



# City of Madison

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

## Meeting Minutes - Approved COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

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Monday, August 17, 2015

4:30 PM

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

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 4:36 p.m. following verification that the meeting was properly noticed and a quorum was present.

**Others present:** Katie Crawley, Assistant to the Mayor; Mike Dailey, Deputy City Engineer; Johanna Johnson, City Engineering Division.

**Present:** 5 - Steven M. Fix; Patricia A. Lasky; Patrick E. Delmore; Tyler D. Leeper and Patricia J. Gadow

**Excused:** 4 - Zach Wood; Timothy D. Baker; Katherine R. Mitchell and Elizabeth A. Katt-Reinders

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Leeper, seconded by Lasky to Approve the Minutes. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

### DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals.

1. [36426](#) REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Vice Chair Steve Fix welcomed invited speakers, Ken Clark, Culligan Total Water and Jill McDonald, Hellenbrand Inc./Water

2. [39693](#) WATER SOFTENER EFFICIENCY (SALT DISCHARGE TO THE ENVIRONMENT)

Attachments: [Hellenbrand email August 7 2015.pdf](#)

Ken Clark, Culligan Total Water and Jill McDonald, Hellenbrand Inc./Water, presented information related to water softeners and salt output into Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District's Nine Springs Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Both companies are partnering with MMSD and have participated in a two year study on how to reduce water softener's salt output. Initial findings from the study that is yet to be published, found when water softeners were optimized, there was a 15-20% reduction in salt output. When old water softeners, such as time-clock softeners (20-plus year old), there was a 50% reduction. Wisconsin plumbing code has not allowed time clock models for 20 years, but they are still in use in some Madison homes.

Additional measures that help curtails salt usage if a homeowner is in the market for a new water softener, they can consider a dual tank system and/or a softener that exceeds 4000 grains of hardness removed per pound of salt used.

Committee members asked McDonald and Clark what the COE and City could do to help raise awareness about the important role maintenance and optimization of water softeners has on salt output. A public awareness campaign and municipal ordinance were discussed.

Committee members discussed inviting representative from MMSD to the COE meeting in October, when the water softener study report is published.

3. [39694](#) COE COMMUNICATION OUTREACH EFFORTS

Update on drafting communication in support of Green Madison's efforts to win Georgetown Competition and promoting the Water Utility's conservation efforts.

4. [08477](#) REPORT FROM BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Nothing to report.

5. [08478](#) REPORT FROM WATER UTILITY BOARD

Pat Delmore reported on the the private water main that broke at the River's Edge Apartment complex on Madison's east side on August 14th.

6. [08479](#) REPORT FROM SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

No report.

7. [14746](#) REPORT FROM BOARD OF HEALTH FOR MADISON AND DANE COUNTY

Lasky reported the Public Health Dept. is monitoring Starkweather Creek following Madison Kipp Corp. using a chemical that turned the water pink/purple in Starkweather Creek.

8. [13375](#) STAFF REPORT

The Mayor has five appointments to the Sewer Commission to fill. Katie Crawley, Assistant to the Mayor, said Mayor Soglin is currently considering applicants. Candidates expressing interest in serving on the commission have diverse backgrounds, experience and expertise.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Lasky, seconded by Gadow to Adjourn. Motion passed by voice vote/other. Meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.