



# Village of Westchester

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KARI ROBERG  
ALEX SILVA  
NIKKI WAY  
ELIZABETH WISEMAN-CHASE  
WALTER WOJCIK

## GROW Ecological Commission Regular Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2025 @ 6:30pm

Village Hall Board Room

### 1. 6:33 - Call to Order

Present: Demitrus Evans, Mariana Nicolae, Kari Roberg, Alex Silva, Nikki Way  
Elizabeth Wiseman-Chase, Walter Wojcik  
Village: Evelyn Slavic, Annie Canavan

### 2. Pledge

### 3. Roll Call

### 4. Inspiration – Alex Silva

- a. Next Month 7/10/25: Demirtus

### 5. Review of Minutes – Nikki Way (5 min)

- a. Approval of 5/1/25 regular meeting minutes  
Need to upload to web so all can take minutes.

### 6. Quarterly Reports – Liz W-Chase (5 min)

- a. Q1 - 2025: Kari
- b. Q2 - 2025: Walt
- c. Q3 – 2025: Walt

### 7. Updates from Village Staff and Board Representatives – (10 min) Annie Canavan, Evie Slavic

1. The village COW had a presentation about Printer contracts. Learned that Jet printers use nano plastics, while Epson uses true ink. The Village is considering it due to cost savings. Suggested that individuals can be supportive of the contract if they appreciate the ecological difference. – Evie
2. **Community-Wide Energy Plan** – Will evaluate energy usage and develop a plan to make improvements by developing a baseline and developing a plan for what the village has control over and what village can do policy-wise to encourage residents. Funded federally and DOE. Selected Pale Blue Dot and

had kick-off meeting. The process will take 8 months. Will focus on broad Will be an opportunity for community engagement. Will build a team that includes GROW, Village staff. Need if Liz or others are interested need to know on Monday – LeeAnn is interested.

3. No updates on procurement policy.

## 8. New Business

### a. Indigenous Energy, Inc. – Biodiesel strategic advisor – Liz

1. B20 Club of Illinois that use biodiesel at least 6 months out of the year. Source is soybean oil, cleaner. Easy to do and widely available, but newer fuel and in the early stages was unreliable. Some fleet operators might be hesitant so his job is to educate. ComEd uses it, as well as Oak Park, Moline, Cook County Forest Preserve is getting a site assessment. If Westchester becomes part of B20 Club will calculate metrics related to health savings, particulate matter, carbon footprint, ect. 40% virgin oil, for Illinois. Evie noted Village uses biodiesel called DEF additive that cuts down on diesel emissions (requirement) that impacts other districts – school, park, police, public works, etc., so this choice impacts everyone. The biodiesel would be used in addition to DEF, and causes less clogs.

### b. Discuss locations for tabling – Liz

- i. The Farm on 31<sup>st</sup>, Jewel, Prairie House, Panera, Garden Walk,
- ii. Suggested livestreaming events. Annie suggested we livestream the Buckthorn event.
- iii. Nikki and Alex suggested that instead of getting people to come to events, go to where people are.
- iv. Demitrus suggested that we need to define our audiences.
- v. Table for **next meeting**, can email suggestions.

### c. Discuss alternative locations/platforms for GROW events - Liz

### b. Seed Packets – Kari

- a. Should we use business cards or stickers? Alex thinks stickers with a QR code but not go to GROW landing page...but something more fun. Poll suggests sticker with QR code. QR code can go to a specific newsletter article.

### 2. Composter Offer – Kari

- a. Put him in touch with school who can use it for a science project.

## 9. Old Business (50 min)

### a. Greenest Region Compact (GRC) and Subcommittee Updates – Liz (15 min)

#### a. Subcommittee reports:

#### i. Water – Mariana Nicolae/Walt

1. Discussion of how some businesses have toilets used 3.5 gallons of water, others were high efficiency and using “unnecessary water” which is a waste of money for them. Suggests that Village has a discussion with the tower to offer solutions. If GROW wants to put together a presentation, the village staff would do it.

#### ii. Municipal Operations – Kari/Demitrus

#### iii. Climate – Kari/Alex

iv. Energy – Liz/Walt

**b. SBC Stipends Fiscal Years Ending (FYE) 4/25 and 4/26– Nikki (10 minutes)**

- a. Overview process for FY'26
- b. Results of ranked choice for FY'26
  - i. Ranked to move forward with SCARCE, Community Tabling Events, and Community Outreach materials.

