



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; Executive Secretary
Michael R. Dailey; Staff: Marilyn Bakken, Greg Fries, Genesis Bichanich*

Monday, September 19, 2005

4:45 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 103A (City-County Building)

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Pierce called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. noting that the meeting was properly noticed and a quorum was present. Chair Standridge arrived and assumed the Chair.

Executive Secretary Michael Dailey welcomed the new Commission Member Bruce Dickie. Mr. Dickie addressed the Commission and expressed appreciation and was looking forward to serving on the Commission. He currently works at Covance.

Noted for the record that Commissioner Dickie was in attendance, however will not be able to vote on items until after the Mayor signs the Council proceeding appointing him to the Commission.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ald. Larry Palm, Michael W. Rewey, Jonathan H. Standridge, Theresa Stabo, Reginald N. Weide and Keith W. Pierce

Excused: Roger T. Bannerman

PUBLIC COMMENT

Noted for the record there was no items of concern brought to the Commission not listed on the agenda or noted for future meetings.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Pierce, seconded by Stabo. The motion passed by acclamation.

1. Commission Representative to S.W.A.C -

Executive Secretary Dailey brought to the attention of the Commission that the current representative to SWAC, Reginald Weide's term has expired. Mr. Weide has graciously agreed to continue to serve as the COE Rep if no other commissioner wished to replace him.

Commissioner Pierce moved to reappoint Mr. Weide as the COE rep to the SWAC; motion seconded by Commissioner Rewey; motion unanimously passed.

Commissioner Weide accepted his appointment.

2. [01737](#) Approving a "Minor" Change to Amend the Environmental Corridor within the Central Urban Service Area of Dane County for the property of 5513 Femrite Drive (et al). 16th Ald. Dist.

Stabo abstained

A motion was made by Pierce, seconded by Ald. Palm, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Stabo Abstained. Atty. Ron Trachtenberg representing the Meier Bus Holding Company displayed a plat map of the area involved stating that the normal setback per City and County standards for an environmental corridor is 75', and the DNR minimum required setback is 30'. He is requesting that the Commission approve the request of the Meier Bus Holding Company to utilize the 30' setback, which would allow the company to install 14 additional parking spaces for buses. They would asphalt the additional space and install curb and gutter to channel the runoff to the current holding pond already constructed, for pre- treating the runoff to remove 40% of the sediment along with grease and oil prior to it discharging to the wetland. The Meier Company would also maintain the basin and clean it periodically.

The Commissioners discussed the request and Commissioner Rewey suggested that rather than make sharp angles on the outline of the property, that in the future when designing areas to fit in with the current topography that the designer look into meandering borders rather than "sharp" corners.

Noted for the record Arlen Ostrong, representing Meier Bus Holding Company was present to answer questions.

The motion passed by acclamation.

Enactment No: RES-05-00824

3. [01295](#) Final Report Clean Lakes & Beaches: A Water Quality Plan - 2005. This is the report required per Substitute Resolution No. 61952, ID Number 36509 adopted by the Common Council on October 5, 2004.

A motion was made by Pierce, seconded by Weide, to Return to Lead with the Following Recommendation(s) to the BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Larry Nelson, City Engineer addressed the Commission and stated that the Commission on the Environment had submitted the report to the Common Council to then referred it to various Boards and Commissions for another review with the Board of Public Works as lead agency to report all the findings back to the Council.

The emphasis is on the City's requirement to comply with NR 151 to which city staff is concerned about being able to meet. The City has a lot of work to needs to be done between now and 2013. The City must meet 20% reduction in suspended solids by 2008 and 40% reduction in 2013 to be in full compliance. The City will also need to validate what currently is being done [i.e. street sweeping activities].

Genesis Bichanich then reviewed the latest proposed changes to the current plan. She reviewed the changes as proposed to the plan with the Commissioners.

Page 3 Commissioner Pierce requested the wording relative to the Wisconsin Admin Code NR 151 - be deleted - Commissioners concurred.

Page 10 - Construction Sites - deleted the first paragraph and added "NR 151 requires that an erosion and sediment control plan be implemented for construction sites. The plan must indicate Best Manage Practices (BMP) that will be used to meet water quality standards. When more than 20,000 square feet of land is disturbed on new construction sites, standards require 80% total suspended solids (TSS) reduction, compared to no controls." The Commission had no problem with the proposed revision.

Page 21: Added sentence to 2nd paragraph: "The final report should be available from the USGS in September 2007, though preliminary results may be available beforehand."

Added to 5th Paragraph: "It is proposed that" the City of Madison "will" [strike out "is planning to"] extend the weekly sweeping program to the 4th and remaining portions of the 2nd Aldermanic Districts (downtown areas) in "2007". [striking "2006"]. The Commission had no problem with these changes.

