



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Approved COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, January 24, 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: 8 -

Steven M. Fix; Patricia A. Lasky; Dan Melton; Lori O. Grant; Roger T. Bannerman; James P. Bennett; Reginald N. Weide and Keith W. Pierce

Excused: 1 -

Larry Palm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

Steve Fix disclosed that he is now working with the Graham-Martin Foundation, which supplies native plants through the PlantDane! rain garden grant program.

[20517](#)

Review the Sustainable Design and Energy Committee's Sustainability Plan

Chair Grant indicated that the COE wouldn't be making any formal response to the Sustainable Design and Energy Committee (SDEC) at this time, that they would wait until the final draft is referred to them for comment. However, if there are items within the draft plan that the members would like to take up or would like referred to them in the future, they can indicate their interests now.

Commission members listed the following items from the Sustainability Plan that they are interested in:

1. Restore/Maintain Natural Habitat - Bennett indicated that there could be a biologic/biotic inventory done for the City of Madison to establish a baseline of what plant/animal species are now present in the city. The UW or Arboretum may already have started something like this, so it would just be a matter of pulling the information together.

2. Increase Water Conservation - Specifically the items involving the use of greywater and water reuse systems

3. Improve Surface Water Quality - Specifically implementing beach clean-up plans at the 6 impaired city beaches and fostering creation of rain gardens

4. Improve Stormwater Management - all items are of interest, but mostly those dealing with rain garden installation and increasing infiltration with redevelopment projects (Engineering staff pointed out that this is a fine line since too many restrictions on redevelopment will cause developers to seek out areas for new development, which would likely have a bigger environmental impact if they are turning open space into impervious surfaces, even with the stricter new development standards).

Bannerman noted that radon testing for basements isn't included in the list of actions, but that may be something the COE could help promote. Pierce agreed to find out who at the Dept. of Commerce could come talk about indoor air quality, and specifically radon testing. He also mentioned that Lloyd Eagan, DNR Regional Director, would be a great information source for most topics the COE may want to discuss in the future. Melton later indicated that perhaps the radon issue is better suited to the Board of Health and the beaches clean-up better off with the Parks Commission (recreational, not environmental health).

Formal comments on the Sustainability Plan will be submitted to the SDEC once the final draft is referred to the COE. In the mean time, staff will do a quick summary of where gaps are in the actions lists within the Natural Systems chapter of the draft plan, that the COE could maybe focus on.

REPORTS

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

Agricultural credits for stormwater utility charges will begin a 5-year phase out beginning in 2012.

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

The east side citizens group continues to meet to discuss both water supply and water quality issues throughout the entire east side of the city. One question that comes up is what various water quality elements are worth to the average citizen. For example, if certain pollutant levels are elevated, but still meet water quality standards, what are people willing to pay to remove that pollutant.

[More information can be found online:
<http://www.cityofmadison.com/water/plans/eastWaterSupply.cfm>]

14746 REPORT FROM BOARD OF HEALTH FOR MADISON AND DANE COUNTY:

None

5. [08479](#) REPORT FROM SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

None

7. [13375](#) STAFF REPORT

Staff and some committee members received an email from Kirsti Sorsa, Health Dept., about the cost of sampling at Warner Park for residue from fireworks. This item will be added to the February agenda, and will include discussion as to how much sampling is necessary and how to go about requesting funds to do the sampling this year.

8. [19947](#) Discussion of Future Items

Future items will include the staff analysis of the actions proposed in the Natural Systems of the Sustainability Plan, discussion of sampling at Warner Park, and possibly further discussion of radon testing (if someone from the Dept. of Commerce is available).

ADJOURNMENT

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