

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Prairie State Local Government Sustainability Network**  
**Wednesday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017**  
**3:00—4:00 pm**

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**Facilitator:** Scott Tess, *City of Urbana*

**Recorder:** Cecilia Govrik, *Kane County*

**Participants (12):**

- Andrew Szwak, *Openlands*
- Brian Tomkins, *Metropolitan Mayors Caucus*
- Cecilia Govrik, *Kane County*
- Dean Olson, *Will County*
- Janice Hill, *Kane County*
- Kathy Pecora, *Will County*
- Katie Parkhurst, *Village of Algonquin*
- KC Doyle, *Cook County*
- Kumar Jensen, *City of Evanston*
- Laura Oakleaf, *Cook County*
- Nathan Aaberg, *Liberty Prairie Foundation*
- Scott Tess, *City of Urbana*

**Announcements:**

- Algonquin is looking at a bike share program.
- Cook County now has KC Doyle on board as the Energy & Sustainability Manager, working on IL Energy Now projects.
- Evanston continues to work on energy and water benchmarking.
- Kane County is holding a food and waste forum on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> in partnership with the Fox Valley Sustainability Network.
- Metropolitan Mayors Caucus is hosting a solar development workshop in Schaumburg on Jan. 19<sup>th</sup> for communities throughout Chicagoland.
- Urbana is launching another round of their solar program.
- Will County is implementing the “We Will Grow” program and has established the first urban farm.

**Guest Presentation:**

Guest speakers Nathan Aaberg from the Liberty Prairie Foundation and Andrew Szwak from Openlands gave a presentation on “Public Land and Local Food Farming” (see PowerPoint on the PSN website). Highlights from the presentation included:

- Slide #3—reasons why public land is a good fit for local food farming
- Slide #11—Land Access Pilot Project summary
- Slide #12—link to the report [Breaking Ground: A Guide to Growing Land Access for Local Food Farming in Northeast Illinois](#)
- Slides #14-15—list of how local governments can support small-scale farming

**Overview of Next Meeting:**

The next monthly call will be held on Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>. The group selected the topic of energy benchmarking ordinances—Kumar Jensen from the City of Evanston agreed to give a presentation and facilitate the call, and will seek a guest speaker from the City of Chicago also.