

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Taskforce Report

Summary and Recommendations from City Committee Review

Summary

In late 2011, the EAB Taskforce presented background information on EAB and an overview of their report to the Common Council. The Taskforce was asked to continue meeting on the EAB threat and to report back to the Council in June 2012 with a list of final recommendations and estimated costs. After continued discussion and review, the Taskforce returned to the Council on July 3rd, 2012.

The Council referred the revised June 2012 EAB Plan to seven City boards, commissions or committees for review and approval. Below are the motions and comments made by these committees to the final recommendations and estimated costs. The Taskforce supports the motions and comments (Please see **Chart 1** on page 2 for specific committee motions that were incorporated into the plan.).

Recommendations

1. Preemptively remove ash street trees in poor condition. Replace these trees with Madison Parks Forestry Section designated species within one year (or next appropriate planting season) to hasten renewal of urban tree canopy. Ensure biodiversity within the urban street tree population using the approved street tree species list.

2. Remove ash street trees designated in poor condition or that are under power transmission lines, during infrastructure maintenance projects. Offer property owners the option of removing fair or good condition ash street trees during infrastructure maintenance projects. Replace these trees with Madison Parks Forestry Section designated species within one year (or next appropriate planting season) to hasten renewal of urban tree canopy.

3. Provide property owners with the option of chemically treating publically owned trees, at their own expense, through an Adopt a-Tree program, that preserves legacy or high value trees and preserves tree canopy for environmental, economic or social reasons. The Adopt-a-Tree program would be facilitated by the Madison Parks Forestry Section and would be performed by licensed contractors through a Forestry Section permit. The decision to treat a publically owned tree would be made by the Madison Parks Forestry Section. Provide private property owners the same access to licensed contractors, at their own expense, for the treatment of ash located on private property. The Adopt-a-Tree program would only be offered once EAB has been detected within 15 miles of Madison and be consistent with currently accepted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plans.

4. Implement a chemical treatment program for terrace trees excluding trees in poor condition or under power transmission lines. The Taskforce strongly recommends injection treatments versus soil drench treatments to ensure protection of ground and surface water quality. Chemical treatments would begin when EAB was detected within 15 miles of Madison and be consistent with currently accepted Integrated Pest Management (IPM) plans, adopted, adapted or developed by the Forestry Section of Madison Parks Division.

DATE	COMMITTEE	
7/11/2012	Park Commission	A motion was made by Barker, seconded by Scarbrough , to Return to Lead with the Following Recommendation(s) to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed by voice vote/other. The Commission recommended that the report include a strong statement of the importance of biodiversity in the urban environment. The Commission recommended that the approved species list for trees in the terraces be appended to the report. The Commission recommended that Integrated Pest Management be a part of the report due to concerns about broad based use of chemical treatments.
7/16/2012	Committee on the Environment	A motion was made by Weier, seconded by Lasky , to Return to Lead with the Following Recommendation(s) to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES: Approve the report with the additional recommendation that there should not be soil-applied treatment (for EAB) within a wellhead protection zone or within 100 feet of surface water. The motion passed by voice vote/other.
7/24/2012	Water Utility Board	A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Cnare , to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES, and to refer the use of pesticides on both public and private property to the Water Quality Manager and Water Quality Technical Advisory Committee. The motion passed by voice vote.
7/25/2012	Board of Public Works	A motion was made by Anthony, Jr., seconded by Fix , to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval, amended so that chemicals cannot be sprayed within 100 feet of water and/or wildlife protection zones to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed by voice vote/other.
8/9/2012	Board of Health for Madison & Dane Co	A motion was made by Wilcox, seconded by Phair , to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed by voice vote/other.
9/6/2012	Solid Waste Advisory Committee	A motion was made by King, seconded by Lawton , to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT . The motion passed by voice vote/other.
9/10/2012	Board of Estimates	A motion was made by Rhodes-Conway, seconded by Verveer , to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL WITH THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS - Include the recommendations from the Board of Park Commissioners and the Committee on the Environment and include stronger language regarding chemical treatment in the report. - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

Chart 1. Summary of motions made by seven city committees regarding June 2012 EAB Plan.

The Taskforce will provide a yearly update of the City of Madison EAB Plan which highlights actions taken to mitigate the EAB threat, latest research findings and other key issues impacting the urban tree canopy.

If an EAB infestation is discovered in Madison or Dane County, State of Wisconsin response guidelines and regulations would have to be followed and all options for mitigating its impact would be reexamined and the best options that help us ensure public safety, preserve the tree canopy and mitigate environmental impacts would be pursued.