



**Champaign County Board
Environment and Land Use Committee (ELUC)
County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois**

MINUTES – Approved as Distributed March 6, 2025

DATE: Thursday, February 6, 2025
TIME: 6:30 p.m.
PLACE: Shields-Carter Meeting Room
Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E Washington, Urbana, IL 61802

Committee Members

Present	Absent
Aaron Esry (Vice-Chair)	
John Farney	
Jennifer Locke	
	Emily Rodriguez
Jilmala Rogers	
Chris Stohr	
Eric Thorsland (Chair)	

County Staff: John Hall (Zoning Administrator) and Liz Dillingham (Administrative Services)

Others Present: Susan Monte

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Committee Chair Thorsland called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken, and a quorum was declared present.

III. Approval of Agenda/Addendum

MOTION by Ms. Rogers to approve the agenda and seconded by Mr. Farney.
Upon voice vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously to approve the agenda.

IV. Approval of Minutes

A. January 9, 2025 – Regular Meeting

MOTION by Ms. Locke to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2025, regular meeting, seconded by Mr. Esry. Upon voice vote, the **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously to approve the minutes.

Mr. Stohr was pleased with the detailed and thorough content of the January 9, 2025, minutes and applauded the Recorder.

V. Public Participation

Susan Monte with the Champaign County Environmental Stewards (CCES) requested the ELUC committee to recommend to the County Board that they use the Champaign County Seal on an information fact sheet regarding a household hazardous waste extended producer responsibility piece of legislation that is currently before the Illinois General Assembly. They will be lobbying for a passage this year and encourage senators and our representatives to be co-sponsors of this bill. She related this is a game changer for Illinois should it be passed this year. It will essentially shift the cost of operations for household hazardous waste collection to manufacturers of those products that are sold in Illinois. Vermont is the only other state that has this in effect. It is widespread in Canada and Europe. Extended producer responsibility is a format that has been successful in addressing consumer electronics as the bill passed in 2017. Paint passed in 2023, and portable batteries passed in 2024. This would be wonderful for us.

VI. Communications

Mr. Thorsland closed communications as no one wished to speak.

VII. New Business: Items For Information Only

A. Proposed approach to preparing a draft comprehensive Zoning Ordinance text amendment to address concerns about carbon sequestration in Champaign County

Mr. Stohr drafted a proposal for preparing a comprehensive amendment on sequestration activity. It was edited by Mr. Hall.

Discussion by the Committee agreed they would review the document and discuss it in the March meeting.

Mr. Thorsland suggested encouraging Board members reaching out with a letter to engage other counties over the aquifer to include them in the moratorium. He would like this included in the guidelines.

Mr. Esry discussed other strata areas that all need protection throughout the County besides the Mahomet Aquifer. He talked about the smaller areas getting polluted and the Mahomet Aquifer picking up the deficit when this occurs. He agrees we should make a statement for other counties to protect all water sources. He suggested getting the state involved as well and believes our local representatives in the house and senate will be receptive. He was unsure about the representatives in Springfield, IL. He indicated it would be worth a try to involve everyone.

Mr. Thorsland asked if we should involve the state to encourage our local representatives to work on a statewide moratorium. He mentioned money is usually a factor in these decisions.

Mr. Stohr stated while at the University of Illinois, he studied the very aquifers Mr. Esry spoke about. He is willing to share a professional paper that covers topics such as close-range photogrammetry and terrestrial lidar scanning of outcrops along the middle fork of the Vermilion River. He can also include additional information about hyperspectral scanning that will assist in any insomnia you are fighting. He stated you do not have to go out west to see dried up aquifers. He mentioned Joliet, IL that is facing a water crisis due to depleted water and now purchases their water from Chicago. There are also eight other cities located in the Chicago Metropolitan area that are facing a similar problem and will be out of water in twenty years because they have depleted two aquifers up in the Chicago suburbs. As chair Thorsland mentioned, what we do here with the talent in our own county can draft a template that can be used in the east central Illinois region to protect the Mahomet Aquifer and the smaller glacial aquifers outside the larger sole source aquifer. The smaller ones are hard to define, and they are sole source for those areas. Taking this all into consideration, a process of documenting and drafting the best guidance we can so we can advise our brethren in Springfield to assist protecting our water resources.

Mr. Thorsland indicated we now have a template of a twelve-month moratorium, our ordinance. He asked Ms. Locke, as County Board Chair, the Board's thoughts on sending a document with our letterhead to other counties to consider joining our Board with a twelve-month moratorium while a more permanent solution is being considered.

Ms. Locke stated she can delegate the task, and she supports his suggestion.

Mr. Stohr stated he has several people in mind to join the Task Force.

Mr. Thorsland suggested to start assembling the Task Force as soon as possible.

Mr. Hall suggested having the County Board authorize the Task Force prior to creating the Task Force. He suggested this would be a logical thing to do next month. Once approved, the list of names can be looked at.

Mr. Thorsland suggested for the ELUC committee to read through the material, make suggestions, and vote on it next month to forward to the County Board.

Mr. Stohr believes 6-7 months would be sufficient time to work with the Task Force.

Mr. Hall stated we might need a map of the Mahomet Aquifer or a map of the entire county to proceed but we wouldn't expect a map until the end of 2025.

