



City of Madison

Meeting Minutes - Final

COMMISSION ON THE ENVIRONMENT

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

*Jonathan Standridge, Chair; Keith Pierce, Vice Chair; Ald. Larry Palm; Michael Rewey;
Roger Bannerman; Reginald Weide; Theresa Stabo; Bruce Dickie; Bill Sonzogni;
Executive Secretary Michael R. Dailey; Staff: Greg Fries, Genesis Bichanich*

Monday, December 18, 2006

4:45 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Standridge called the meeting to order at 4:45 PM.

ROLL CALL

Present: Michael W. Rewey, Bill Sonzogni, Jonathan H. Standridge, Theresa Stabo,
Roger T. Bannerman, Bruce C. Dickie, Reginald N. Weide and Keith W. Pierce

Absent: Larry Palm

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Rewey, seconded by Stabo, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by acclamation.

1. [05026](#) Amending Section 10.085(3)(a)3. of the Madison General Ordinances to permit the use of outdoor fluorescent lamps and amending Section 12.03(4) of the Madison General Ordinances to require cutoff or full cutoff direct street lighting and clarify the street light requirements for different areas.

A motion was made by Rewey, seconded by Dickie, to Defer item to the January meeting. Commission members did not have the Ordinance to review. The motion passed by acclamation.
2. [05239](#) Salt Use Report

A motion was made by Rewey, seconded by Sonzogni, to Defer the report to the next meeting. Staff and subcommittee were directed to bring it back as an action item, presumably as a draft resolution with sponsorship, for introduction to Common Council.

--Discussion--

Bannerman gave a summary of the report by the Salt Use subcommittee (members are Roger Bannerman, Jim Lorman, Steve Corsi, John Hausbeck, Tom Martinelli, and Steve Geis)

In 1970's the City of Madison passed a resolution to reduce salt use by 50%; this hasn't happened. In the past 10 years, salt use has increased. There has been an increase in chloride in surface and groundwater. Lake Wingra has been most affected due to it's size and urban watershed. In 1920-30, chloride levels were in the range of 5-10 mg/L. A "clear road" policy came into effect in the 1960's. Chloride data for Lake Wingra from 1972-present indicates a steady climb, ranging from about 40 mg/L to over 100 mg/L (104.8 mg/L in 2005).

There are increasing environmental and potentially health-related impacts due to increasing salt in surface and groundwater/drinking wells. Denig-Chakroff, Water Utility, noted that due to the nature of aquifers, even if all salt use was eliminated immediately, there would likely still be a steady climb of salt in drinking wells for years. This is why it is important to address the issue now.

Whereas some municipalities use salt on all public streets, Madison's policy is to apply salt on main arterials, use a salt/sand mix where needed, and plow when there's over 3 inches of snow.

Preliminary calculations by the subcommittee indicate that private salt use is comparable to the amount used by the City. It is difficult to get accurate figures, but approximately 9,000 tons of salt are applied to the 4,000 acres of private parking lots. This is an important aspect of the problem.

Other municipalities and Dane County apply a significant amount of salt each year, as well. Last year 44,200 tons of salt were purchased for public use in Dane County. The amount used is not known.

Chloride is very difficult to trap in stormwater before it reaches the aquifer. While it is important to continue to infiltrate stormwater, this makes it a more complicated issue.

Short-term recommendations for the City of Madison include the following:

- (1) Provide weather/temp monitoring on the southwest side (initial cost would be \$30,000-50,000, yearly maintenance is \$2,200-2,400)
- (2) Demonstrate anti-icing technique in a test site, possibly Odana Golf Course pond drainage area since the ponds are already being monitored (\$5,000-10,000)
- (3) Provide more city employee snowplow driver training (\$500/training session)
- (4) Reduce salt content of sand/salt mix (cost of new or rental mixing equipment)
- (5) Lower average road salt use per lane mile (cost savings of \$75,000-90,000 if

average use is reduced by 50 pounds per lane mile; would require a pilot study)

(6) Add GPS AVL technology to track trucks, collect accurate material usage

(7) Review accuracy of weather forecasting

(8) On board infrared pavement/air temp sensors on vehicles (\$400-800 each)

(9) Convert "street miles" to "lane miles" to be more accurate in reporting.

(10) Sampling program with conductance monitors

(11) Move discussion to a regional level

Recommendations for private operators include education, calibration, and reporting.

Long-term recommendations include ordinances for regulating private and public salt use, modeling to determine future chloride levels, establish a driver alert program so people don't expect clean pavement, extending the monitoring program, and reporting progress to the Commission on an annual basis.

Sonzogni noted that the Commission is at a point to do something about this long-term issue, and the opportunity shouldn't be wasted. The motion passed by acclamation.

Bannerman made a motion that the Road Salt Use Report be sent to the Joint Subcommittee of the Lakes and Watershed and Commission on the Environment; Second by Dickie; Unanimous approval.

- 3. [05017](#) City of Madison Vehicle Idling Management Policy

A motion was made by Stabo, seconded by Bannerman, to Refer for Introduction. The motion passed by acclamation.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- A. Board of Public Works (Rewey)

None

- B. Board of Water Commissioners (Standridge)

None

- C. Solid Waste Advisory Committee (Weide)

Trash cans for the "automated system" will be light tan so color-blind people can distinguish them from the recycling cans. (Automated garbage collection begins September 2007.)

- D. Dark Sky Ordinance (Rewey)

Ordinance that was deferred to January meeting was last item.

E. Air Quality Subcommittee (Stabo)

Letter was sent to Art Rainwater regarding an anti-idling policy at schools.

F. Staff Report (Dailey)

Air Quality Subcommittee should speak with Jeanne Hoffman, Mayor's Office, to discuss status of the Blount Street Co-gen Feasibility Study. Staff was directed to hold it for the time being due to current discussions with MG&E.

Note that the January meeting will be held one week later than usual due to Martin Luther King Day.

Commissioners please call if you are unable to attend meetings.

FUTURE ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

**A motion was made by Bannerman, seconded by Stabo, to Adjourn at 5:55 PM.
The motion passed by acclamation.**