



# City of Madison

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

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Monday, September 20, 2010

4:30 PM

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

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### CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

**Present:** 7 -

Steven M. Fix; Larry Palm; Lori O. Grant; Reginald N. Weide; Keith W. Pierce; Dan Melton and James P. Bennett

**Excused:** 1 -

Roger T. Bannerman

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Melton, seconded by Mr. Bennett, to Approve the Minutes. Chair Grant indicated that on an item in the Minutes, she was recorded as voting "Aye" when she should have been recorded as "Non-Voting". This correction has been made in the Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None

### NEW BUSINESS

1. [19945](#) Erosion Control Enforcement & Practices

Greg Fries, Principal Engineer for City Engineering, gave a summary of the recommendations that came from the COE Erosion Control Subcommittee and which of them have been implemented (and to what extent). A complete list of the recommendations is available online here:

<http://legistar.cityofmadison.com/attachments/0f857185-a70d-4fb7-a576-feb8d48c802e.pdf>

**Recommendation 1:** Erosion Control Inspectors are sending out notifications to contractors with open permits following a large rain event, and in advance of anticipated large events.

**Recommendation 2:** Engineering has not moved forward on this; it is very similar to Green Tier. It is dependent on the expectations for a construction site. Alder Palm suggested that instead Engineering create a list annually of contractors who have not had any erosion control enforcement against them. Greg agreed to look into this and report back on how many companies that would be.

Recommendation 3: This has been done for the most part. For all projects that require an erosion control plan, that plan is discussed at a pre-construction meeting. The installation of any erosion control measures is certified and submitted to Engineering.

Recommendation 4: Engineering hasn't taught any classes; however, NASECA (North American Stormwater & Erosion Control Association) and Dane County Land Conservation host several seminars and training events annually, which are quite popular.

Recommendation 5: There is a supplemental request in the 2011 budget for a staff person in Engineering who would free up time for Erosion Control Inspectors to do site inspections.

Recommendation 6: Fines were raised about 2 years ago, but largely when we send a ticket it is not legal notice, and so is often ignored. Starting in January 2011, Wisconsin state law will change such that Certified Mail will be considered legal notice, so this may change. If a contractor repeatedly ignored erosion control notices Engineering can request that the Board of Public Works disqualify that contractor for work in the Right-of-Way. Private contractors are more difficult to control. Ultimately the property owner is responsible for any erosion control problems on their property.

Recommendation 7: Not done; right now the preference is for contractors to remove silt sock before onsite material delivery, then replace the silt sock immediately after. Often trucks just drive over the silt sock. It is frequently a subcontractor issue, which is difficult to address.

Recommendation 8: This was done by ordinance; though the responsibility for the erosion control plan does not stick with the designer. Engineering cannot force a developer to stay with the same company from design through construction, so the ordinance requests that the erosion control plan be stamped by a P.E.

Recommendation 9: No changes

Recommendation 10: This is required for public contracts (but not private). Currently Engineering pays the contractor to re-do the site erosion control plan once the project is awarded. The first erosion control plan is completed by Engineering staff for submittal to the DNR in the permit application process for public contracts.

Recommendation 11: No one else has shown any interest in joining Green Tier, despite lots of outreach.

Chair Grant asked if there is anything the COE could do as assistance/support. Mike Dailey indicated that support from the Common Council for additional staff would be most helpful. Melton noted that when a similar issue was discussed at the meeting in May, Commissioner Sonzogni had voiced concern over whether the job at Edgewood Ave was as good as can be expected. Discussion included the fact that state regulations have to balance what is affordable/achievable/practical with what is possible. There is a point at which erosion control measures become extraordinarily expensive without much improvement.

2. [19947](#) Discussion of Future Items

Jeff Maxted, Dane County Environmental Council, contacted Chair Grant to suggest that he attend a future COE meeting to discuss the activities of the respective committees. He is involved in Natural Step Monona, for example. The Committee discussed also meeting with at least a member or staff person to the Sustainable Design and Energy Committee (SDEC) to discuss their mission and specifically their work on the City Sustainability Plan.

It was suggest that since the SDEC meets at the same time each month, that a partial joint meeting may be possible. Another possibility would be to reschedule the next COE meeting to accomodate a briefing from a member or staff of the SDEC.

A motion was made by Pierce, seconded by Fix, to ask Chair Lori Grant to contact Jeanne Hoffman to ask that she find someone to come talk to the COE about the Sustainable Design Plan, or to reschedule the next COE meeting for a briefing. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

Further discussion about possible future items included creating a "litter bug campaign". This item will be placed on a future agenda.

**REPORTS**

3. [08477](#) REPORT FROM BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

There will be a public hearing on the stormwater utility budget this Wednesday at 7:00PM. (Room 201 of the City-County Building)

4. [08478](#) REPORT FROM WATER UTILITY BOARD:

None

5. [08479](#) REPORT FROM SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

None

6. [13375](#) STAFF REPORT

There will be a Med Drop on Saturday, October 2nd, 9AM to 1PM. More information online here: <http://www.meddropdane.org/>

**ADJOURNMENT**

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