Page 26 - Under THE CITY OF 1,0000 RAIN GARDENS - change first sentence: In "August" [strike out May] 2005, the City of Madison "did" [changed verb tense of will to did] apply [strike out applied] for a grant from the "US EPA" [strike out Department of Natural Resources].

In second paragraph of that same heading: Change DNR to "EPA". Strike out last sentence of that paragraph [Once the funds run out or if the City does not receive the grant, the cost sharing may be 50%.]

Last paragraph on the page: Change The City will to The City "would" be available for limited.....

The Commission had no problem with these changes.

Page 31: Change first sentence of 2nd paragraph: Construction may begin late 2005, or [~~is currently under construction~~] to 2006 and add: depending on resolution of design issues, neighborhood consensus, and permitting". The Commission had no problem with this change.

Page 35: Add sentence to end of first paragraph under WINGRA LAKE DREDGING. Shoreline restoration will be addressed as part of this project as well. The Commission had no problem with this proposed addition.

Page 37: DEMONSTRATION RAIN GARDENS Remove the word "has" from first sentence. Change the second sentence to read: One garden, located at Warner Park [~~is currently under construction~~] add "was completed in late June. City crews have constructed a second rain garden in Olin-Turville Park. Agrecol will plant this garden later this year." A [~~second~~] add "third" location will [~~most likely~~] add "probably" be at Brittingham Park.

Commission had no problem with these changes.

Page 39: RAIN GARDENS Add to the third bullet: Kick-off 1,000 rain gardens project in spring 2006 (5 year project "pending grant funding") The Commission had no problem with this change.

Page 41: Remove the LAKE PLANNING GRANT section

Commission had no problem accepting this change.

Page 42: Strike out first section: LAKE PROTECTION GRANT,

Suggested revision to delete entire PURCHASING RIPARIAN LAND section was denied. Commissioner Stabo moved retain the Purchasing Riparian Land section; motion seconded by Commissioner Rewey; motion unanimously passed.

The Commission discussed the proposed changes to pages 10, 41 and 42 as noted previously and concerns were expressed as to who pays for pollution - the victim or the polluter. If the City were to opt to treat the water prior to it flowing into Madison lakes, the treatment would have to be for that coming from areas upstream. The cost for a treatment facility would be phenomenal.

Page 44: add new section: CONVERT CROPLAND TO PRAIRIE -. The City of Madison currently owns 253 acres of farmland and leases it out to local farmers. In 2006-2007, the City of Madison will convert this cropland to prairie grass. This will prevent soil erosion and provide wildlife habitat.

Revision to second sentence under STORMWATER TREATMENT FACILITY - The planning effort alone would take at least 2 years, with a total cost of approximately \$150,000 [~~\$150,000~~] and add \$200,000. Add: "However this type of study is more properly in the purview of MMSD, per Wisconsin State Statutes 200.11(7): "The commission may plan, project, construct and maintain storm sewers, works, and facilities for the collection, transmission, treatment, disposal or recycling of storm water effluent to the extent such is permitted for sewerage."

Review last paragraph of that same section: strike \$25-50 million and revise it to "\$140-200" million, with about [~~\$10 million~~], add "the same amount for

annual operating cost (these cost estimates courtesy of John Schellpfeffer, Chief Engineer and Director, MMSD).

Also noted would be to change the factor 2.4 [noted in next sentence] to match facility costs of \$140-200 million.

Again, the Commission discussed these costs and concerns were expressed relative to funding. Mr. Nelson also pointed out that Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District is the only legal entity to install and maintain a stormwater treatment facility and assess property owners per Wisconsin State Statute 200.11(7).

The Commission did not have a problem with the revisions as proposed for this section.

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Commissioner Stabo pointed out that she had previously requested that Street Sweepers be high efficiency low emission sweepers.

Commissioner Stabo requested that "high efficiency, low emission" be added to the Practice: Street Sweeping; motion seconded by Alder Palm; motion unanimously passed.

The Commission then made the following motion relative to the revised Clean Lakes & Beaches Plan:

Commissioner Pierce moved to accept the revised Clean Lakes & Beaches: A Water Quality Plan 2005 report with revisions [motions] made previously; motion was seconded by Commissioner Weide; motion unanimously passed. [Noted for the record that prospective member Bruce Dickie seconded the motion as did Commissioner Weide. Because Mr. Dickie will not be confirmed until after the Mayor signs the September 20 Council proceedings, Commissioner Weide was noted as the second to the motion.]

The motion passed by acclamation.