Mr. Stohr gave two options: A physical map with lines drawn or a map by defining the areas. When the mapping is finally done, we need the smaller glacial aquifers included in the confines of the Bloomington moraine depicting where ground water is drawn from for principle use and a primary

water source, specifically where surface water supply is somewhat known on a regional level by scientific surveys. The EPA has oversight over drinking water. We have a certain amount of information which might be adjusted as new information is found when the task force defines that.

Mr. Thorsland stated the ELUC committee is very lucky to have Mr. Stohr on the committee during this time. It is wonderful to hear his knowledge, and he would like to see him on the task force. He thanked Mr. Hall in advance as this will require a lot of work.

VIII. New Business: Items to be recommended to the County Board

A. Resolution Approving an Intergovernmental Cost-Sharing Agreement between the County of Champaign, the City of Champaign, the City of Urbana, and the Village of Savoy for Residential Electronic Collection Events and a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event in 2025

MOTION by Ms. Locke to approve the Intergovernmental Cost-Sharing Agreement between the County of Champaign, the City of Champaign, the City of Urbana, and the Village of Savoy for Residential Electronic Collection Events and a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event in 2025 and seconded by Ms. Rogers. Upon voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously to forward to the County Board.

Mr. Hall had a request from the City of Urbana on table 4.1 to simply indicate which event is happening on these dates. He added this is a non-substantial change, but it will look different when it goes to the County Board.

B. Resolution Approving Agreement between Champaign County, Parkland College, and A-Team Recyclers regarding the Residential Electronics Collections on May 17, 2025, and October 11, 2025

MOTION by Mr. Farney to approve the Resolution Approving Agreement between Champaign County, Parkland College, and A-Team Recyclers regarding the Residential Electronics Collections on May 17, 2025, and October 11, 2025, and seconded by Ms. Rogers. Upon voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously to forward to the County Board.

Mr. Farney asked Mr. Hall if our funds are depleted by holding these events. Mr. Hall confirmed the fund will be depleted and he does not want this point overlooked. It won't be depleted as much now with the recent increase in fees.

C. Resolution Approving Champaign County Opt-In Form to Illinois EPA to participate in Manufacturer E-Waste Program in 2026

MOTION by Mr. Esry to approve the Resolution Approving Champaign County Opt-In Form to Illinois EPA to participate in Manufacturer E-Waste Program in 2026 and seconded by Mr. Stohr. Upon voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously to forward to the County Board.

Mr. Hall stated that since we opted in, we don't need to commit for 2026, but we have to let them know if we are interested.

Ms. Locke asked if we are having the events once or twice a year.

Mr. Hall said that two events are indicated but we haven't actually planned for 2026 yet although we opted in. We haven't made any reservations for 2026.

D. Resolution Authorizing Agreement to Rent the State Farm Center Parking Lot for an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Sponsored One-Day Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event on August 9, 2025

MOTION by Ms. Rogers to approve the Resolution Authorizing Agreement to Rent the State Farm Center Parking Lot for an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Sponsored One-Day Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event on August 9, 2025, and seconded by Mr. Farney. Upon voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously to forward to the County Board.

Mr. Hall said State Farm center raised their rates two years in a row. They are a reliable partner and very welcoming. He added the sooner we will have a more reliable location, the better off we will be.

Ms. Monte stated she had previously asked Parkland and about hosting a Household Hazardous Waste event. She was told Parkland did not want to entertain the event due to possible wear, spills, and liability on their property.

Mr. Hall asked if Parkland understood a large sheet of plastic is laid down on the ground to protect the area. Ms. Monte encouraged Mr. Hall to reach back out to Parkland.

E. Authorize the use of the Champaign County seal or logo in support of SB1394 establishing a statutory requirement for Household Hazardous Waste Extended Producer Responsibility

MOTION by Ms. Locke to Authorize the use of the Champaign County seal in support of SB1394 establishing a statutory requirement for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Extended Producer Responsibility and seconded by Mr. Stohr. Upon voice vote, **MOTION CARRIED** unanimously to forward to the County Board.

Ms. Monte explained that extended producer responsibility is a type of product stewardship that is mandatory and required by law. It includes at a minimum requirement that a manufacturer or producer doing retail business in Illinois, participates in a product stewardship organization. They are required to participate in funding for the program to collect the product at the end of their useful lifecycle. Paint, portable batteries, and consumer electronics are currently included in this program. The benefits shift financial and management responsibility away from government and upstream to the manufacturer and away from the public sector. This provides incentives to the manufacturer to design their products and packaging so they are not problematic which reduces the cost for the program. For HHW, the convenience standard would be remarkable to have at least one permanent collection sight for covered products within a 15-mile radius for at least 60% of the state's residents. She hopes more counties sign on and she hopes the ELUC committee is agreeable by allowing the County seal on the fact sheet.

Mr. Esry suggested using the County seal as it is more appropriate and legal.

Mr. Farney stated he did not see much change for consumers and asked Ms. Monte to address any changes people at home might notice.

Ms. Monte stated there will be more resources for education and outreach available to inform consumers about how to handle a product. The biggest thing to note is there will be more options and more convenience with less cost to local governments. Ms. Monte states this is wonderful, and it might take more than one year to implement.

IX. Other Business

A. Monthly Reports-None

X. Chair's Report- None

XI. Designation of Items to be Placed on the Consent Agenda-VIII. A,B, C, D, & E

XII. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.