



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, August 15, 2011

4:30 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 103A, City-County Building.
Meets the 3rd Monday of the month.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 6 -

Ald. Anita Weier; Steven M. Fix; Patricia A. Lasky; Dan Melton; Lori O. Grant and Roger T. Bannerman

Excused: 3 -

James P. Bennett; Reginald N. Weide and Kathryn Vedder

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Melton, seconded by Lasky, to Approve the Minutes.
The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

1. [23540](#) Discussion on Chip Sealing Program

Steve Sonntag and Brynn Bemis (City Engineering) gave a report on why the City began using chip sealing as well as the environmental implications. Steve reported that asphalt prices have tripled since 2002. Chip sealing has been used as a maintenance procedure since 2006 to extend the life of asphalt streets by preventing wear and oxidation. The chips used are from a plant in Iowa, and are screened, cleaned, and approved by DNR. They are an improvement over the pea gravel that used to be used as there are fewer complaints by bicyclists and rollerbladers and they don't cause chips in windows like pea gravel. Chip sealing costs about \$1.30 per square yard, while resurfacing costs about \$23.00 per square yard. It is also much quicker to apply with less disruption to traffic flow.

Brynn reported that the DNR has indicated that using black boiler slag for chip sealing streets is a beneficial use of industrial byproducts (Chapter NR 538). DNR requires testing every other year for total content of material as well as a water leach test. The City relies on the DNR requirements for testing the material used in chip sealing projects. The chips used in the process do not pose a significant environmental risk, according to the material and leach test results. When chips are put down, inlet protection is used to prevent them from washing into the storm sewer system.

Members discussed whether this was more of a concern for public inconvenience during the first few days following a chip sealing (before the chips have completely bonded to the emulsion put down). Bannerman

indicated that he was having a difficult time finding any environmental studies done on chip sealing, though he has done some testing on runoff from recently-applied asphalt parking lots that indicate the initial presence of volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

2. [23541](#) MedDrop Box Program

Cheryl Wittke from Safe Communities (www.safercommunity.net) reported on the progress of the MedDrop box program in Dane County. Currently there is one located in the East District Police Station, and a second one in Middleton. There are plans to add one site later this fall (either West or South Police District Station) and another next spring. The sites have to be located inside police stations, per federal regulations. The goal is to eventually have 8-10 sites throughout Dane County.

Right now there is some funding through Dane County, though ideally municipalities will help pay the cost for disposal of the collected pharmaceuticals. It costs, on average, \$3000 annually to dispose of the materials, which doesn't include administrative costs or costs associated with the necessary police escort to the incinerator facility in Sauget, Illinois. They are asking that each municipality that participates to cost share 1/3 of the disposal cost (\$1000) per box site per year. There may be grant money available to pay for the city's cost share portion; Engineering staff will look into it.

The committee members continued to support writing a letter to recommend the city to financially support this program.

REPORTS

3. [08477](#) REPORT FROM BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Recent items included dredging at Spring Harbor and Marshall Park boat launches.

4. [08478](#) REPORT FROM WATER UTILITY BOARD:

Wellhead Protection areas have recently been a concern raised by citizens near Well 14 and 15. For instance in the case of Well 14, there is redevelopment occurring nearby, though infiltration practices are not allowed within a wellhead protection zone. Also, there is no protocol for addressing legacy contamination issues.

6. [14746](#) REPORT FROM BOARD OF HEALTH FOR MADISON AND DANE COUNTY:

None

7. [13375](#) STAFF REPORT

The Mayor's Office continues to look into possible ways to fund a study to look at the environmental impacts of fireworks at Warner Park.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Fix, seconded by Lasky, to Adjourn. The motion passed by voice vote/other.