



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

Sangamon Valley Group of the Sierra Club Springfield Municipal Candidate Questionnaire

Candidate Name: Barry McAnarney

Office Sought: Alderman – Ward 10

Last year, the city of Springfield reached a historic agreement with the Sierra Club for a clean energy plan to reduce pollution levels, purchase wind power, and increase investments in energy efficiency and conservation programs. Questions 1-3 relate to the agreement.

- 1) Part of the plan calls for increases in annual spending on energy efficiency and conservation programs. Will you support keeping Springfield's commitment to those efforts by maintaining the spending levels called for in the energy plan?

Yes, I believe we must put our money where our mouth is in regards to clean energy and power, conservation programs, and energy-efficient public buildings.

- 2) Will you support maintaining the City's commitment to purchase at least 120MW of wind power for Springfield, of which 60MW will be paid for by the State of Illinois?

Yes

- 3) As part of the agreement, CWLP will offer a green power program, where residents and businesses can choose to purchase some or all of their electricity from wind power and other renewable resources at a higher cost. Currently, this program does not require CWLP to acquire additional green power when customers participate in the program. Do you support allowing customers to pay for additional clean energy development (beyond the 120MW requirement) through this green power program?

Yes, but I would also be in support of some sort of reward program if they participate – something that rewards people who get involved, i.e., tickets to the Lincoln Museum, movie passes, public-private partnerships working together to develop different types of reward programs or incentives.

- 4) Would you support using wells in the Sangamon River Valley as a secondary source to meet the city's future water needs, which would be a less expensive and more environmentally friendly alternative to building a second lake?

We need to review all aspects of Lake II before we begin construction. I have reviewed the report submitted in 1977, by former Commissioner of Public Property, Jim Henneberry and staff, entitled "A Future Water Supply For the City of Springfield." The 1977 projection of future water usage has turned out to be way too high due to the following reasons: 1) population growth has not reached what it was projected to reach 2) changes in technology such as low-flow toilets, shower heads that decrease water pressure, etc., have had a great impact on reducing water consumption for the City. Chatham and other municipalities are looking at their own water sources – which will also reduce the need for City water.

Dredging should be considered. Deepening the current Lake by 6-18 inches could potentially increase water availability by 5-15%. Also, pumping water from the South Fork should be considered. In 1976 over 5.5 billion gallons of water were pumped to increase lake levels.

An aquifer could also be used as a supplemental water source. Finally, the selling of the property that has been acquired by the City for Lake II could pay for extensive dredging and may prove to be more cost-effective than building Hunter Lake.

- 5) What actions would you take to enhance the network of bicycle paths in Springfield?

I would require all future road construction in the City of Springfield to include bike paths, such as the bike path on Koke Mill Road between Old Jacksonville Road and Wabash Avenue.

- 6) What actions would you take to encourage development within Springfield's city center, and discourage sprawl?

We need to look not only at the City's center but also the City as a whole. This is why I have proposed a zoning plan to utilize a GIS system to identify what property is zoned.

- 7) Many cities, including Normal Illinois, have adopted ordinances that promote sustainability, energy conservation and environmental concerns for buildings. Do you think Springfield should promote green building practices such as providing incentives for developers, or rewriting zoning, storm water management, building, and other ordinances? If yes, what steps should Springfield take to implement these standards?

Yes, ordinances should require future buildings to be as energy efficient as possible. For example, the new type of energy-efficient light bulbs should be required for all City offices.

- 8) Do you support the expansion of Springfield bus service into evening hours? Are there any other steps you would take to encourage increased use of public transportation?

I would have to see a study on the usage of ridership and determine if it would be cost-effective to implement evening bus service. I would look into surveying Springfield residents to determine their interest is extending the hours of bus service. For example, if residents of Springfield who patronize downtown business establishments in the evening would consider using bus service to and from their homes.

9) Will you support the phasing-in of energy efficient and low pollution vehicles into the city's fleet?

Yes, not only will I support it, I would introduce an ordinance to require E-85 vehicles for all future purchase of City vehicles. I drive an E-85 Chevy Impala --- I practice what I preach.

10) Please add any comments you may have.

I believe the agreement between the City of Springfield and the Sierra Club on the new CWLP power plant for Springfield was one of the best and most important compromises ever made for the City and the environment.