

Environmental Forum : 06/06/22

Present: Susan Leuthauser, Shirley Johnson, Lori McCollum, PJ Slobogan, Glenda Guster, Sue Normoyle, Tom Bengel, Key Pence

The meeting began at 5 pm and discussion began with a review of the local municipalities and any environmental issues. Lori discussed the current status of the Rock Island County Waste Management Agency and the recommendation of the Bring Back the Bins campaign to adjust their budget to allow for 2 bins in the 22-23 budgetary year (one of which would be coordinated by Midland Davis in Moline who has volunteered to host a site). Sue reported on Moline's water program. Tom reported on Bettendorf's tree planting program. Shirley noted that she has asked Rock Island to provide an update on their solar project, which has still not gotten a full approval. There were no current environmental issues in Milan, Eldridge or Davenport.

A review of the Earth Day Fair was provided. We had about 24 tablers, and 5 musical groups. Next year the Fair will be hosted on the second Saturday in May, per Lorrie Beaman's request. Lori sent a "save the date" note to all of the tablers.

The QC Plastic Free group met at the Niabi Zoo last Friday. Joel Vanderbush, Lori McCollum and Nicolina Pappas discussed ways to move forward with prior plans to approach restaurants on changing their policies on straws. The plan was to next address schools. Joel reviewed the plastic policy he has instituted at the zoo, which is extensive. Nicolina will be approaching Rock Island's city council about a single-use bag tax, and ban on plastic straws. There is no date set on this as yet. There is a group of 5 or 6 students from 6th grade working on this project.

Plastic Free July – Lori sent Joel our former flyers and he is making a more condensed flyer that can be used as a press release to go out at the end of this month.

We lost a great contact in the Davenport Schools, Deb Heitman, who has changed jobs. We are not yet aware if her position was refilled, but will try to find out a new contact person.

Lori is speaking at the Channel Cat series on July 5 and 7 on Plastic Pollution in the Mississippi River.

Shirley reported that CEJA had no updates, and that CUBS in Illinois has a Clean Energy Page on their website.

We discussed possibly doing a Candidate Forum next fall. Lori will contact potential liaison groups about this to see if anything is already in the works: AAUW, LULAC, One Human Family, NAACP, NOW, LWV, WIN. Everyone will forward contact information to Lori. We talked about making this bistate, but only for state level offices.

Next month we will have no Forum meeting, as it falls on the 4th of July. Green Drinks for June is on 6/7 and 20 people are registered. Green Drinks in July is at West Lake on July 5th and for August is at Nahant Marsh.

We closed the meeting at 6:55. Respectfully submitted by Lori McCollum