

Montgomery County Board
CO2 Sequestration Ad Hoc Committee Minutes
County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Historic Courthouse
#1 Courthouse Square, Hillsboro, IL 62049

Date: Tuesday, July 18th, 2023

Time: 5:00 pm - County Board Room

Members Present: Doug Donaldson, Connie Beck, Ken Folkerts, Mark Hughes, Chad Ruppert and John Wright

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Kevin Schott, Sandy Leitheiser, Joe Gasparich, Ethan Murzynski, Andrew Affrunti, Kevin Brink, Greg Archibald, Jacob Riggio, Matt Blankenship, Bruce Betzold and Jim Prescott

The committee met to discuss the following:

1. **Public Comment:** Audubon Township resident Greg Archibald stated his family has been farming in the area for 132 years, and all Heartland Greenway is after is money. He also stated the approximately 34 miles the pipeline is reported to be traveling through Montgomery County does not include 10 miles in Audubon Township.
2. **Ordinance on Carbon Capture and Sequestration in Montgomery County Update/Approval:** Donaldson stated the ordinance and the Project Development Agreement are essentially the same conversation.
3. **Carbon Capture and Sequestration Project Development Agreement Update/Approval:** Donaldson reported he, Ruppert and Folkerts attended the carbon sequestration meeting held in Sangamon County on Monday, July 17. He said representatives from Heartland Greenway and members of an opposition group each gave 30 minute presentations, which were followed by comments from the public. He said he received a lot of good information from both sides, but after a while the meeting turned into a back and forth of many varying opinions. Donaldson stated one thing he learned very quickly was the board is in no way qualified to write a project development agreement (PDA) for this. State's Attorney Affrunti stated the county is on board with the same attorneys who are working with Sangamon and Logan counties on this issue. Donaldson stated they need to work on making a list of concerns to include in a potential PDA. Affrunti stated this firm filed the ICC petition to intervene and they will also help draft road use agreements for CO2 sequestration projects. Ruppert stated when CO2 is injected underground, it doesn't adhere to a property line. Representatives from Ameren attended the meeting to explain the process of injecting natural gas into the earth and how it compares to CO2. Ameren representative Jacob Riggio stated the ADM CO2 sequestration plant in Decatur has been in operation since 2014 and they are still in the development stage. Ruppert asked what pressure natural gas is injected into the ground. Riggio said it is at 1300 psi maximum. When asked what size pipe, Ameren representative Matt Blankenship said it is between 5 and 7 inches. Riggio said the max reservoir pressure is 1350 psi. Ruppert asked if they exceed 1350 psi if the gas would go outside where they wanted it to. Riggio said it would. Riggio stated IDNR, PHMSA, and ICC all monitor Ameren pipelines and wells. When asked how long Ameren has to repair leaks in a pipeline, Riggio stated they have to report the leakage immediately and then have about 20 days to get it repaired. Blankenship asked if the CO2 project will have a pressure station at the end of the laterals. Donaldson said they do not have the answer to that. Donaldson stated he believed the next meeting should include the technical staff from the Heartland Greenway project so they can discuss any concerns with the project. Ruppert stated the county does not have any regulatory options for this project like other counties have. Affrunti stated the ICC's evidentiary hearings will be held from October 17th through the 20th. EMA Director Schott reported his department's need to be prepared for the possibility that this project comes to the county. He said everything with this process is extremely technical and new. As part of their emergency response plan, he said he would like to approach

Navigator about paying for a planner for the EMA department for three to five years. Schott also stated EMA needs to have a way to get sampling from project representatives to make sure what is being injected into the ground is pure CO2 and does not have any added substances. Schott stated noise standards also need to be addressed, but he is not sure how to go about that. EMA Coordinator Gasparich stated a lot has been said about first responders will die as a result of a CO2 pipeline rupture; however, he said emergency responders will not just go running into a plume without first knowing what is in it. He said EMA must approach this scientifically. Folkerts asked about the cost of hiring an outside attorney and whether or not it is in the budget. Affrunti said the board has a line in their budget for outside attorney fees and not much has been used if it has even been used at all. Donaldson stated the committee will look at getting questions together within the next week or two, and will discuss dates for the next meeting. He said it will happen possibly the third or fourth week of August.

4. **Other Business:** None.

Motion to Adjourn by Hughes and second by Beck. All in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m. The summaries of minutes were respectfully submitted by acting secretary Christine Daniels, as Deputized by Montgomery County Clerk/Recorder, Sandy Leitheiser.