



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; Elena Bennett; Reginald Weide; Theresa Stabo; Executive Secretary
Michael R. Dailey; Staff: Marilyn Bakken, Greg Fries, Genesis Bichanich*

Monday, May 16, 2005

4:45 PM

210 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD
ROOM 103A (City County Building)

Present: Ald. Larry Palm, Michael W. Rewey, Jonathan H. Standridge, Theresa Stabo,
Elena M. Bennett and Keith W. Pierce

Excused: Public Health Commission Representative Susan M. Bulgrin, Roger T.
Bannerman and Reginald N. Weide

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Standridge called the Commission meeting to order at 4:46 p.m. following clarification by the Secretary that the meeting was properly noticed and a quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No items were brought before the Commission not noted on the agenda, or requested for future agendas.

NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Introduction of new Alder Larry Palm - replacing Alder Robbie Webber.

Alder Palm introduced himself to the Commission members and expressed his eagerness to serve on the Commission.

B. Election of Officers

Chair Standridge reported that he would be willing to remain the Chair of the Commission unless another Commissioner wished to take over the responsibility; he stated he has no agenda while serving as Chair, he would like to see the Commission take on environmental issues that are pertinent and he will support the informal discussions entered into.

Vice Chair Pierce echoed Chair Standridge's statements and felt that in the Chair's absence he would carry on along the same avenue.

Chair Standridge called for any nominations and seeing none, Commissioner Stabo moved to re-elect Jonathan Standridge to continue as Chair and Keith Pierce to continue as Vice Chair; motion was seconded by Alder Palm; motion unanimously passed.

1. [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.

RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER Ms. Genesis Bichanich with Engineering reviewed with the Commissioners the updates she provided in the final report of Clean Lakes & Beaches - a Water Quality Plan - 2005. She highlighted the updates and changes made:

(1) Page 6: Commissioner Bennett made a motion to add the wording: The Dane County Land Conservation Department used the SLAMM and WINHUSLE models to estimate total levels of nutrients discharging to the lakes and rivers varies by land use throughout each watershed; motion was seconded by Commissioner Pierce; motion unanimously passed.

(2) Page 18: Commissioner Stabo expressed her desire to include an air quality statement to the top paragraph in Street Sweeping, that the City would seek equipment with the lowest possible diesel emissions or other engines with low emissions.

A discussion took place and Commissioner Rewey expressed his concern that the emissions request is better handled through air quality issues; this report is on water quality.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stabo that an additional sentence be added to the end of the first paragraph on page 18: "City will seek street sweeping equipment with the lowest possible diesel emissions or other low emission engines as possible"; motion was seconded by Commissioner Bennett; motion passed 4-1 with Commissioner Rewey voting No.

The Commissioners discussed the third paragraph regarding extending the weekly street sweeping program and they requested that in the 3rd paragraph under the heading FUTURE SWEEPING PRACTICES, an additional sentence be included to reflect true dollar costs for sweeping every street. "The cost per mile to extend weekly sweeping in a high-efficiency sweeper is _____."

(3) Page 23 - Ms. Bichanich included additional information on Construction Site Inspection and reviewed the new wording with the Commission. A motion was made by Commissioner Rewey; seconded by Commissioner Stabo to add the following under the "construction Site" heading: "City Engineering shall review current practices for Street Cleaning near construction sites and shall report to the COE with possible solutions"; motion unanimously passed.

(4) Page 43 and 44 - Ms. Bichanich mentioned the information in the tables was not correctly formatted and she would fix that. Motion was made by Alder Palm to change the wording under Street Sweeping from "No Improvements" to "No Improvements to Current Practices"; motion seconded by Commissioner Stabo; motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Rewey to include rounding the figures to the nearest \$10,000, for estimated costs for extending weekly sweeping in each Aldermanic District; motion seconded by Alder Palm; motion unanimously passed.

Former Alder Markle addressed the Commission and stated that he would like to see estimated dollar costs included in the body of the report as opposed to an Appendix, so that when the report is presented to the Council and if the Council approves the report, that a process is then set in motion for budgeting as

appropriate for these costs on an annual basis. He would like to have the Council take a stand to support environmental initiatives knowing it is going to be costly.

Alder Webber then addressed the Commission and expressed her concerns that if the dollar figures are included, the council may not approve the report; it might be worthwhile to get the report approved, and then request through the budget process funding for these initiatives. A lot of work is done to put together a comprehensive report, and if the Council does not support the funding required to fund the initiatives, the work done would be for naught.

Former Alder Markle responded that he would like to push the issue with the Council, if they approve the report with the estimated costs included, then budgeting would need to take place for the initiatives.

(5) Page 43 and 44 - A motion was made by Commissioner Rewey to revise Table 5 and to split it making one part Table 5 Clean Lakes & Beaches budget and timeline for short term initiatives; and create Table 6 budget and timeline for long term potential initiatives; motion seconded by Alder Palm; motion unanimously passed.

Heading on last column of Table 5 on Page 44 included an asterisk with no explanation as to what it was to represent. Motion by Alder Palm to include an explanation that \$/lb phosphorous was a very rough dollar estimate and will be included at the end of the table; motion seconded by Commissioner Pierce; motion unanimously passed.

