



City of Madison

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

Monday, February 18, 2008

4:45 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 108, City-County Building.
Meets the 3rd Monday of the month.

These minutes are DRAFT until approved at a subsequent meeting of the Commission on the Environment.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 6 -

Michael W. Rewey; Bill Sonzogni; Jonathan H. Standridge; Roger T. Bannerman; Bruce C. Dickie and Reginald N. Weide

Excused: 3 -

Larry Palm; Theresa Stabo and Keith W. Pierce

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Discussion of the Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) Long Range Planning & MMSD Survey

Commission members each received a Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District survey in the mail and have already filled them out and sent them in or will do so shortly.

Members requested that MMSD's consultant (Strand Assoc.) come in for a brief presentation next month to discuss their long range planning initiative.
2. Discussion of Plastic Bag Use

George Dreckman, City of Madison Recycling Coordinator reviewed his report to the COE and Solid Waste Advisory Committee regarding plastic grocery bags. His report also included a memo from the City Attorney's office (attached to agenda) that outlines the options regarding a plastic bag ordinance. Options would include banning, recycling, take back program, or a deposit program. The City is unable to levy a tax on bags, however.

Commissioner Sonzogni is hesitant to move forward with an outright ban without first attempting a well-organized educational campaign. Dreckman reported that the Solid Waste Advisory Committee would also like to see a

source reduction program before banning plastic bags. Dreckman has also met with a Dane County Farmer's Market committee to look at encouraging customers to bring reusable bags by giving a small discount at each vendor (for example).

The option of requiring biodegradable bags, according to Dreckman, should not be considered due to their expense and the fact that they require a lot of energy in production, offsetting their environmental benefits.

The Solid Waste Advisory Committee has members that would likely be interested in forming a subcommittee with COE members to further discuss this issue. Dreckman will put the formation of subcommittee on their March agenda.

Commissioner Weide made a motion to form a joint subcommittee between Solid Waste and COE to look at the feasibility of reducing plastic bags in the City of Madison. Motion was seconded by Rewey and passed unanimously. Commissioners Weide and Dickie both volunteered to serve on this subcommittee.

REPORTS

3. REPORT FROM BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

None to report

4. REPORT FROM BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS:

None to report

5. REPORT FROM SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Nothing new to report

6. REPORT FROM AIR QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE:

Not present

7. REPORT FROM EROSION CONTROL SUBCOMMITTEE:

The Erosion Control Subcommittee will be on the 2/26 Common Council agenda for approval.

8. REPORT FROM STAFF:

Air Quality Subcommittee member Jennifer Feyerherm has not signed her statement of interest form, and so will no longer be a member as of 2/26/08, leaving only 2 remaining members (too few to have a meeting).

John Hausbeck will come to the March COE meeting to discuss mosquito control if the members are interested.

ADJOURNMENT

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