



City of Madison

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

Monday, March 21, 2011

4:30 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 8 -

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

Excused: 1 -

Steven M. Fix

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Si Widstrand (City Parks, retired) submitted his comments on the city's policy for managing natural areas, including park natural areas as well as stormwater conveyance natural areas (greenways, etc). His opinion is that the city needs to provide better stewardship of these natural areas. He has submitted a letter (attached) to the Board of Public Works/Stormwater Utility as well as the Parks Commission. He stated the basic problem is that staff mows too much with too little attention to invasive species management. At this time the COE need not take any action, rather Si wanted the members to be aware of what he is up to. Currently he is working with city staff after requesting a policy change.

2. Mike Kienitz (5108 Tomahawk Trl) was present to voice his concerns over the land use history and future plans in the wellhead protection zone for City Well 14. It has the highest chloride and chromium-6 levels of any well; a nearby spring may be compromised by the upcoming University Avenue project, and a historical land use analysis shows many (now) prohibited businesses located within the wellhead protection zone (e.g., dry cleaners, gas stations). He hopes the COE can assist with remediation requirements of this area.

1. **21731** 2010 Road Salt Report

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

2. **21400** Discussion - Radon Testing

Nancy Jensen (Apt. Assoc.) and Conrad Weiffenbach (DHS) were present for a discussion of testing radon levels in multi-family residences. The current data

is most likely primarily from single-family houses since people report their radon levels voluntarily. Conrad pointed out that the best places to sample would likely be any subsurface or at-surface apartments. It wouldn't pay to test subsurface parking structures or other community areas that aren't occupied for extended periods.

Members pointed out that it might be interesting to look not only at correlations with geography for higher radon levels, but also things like the size of subsurface parking structures and the age and type of construction.

Nancy is willing to talk with the Apartment Assoc. Board to get volunteers to test multi-family homes. Once this additional data is gathered, an education plan could be created for both owners and occupants. In addition, once data is collected specific to apartment buildings, there may be an opportunity for requesting financial assistance for mitigation.

John Hausbeck (Public Health) said he or his staff would work with the COE and/or the Apartment Association to help move this issue forward.

3. [18528](#) Discussion of Environmental Impacts of Fireworks Residue

Lori and Jim will continue to work on a letter to the Mayor, requesting a baseline study this year or 2012. COE will wait to design a more detailed study until they are certain funding will be available. Public comment was submitted by Maria Powell in support of pursuing this study.

4. [19947](#) Discussion of Future Items

The Sustainability Plan will need to be discussed at the May 16 meeting, as the April COE meeting will be cancelled. Other future items will include continued discussion of radon testing, and possible discussion of chromium-6 test results.

5. [08477](#) REPORT FROM BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

None

6. [08478](#) REPORT FROM WATER UTILITY BOARD:

None

7. [08479](#) REPORT FROM SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

The organics collection pilot program will still go forward this year, and at this time the recycling program will not be cut back due to budget restrictions.

8. [14746](#) REPORT FROM BOARD OF HEALTH FOR MADISON AND DANE COUNTY:

Budget cuts will likely have a serious impact on public services. The Board of Health will be preparing a statement of impact to outline the extent of the changes to public health services that the impending cuts will have in Dane County.

9. [13375](#) STAFF REPORT

Keith Pierce will be resigning his long-held post as a committee member on 4/19/11, when his term expires. He will be able to attend meetings until his position has been refilled or for 90 days, whichever is sooner. Several other members will need to renew their terms soon as well.

ADJOURNMENT

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