

# COUNTY BOARD MEETINGS

May 22, 2013

## STEPS & ACTIONS

1. **Identify a core group of citizens in your county**
  - Assign someone to be the County Board Watchdog
  - Assign someone to contact the County Boards for agenda items
  - Assign someone to check County Board meeting agendas on a daily basis
  - Assign someone to notify local media prior to meetings
2. **Identify zoning laws or resolutions your county has in place**
  - You can get this information from your County Clerk or the Chairman of Zoning Board
  - Review the Zoning Board Manual for your county and compare with other counties
  - Verify that your Zoning Board has a section on pipelines in your county
3. **Define what you want to accomplish in your county**

### **Examples of Amendments to Zoning Laws (County Zoning Board)**

- Do you want to amend a zoning law and say crude oil and tarsands pipelines have to be a certain distance from water wells?
- Do you want to amend a zoning law and say no crude oil or tarsands pipelines can cross within a certain distance of schools and hospitals?
- Do you want to amend a zoning law to require reclamation or only one pipeline per easement?
- Do you want to amend a zoning law that makes the pipeline easement null and void if the pipeline isn't operational after three years of acquiring the easement?
- Do you want to require companies to dispose of the pipeline after they are done transporting tarsands or crude oil and reclaim this area

### **Examples of Resolutions (County Supervisor Board)**

- Do you want your county board to pass a resolution saying no crude oil or tarsands pipelines can cross the county?
- Do you want to pass a resolution to say no pumping stations in your county?
- Note, resolutions should be between citizens and the Supervisor Board not entities

- **Ask your county to create an Oil Spill Response Plan**
- **Ask for a haul agreement or amend an existing agreement to strengthen it**

- A bond to repair roads after construction

4. **Prioritize what you want to accomplish**

- Order your priorities
  - Decide your agenda item
5. **Find out when the county board meetings are in your county**
    - You can access your county website to find out these details or call the courthouse
  6. **Call County Clerk to get on the agenda of the appropriate board**
    - Most often you will need to call 24hrs before the meeting to be added to the agenda
    - If the meeting is with the Zoning Board you may also contact the Chairman of the Zoning Board to get on the agenda
  7. **Identify citizens who will approach the county board and ask for action**
    - Prepare facts and talking points to support your position and benefits to the county
    - Decide who will speak 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup>...
    - Whoever speaks first must be the person on the agenda
  8. **Rally your county**
    - Send out a mass mailing or email with a brief summary of your meeting objective
  9. **At the Meeting w/the agenda item**
    - During your time on the agenda ask the board for specific action
    - Support your request with facts and benefits to the county
    - If your meeting is with the Zoning Board they could possibly vote at the initial meeting if there is overwhelming citizen support
    - If the Zoning Boards decides to hold a public hearing you will need citizen support at the public hearing meeting
    - If you are presenting to the Zoning Board, and your amendment is approved, the Zoning Board will have to take this proposal to the County Supervisor Board
    - Be careful of entities taking YOUR speaking time it is your time on the agenda, not any company or corporation you are entitled to your speaking time
    - If the Zoning Board tables the item until a later date you will need to closely monitor the meeting agenda, items can be added up until 24hrs before a meeting
  10. **Preparing for the Public Hearing Meeting**
    - Send out a mass mailing or email summarizing the purpose of the public hearing
    - Prepare additional topics points and facts to further support your action
  11. **Public Hearing to Pass Resolution or Amendment to Zoning Law**
    - Speak to any additional facts or benefits you have gathered
    - Shake the hands of the County Boards members after they pass your amendment or resolution 🙌

### **Example Steps to Pass a Resolution in your County**

1. Call the County Clerk and ask to get on the agenda for the Supervisor Meeting
2. Attend the County Supervisor Meeting
3. Propose that the Supervisor Board pass a Resolution
4. County Supervisors, say “yes”

5. Attend the next meeting (public hearing)
6. County Supervisors will vote at the public hearing meeting and pass the resolution

### **Example Steps to Amend a Zoning Law in your County**

1. Review the Zoning Board manual and compare with other counties
2. Call the County Clerk and ask to get on the agenda or speak with the Chairman of the Zoning Board
3. Attend the Zoning Board Meeting
4. Propose your amendment to the Zoning Board
5. The Zoning Board could say “yes” during the agenda meeting or they could propose a public hearing
6. After the Zoning Board says “yes” they will take the proposed amendment to the Supervisor Board
7. Attend the Supervisor Board meeting where the Zoning Board proposes the amendment, citizens will need to be present at this meeting but you will not be able to speak. You need to make sure the Zoning Board is correctly presenting your amendment to the Supervisor Board.
8. Attend the next Supervisor Board meeting where there will be a public hearing on the amendment, a strong showing of citizens at this meeting is very important
9. County Supervisors then vote at the public hearing meeting and pass the proposed amendment

### **Key Points to Remember:**

- The Zoning Board gives recommendations to the County Supervisors
- The County Supervisor Board may also be referred to as the County Commissioners
- Remember no matter what happens with the Presidential permit, counties and townships can pass laws and resolutions to protect land and water in these five major areas:
  - Resolutions
  - Zoning Laws
  - Oil Spill Response Plan
  - Haul Agreements
  - Water Testing Requirements
- Citizen pressure is key
- Stay in close contact with your County Board members via emails and phone calls
- Contact your Mayor