4. Madison Coal Plant Emissions - [Report by Jennifer Feyerherm]

Ms. Jennifer Feyerherm, representing the Sierra Club distributed information to the Commission and stated that current air quality is a big issue. Health issues, especially respiratory problems are on the rise. A survey result indicated that smog and tiny particulates are linked to the over 470 premature deaths each year. The largest contributor of this pollution is coal burning plants and Madison has four stacks from MG & E that contribute towards this problem. The City does issue health advisory notices when ozone and associated health risks are high. The iron man event was held during one of those health advisory days.

She discussed the four stacks that MG & E has with no modern controls on them for sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide, two of the worst air quality contaminants; and the UW also has the Charter plan which has limited controls.

How much pollution is released into the air? Survey indicates that the Blount Street plant is the highest polluter in the State of Wisconsin - it burns high sulfur coal. The fine particulates, nitrous oxide and sulfur dioxide must be reduced to handle pollution concerns. There currently are no standards in place to protect the Madison residents.

The Dane County Clean Air Coalition also is working on the largest pollution contributing plants and found it is the high sulfur coal fired power plants.

She stated that when approached about being the highest polluter in the State of Wisconsin, MG & E responded that no one has complained to them about it.

There is a need to find ways to have plants in Madison control the pollutants on their own without having to be forced. Currently need to encourage DNR to look into regulations on these emissions; begin a dialogue with the energy plants and city officials to look into controls; and encourage the Council to hold public hearings on air quality issues. There also should be a health impact study done.

Bruce Nilles a UW Student also was present to answer questions and give information as requested.

The commission members discussed the information presented and it was noted that on future agendas they shall make a determination if or how to pursue this issue including consideration to forming a subcommittee to make a review and recommendation.

No action was required the report was informational.

5. Report on Education Program of Other Communities RE: Idling Ordinance

Genesis Bichanich with City Engineering distributed information on ordinances that other cities/counties have enacted regarding anti-idling (at the request of the Commission). Many of the locations fail to have a rigorous enforcement policy in place for idling, which is why, as John Hausbeck stated previously, the City of Madison did not move forward with its own ordinance.

In many areas, a technique called "community-based social marketing" has been used to change people's idling behavior. Community-based social marketing looks at what behaviors need to be changes, and then what group of people is most likely to change. It has been shown in previous studies that parents of elementary-school children are the group most likely to change behavior.

An example of implementing the technique involves monitoring the idling habits before and after school for a week prior to giving out information on idling. In Madison this could involve a high school class (statistics, sociology, etc) monitoring an elementary school. After the first round of monitoring the elementary school would focus on educating the children about why idling is bad (health, environment), and then give them informational letters to take to their parents. The letter would include a pledge for parents to sign, stating they will not idle in front of the school. An incentive could be offered to the children to get the pledges signed, such as 80% return rate would result in a pizza party or the like. Once pledges are returned, the children are given car window decals for their parents to display in their vehicles which say something to the effect that they do not idle. "No Idling" reminder signs would also be displayed near the school grounds. The high school class would return to do a second round of monitoring once the program had been in place for several weeks to determine their success rate.

She stated that a similar pilot program could be done in Madison (perhaps at Edgewood) at little expense to see if this could work here.

REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Board of Public Works - nothing to report
Board of Water Commissioners - nothing to report
Dark Sky Update - referred to next meeting
Solid Waste Advisory Commission - Commissioner Weide reported that the recycling containers are nearly all distributed, and in some areas the new recycling methods are in place; over all the program is being well received.
Subcommittee on Salt Reduction - nothing to report -
Commissioner Bannerman excused from this meeting
Staff Reports - Michael Dailey - still waiting for a new Health Representative to be appointed.

ITEMS FOR OCTOBER AGENDA:

---> Minutes of September Meeting
---> Road Salt Report - [Hausbeck]
---> Parking Lot Sealcoating - Coal Tar Use - [Bannerman]
---> Salt Reduction Subcommittee Activities Update - [Bannerman]
---> Dark Sky Update - [Rewey]

ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON FUTURE AGENDAS:

-->Emission Air Quality - Establishment of Subcommittee on Air Quality
Look into Regulations
Dialogue with MG & E
Encourage public hearings in Air Quality before Council

-->Idling Ordinance - Establishment of Subcommittee on Idling Issues
Education Program

-->Solar Bee Update - [Bichanich]
DNR would like to look at data collected
Chapter 30 permit procedures - Aquatic Management Plan
[Mr. Nelson, City Engineer indicated he would talk with Ken Johnson on this also]

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Minutes prepared by M. Bakken, Approved by Michael R. Dailey, P.E., Executive Secretary, Commission on the Environment.