



City of Madison
Meeting Minutes - Final
COMMISSION ON THE
ENVIRONMENT

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

*Jonathan Standridge, Chair; Keith Pierce, Vice Chair; Ald. Larry Palm; Michael Rewey;
Roger Bannerman; Reginald Weide; Theresa Stabo; Executive Secretary Michael R.
Dailey; Staff: Marilyn Bakken, Greg Fries, Genesis Bichanich*

Monday, June 20, 2005

4:45 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 103A (City-County Building)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Standridge called the Commission on Environment meeting to order at 4:46 p.m. following verification that the meeting was properly noticed and a quorum was present.

ROLL CALL

Chair Standridge was excused from the meeting at 4:55 p.m. for another meeting.

Present: Ald. Larry Palm, Michael W. Rewey, Jonathan H. Standridge, Theresa Stabo, Roger T. Bannerman, Reginald N. Weide and Keith W. Pierce

Excused: Elena M. Bennett

PUBLIC COMMENT

Noted for the record that there was no public comment or items brought to the Commission not included on the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Pierce, seconded by Rewey, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by acclamation.

1. CoGen Plant Agreement - Update on Project

The Commission received an update on the CoGen Plant Agreement.

Don Peterson with MG & E distributed information to the Commissioners and discussed four areas of CoGen Agreement; Update on the project status; Noise Impacts; Emissions report and Water Mitigation.

Project Status - The new West Campus Cogeneration Facility is jointly owned by MG & E and the UW-Madison - it will provide heating and cooling to the UW-Madison campus as well as 150 megawatts of electricity of the Madison area. It will be a natural gas-fired plant to be one of the cleanest in the Midwest. Currently the plant is not completely built but it is producing electricity.

Water Mitigation Plan - The plant was designed to minimize water usage; it will draw an average of one million gallons per day from Lake Mendota which is part of the Yahara River watershed. The water withdrawal from the Lake is not expected to produce a significant impact on Dane County's lakes and rivers except during times of extreme low flows - usually occurring every three to four years. In 2002 the County Executive called together a group of water resource experts to address potential watershed management issues concerning the CoGen facility. The group endorsed a two-step process to offset water use by the facility; first the state permit for surface water withdrawal for the facility requires augmentation of flow in the Yahara River during times of extremely low flow to mitigate impacts of base flow reduction. The water source for flow augmentation is a well near the river. The second step is the state permit also requires groundwater recharge of 80.4 million gallons per year to compensate for the anticipated volume of groundwater to be pumped from the well to the river. 20 sites were evaluated based on watershed characteristics, site soil and hydrologic conditions, site land use and ownership and potential system designs. The Odana Hills Golf Course was the site selected with the best potential for a successful recharge system.

The Commissioners questioned Mr. Peterson:

Question by Commissioner Rewey - How much water infiltration will there be. Mr. Peterson responded - Their goal is 80 million gallons per year - this amount of water would normally cause downstream erosion. He also explained that if the Odana Pond become too low they will cease pumping. He also explained that there were concerns that by taking water from Mendota may cause harm to the habitat in the Yahara River farther south during dry periods.

Commissioner Rewey expressed his concern that the City has taken a part in this but he questioned why the University has not

Commissioner Stabo questioned whether the Odana Golf Course pond was safe to use - what about water quality with regards to chemicals used on golf courses.

Mr. Rob Montgomery, with Montgomery Associates, Consultant to MG & E - responded stating that when they considered the Odana pond they also had concerns whether the golf course maintenance with pesticides or herbicides might be found in the pond water. However they were pleasantly surprised to find that the testing indicated no herbicides or pesticides present. The pond is located upstream of the golf course. They also have retained a Natural

Resources specialist to check for the habitat of the pond for the low levels.

The Commission discussed concerns including dredging of the pond and whether the water was "recirculated" - it was reported that the water is not recirculated to the pond.

Marge Rosenberg with MG & E - reported on the work being done with the UW on evaluation options to reduce VOC; they also are working with the UW to come up with a plan for tax on gas storage tanks. There was a gas can exchange program for the public which was just completed recently. There is an amount of \$200,000 provided for low sulfur-diesel fuel for Madison Metro buses and there will be a press conference held on July 6 regarding this information. She explained that combustion turbine engines at the Blount Street Plant will use ultra low sulfur diesel fuel; there are two substations at Sycamore; and two gas turbine areas in Fitchburg to be converted to low sulfur diesel fuel.

She stated that MG & E has a website with more detailed information for any one to review.