**c. Upcoming Event Support Needs - Liz (15 min)**

**d. Newsletter Article Ideas/Support - Liz (5 min)**

**Comments (5 min)**

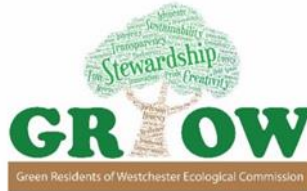
- a. Illinois Alliance for Clean Transportation Meeting Highlights **Liz (10 min)**
  - i. **ComED fleet manager** – 30% of fleet vehicles will be electrified. Met a company called AllTech which has anti-idling technology that saves money on fuel and could be good for reducing local emissions.
  - ii. **Amanda Grant** received an award for the IACT meeting for work at the forest preserve.
  - iii. Local gas station had a grant for 6 stations, and the manager is looking for a business partner, Liz found a business partner called Charge Point and ComEd will give funds for running power lines.

**10. Public Participation** - *In order to give as many visitors as possible an opportunity to speak and in the interest of adjourning the meeting by 8:00 p.m., please limit your comments to 3 minutes in length, unless further time is granted by the Commission.*

**11. Adjournment**

The Village of Westchester will make all reasonable modifications to policies and programs to ensure that people with disabilities have an equal opportunity to enjoy all of its programs, services, and activities. Anyone who requires an auxiliary aid or service for effective communication, or a modification of policies or procedures to participate in a program, service, or activity of the Village of Westchester, should contact the office of the Fire Chief, 10300 W. Roosevelt Road, Westchester, IL, (708) 345-0441, as soon as possible but no later than 48 hours before the scheduled event.

7:58 Nikki motions to adjourn, Walt seconds, all approve.



2025 Planning Calendar				
Event	Organizer	Date		
Juneteenth Tabling – 11a-4p	Nikki	June 21 <sup>st</sup>  11am – 4pm		Need volunteers to table: Liz, Nikki, Walt (11am – 1pm), Kari, Alex (will follow Walt); Will discuss Composting; Demotus suggested and activity – will connect with Nikki
July 4 <sup>th</sup> Parade - EV Car / E-Bike Show - 9:30	Walt	July 4th	Confirmed	Promotion underway – 3 people signed up  SEEDS:
July 4 <sup>th</sup> Parade ComEd Electric Truck – 9:30	Liz	July 4 <sup>th</sup>		Referred to Annie as Village Liaison to ComEd
Centennial Celebration Tabling	Demitrus	July 11 <sup>th</sup> /12 <sup>th</sup>		Only the 12 <sup>th</sup> (11 <sup>th</sup> is at Night)
Summer Movie Night	Walt		Proposed	Annie reached out to the Library about doing a movie campaign
Town Hall Meeting over coffee	Walt		Proposed	Panera okay with Walt and Mariana sitting in a corner. Need approval from village with topics, to answer questions (tabling).
National Night Out Tabling Promote September Events	?	August 5 <sup>th</sup>		

Prairie Fest Tabling	Liz	September 6 <sup>th</sup> 10a – 4p		Need volunteers to table
Solar Event with Marina Minic	Liz	September?	Rescheduling underway	Will be recorded for GROW page
Community Solar Clearinghouse Solution (CS2) with Sharon Alegado	Liz	September?	Rescheduling underway	Will be recorded for GROW page.
Energy Efficiency with Tori Woolbright	Liz	September?	Rescheduling underway	Need 2 Commissioners to run energy efficiency games while energy efficiency speaker signs residents up for free energy efficiency assessments/kits. Will be recorded
Climate Action Event	Walt	September	Proposed	
Reuse-a-palooza	Nikki	September 20 <sup>th</sup> / 21 <sup>st</sup>	Proposed	Confirmed date?
Waste Collection with SCARCE	Kari	Fall 2025 – after Reusapalooza?	Proposed	Parking lot at Church by community center. Will possibly need Public Works to help move traffic and set up tents. Evie suggests getting volunteers – put a call out and ask what they will be doing. Would reach out to other places (pet supply – blankets). Evie asked for a proposal with space needs.
Home Electrification	Liz	Fall/Winter 2025	Proposed	Defer for time being.
Tabling Compost/Pumpkin Smash	??			Need organizer and volunteers
Pumpkin Smash	??	November 8 & 9	Proposed	Need organizer

Newsletter Calendar		
Month	Article Topic	Author
Monthly	Plant Based Recipes	Kari
Monthly	Monthly Green Fact	Walt

July 2025	How to protect yourself during Wildfire smoke	Liz
August 2025	Bird migration	Alex
September	Waste reduction/recycling to tie in with Reusa and SCARE events	Nikki + Kari

2025 GROW Commission Priorities: Education/Engagement, Advisement, Climate Action Plan