regulators to ensure ratepayer money is well-spent.

## WHY NOW?

#### **Paying for energy we don't want and don't need**

Regional and national regulators force Illinois to pay for more energy than we need. This system props up fossil fuel generation and incentivizes new gas plants. Unless the General Assembly acts, Illinoisans will continue to overpay into a system perpetuating the dirty energy status quo.

#### **Action on the climate crisis cannot wait**

2020 was the second hottest year on record. In 2019, all 102 counties in Illinois were declared agriculture disaster areas due to extreme weather. The climate clock is always ticking.

#### **A plan for workers, families and communities**

Coal company executives acknowledge that coal "is on its way out." Vistra, Dynegy and NRG have repeatedly yanked the rug out from under workers and communities. CEJA provides resources and much needed planning.

#### **The renewable energy cliff is here**

Solar incentive programs are now closed for lack of funding. This means that solar customers - families, churches, schools, businesses, etc. - no longer have access to solar savings. Thousands of solar workers are losing their jobs during the COVID pandemic.