As Chair Standridge was excused from the meeting at 4:55 p.m., Vice Chair Pierce thanked the representatives from Madison Gas & Electric and Mr. Montgomery with Montgomery Associates for their presentation and update.

No action was needed.

Note - following the meeting a letter was presented to the secretary and asked to be distributed to the members as a supplement to the minutes. Letter was from James Baumann, 5218 Fairway Drive, Madison - expressing concerns about the withdrawal of water from the Odana Hills Pond. Was neither in support nor opposition of the use of the pond, just wanted to make some information known.

He indicated in the letter that 300 species of birds utilize the pond and several bus loads of school children come to the pond for field trips. It is also a home to an otter or two and supports a turtle population. Legally it is a water of the US and of the State of Wisconsin in addition to a water resource of the City and County; it is not a detention pond; its protection is provided for through the public trust doctrine of the State's constitution. The pond is shallow with an average depth of five feet; half of the pond is less than one-two feet deep; and earlier in June substantial areas of the lake bottom were exposed due to low precipitation this spring.

He encouraged the Commission on Environment to continue to assess the effect of the withdrawal of water and continue the dialogue with MG & E and the Odana Hills Pond neighborhood; he also urged DNR to conduct a thorough assessment of the proposal and make decisions based on facts, not hypothetical benefits.

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Amending Section 20.09(1)(d) and creating Section 20.08(5) of the Madison General Ordinances to establish the Valley View Road Sewer and Drainage Improvement Impact Fee.

A motion was made by Ald. Palm, seconded by Bannerman, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS Mr. Dailey displayed a map of the area involved and reported that this is to establish an impact fee district to allow for development and for the City to recover costs as development occurs. The City will be acquiring an easement to install 50' for a grassed waterway and sewer pipe to a new development to the north from Hawks Landing to Valley View Road with a side connection to the west. Sanitary sewer will be installed in anticipation that development will occur. There is need for this now as the plat for Linden Hills has been approved. There also is another plat anticipated from the UW for a research park. This is an interim improvement because eventually it will become a 100' greenway. The City will have recover impact costs of \$2,492 per net acre for sanitary sewer and \$3,387 for stormwater improvements, including land purchase. These are impact costs the City will recover as development takes place.

The motion passed by acclamation.

Enactment No: ORD-05-00117

3. Discussion of Idling Ordinance - [John Hausbeck]

The Commissioners discussed at length the idling ordinance - with suggested changes and revisions to include all vehicles - with massive education program.

It was requested that at the July 18 COE meeting, a representative from Motor Equipment and from Madison Metro be present to discuss the idling issues as it relates to buses and City vehicles.

Once a discussion is held and suggested changes are presented at that July meeting, a request for a revised or new ordinance can be made to the City Attorney's office for drafting and review again by the COE.

Discussion items to include:

- Idling for all vehicles
- Massive Education Campaign to alert drivers not to use cars as a warming hut
- Enforcement issues - complaint driven - who will enforce it
- Residential car idling - parents picking up students - turn off engines
- Possible wording to be suggested to change or create the idling ordinance
- [Genesis Bichanich of Engineering shall attempt to gather information and report on similar efforts that may be taking place in Canada.]

4. Commission Representative Reports

Salt Reduction Subcommittee - Bannerman reported that the group is working on recommendations for an October report back to the Commission.

Dark Sky Update - Nothing major to report -

Board of Public Works- Rewey reported that the Clean Lakes report from the COE to Council was referred to the Board of Public Works to report back to the COE

Solid Waste Advisory Commission - no report - no meeting - canceled

Water Board commission - no report - Chair was excused at 4:55 p.m. for another meeting.

Staff Reports -

Air Quality of Street Sweepers - nothing to report

Mercury from Power Plants - nothing to report

Update on Solar Bees - Genesis Bichanich updated the Commission that the Solar Bees have been installed, are functioning, and from preliminary indications, they are working to keep the algae from blooming.

5. Items for Future Agenda

For July Agenda -

Road salt report - [Hausbeck]

Idling Ordinance - request for Motor Equipment and Metro Bus reps to be discuss idling issues; report on Education Program of other Communities by Genesis Bichanich

Charter Plant - Bret Halsey - to be invited by Commissioner Stabo

For August Agenda -

Air Quality Update - [Stabo]

B.A.C.T Best Available Control Techniques - [Stabo]

Future Agendas -

Mercury from Power Plants

Air Quality of Street Sweepers

Parking Lot Sealcoating - coal tar use - [Bannerman] - October

ADJOURNMENT

Commission meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Minutes prepared by M. Bakken, Secretary - approved by Michael R. Dailey, P.E., Executive Secretary, Commission on the Environment.