(6) Page 45 - Table 6 - Estimate of cost to extend weekly sweeping by Aldermanic District. Ms. Bichanich reviewed the estimates for weekly sweeping if extended by Aldermanic District, and the Commission discussed the table contents.

The Commissioners discussed Table 6 and concerns were expressed that the "true" costs and information was not contained in that table. A motion was made by Commissioner Rewey to remove Table 6; motion seconded by Commissioner Stabo; motion unanimously passed.

Motion was made by Commissioner Rewey and seconded by Alder Palm that costs of extending weekly sweeping be included in Table 5; motion unanimously passed.

(7) Page 31 - Ms. Bichanich reported that the DNR reconsidered its previous action of denying the request of the Monona Bay neighbors to have the City help them to collect trash around the stormwater outfall by Parr Street; the DNR has now approved this request for one-year. She stated that the residents contacted the Governor and made several calls when the initial request was denied; the DNR then reconsidered its action.

Chair Standridge read into the record a request received from the Friends of Lake Wingra requesting that the City departments work with citizen watershed groups on an on-going basis to establish priorities and review and update the success of the Water Quality Plan. A motion was made to add the following wording on Page 41 end of first paragraph under the heading COLLABORATION WITH WATERSHED AND OTHER CITIZEN GROUPS:

Motion by Commissioner Stabo to add City departments shall work with Citizen Watershed groups on an on-going basis to establish priorities and to review and update the success of the Water Quality Plan; motion seconded by Commissioner Rewey; passed 4-1 with Commissioner Pierce voting NO.

Commissioner Bennett stated that she would be able to provide "real" historical data for inclusion in the Report. The graph on Page 9 Figure 4 will be amended to include a note on how the numbers were arrived at. Commissioner Bennett will provide the data to Ms. Bichanich for inclusion into the Figure 4 on Page 9 for future reports.

The Commission discussed the overall report and a motion was made by Alder Palm to note the Subcommittee and COE members that worked on the information; motion seconded by Commissioner Rewey; motion unanimously passed. Ms. Bichanich will add this information in the Executive Summary at the beginning of the report.

On Page 1 of the Report -- A motion was made by Alder Palm that in subsequent years, similar annual reports will be submitted to the Commission on the Environment and then submitted to the Common Council for approval, reflecting changes in technology, regulations, citizen concerns, management, research and other water quality-related issues as updated; motion seconded by Commissioner Stabo; motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by Commissioner Stabo to approve and forward to the Common Council the Final Report Clean Lakes & Beaches: A Water Quality Plan - 2005, as amended; motion seconded by Commissioner Rewey; motion unanimously passed.

2. Commission Representative Reports

A. Dark Sky Update - Commissioner Rewey indicated that additional information and a request from Alder Webber would be required for the Assistant City Attorney to update the appropriate ordinance on street lighting - he will get that information to Alder Webber and requested that she in turn forward a request to the Kitty Noonan to update the Ordinance to bring it back to the Commission for action at the June meeting.

B. Board of Public Works - Nothing to report

C. Solid Waste Advisory Commission - No update - Commissioner Weide was excused from this meeting.

D. Water Board Commission - Chair Standridge reported that the Water Utility staff is now located in its new location at 119 E. Olin Avenue and he suggested that any Commission members that would like to visit the location do so there are a lot of environmental initiatives included in this building.

E. Staff Report - continued discussion items:

1. Air Quality of Street Sweepers - Greg Fries reported that after investigating the available sweepers on the web and contacting manufacturers, no companies are currently providing diesel engines that exceed minimum federal standards. One company does however, offer a compressed natural gas option on several of its sweepers. The Commission discussed the issue as it related to modifying the City's entire fleet to run on BIO-diesel. This would be an item for a second report on Air Quality.
2. Idling Ordinance - John Hausbeck with City Health reported that a copy of the most recent amendment to the idling ordinance had been sent to the Commission members; however the original ordinance was adopted in May of 1995. He discussed the reason the ordinance was originally adopted [for idling buses, trucks, etc.] and request received by the Health Commission to better enforce the Ordinance. He explained that the Health Commission had not approved the request for more enforcement because the Police indicated that they could not and would not enforce the idling ordinance - not enough staff or time to do so. The Health Commission also could not support the ordinance due to lack of staff available to be able to monitor idling vehicles all over the City. He also reported that the ordinance had contained so many exemptions that it would be very difficult to determine enforcement.

He also stated that rather than enforcement, education was stressed to better inform citizens the need to turn off their vehicles while waiting for passengers to pickup or drop off.

Alder Webber addressed the Commission and requested that the Commissioners be provided copies of the original idling ordinance for their review and for possible revisions to be suggested, especially the education initiatives to be included. The Commission to discuss the item at its June and July meetings.

3. Mercury from Power Plants - nothing to report
4. CoGen Plant Agreement - Place on July agenda - discussion of MOU bring in individual to discuss agreement with Commission.

ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED ON JUNE 20, 2005 AGENDA:

Minutes of May 16, 2005 meeting

Idling Ordinance - copies to be provided to members for suggested inclusions or revisions

CoGen Plant Agreement Update between MG & E and UW Madison - [Don Peterson of MG & E to be invited]

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS:

Parking Lot Sealcoating - Coal Tar Use - [July - Bannerman]

Road Salt Report - [July - Hausbeck]

Charter Plant - [July]

Mercury from Power Plants

ADJOURNMENT

Commission meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

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