



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Approved COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, June 17, 2013

4:30 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

- Present:** 5 -
Sue Ellingson; Steven M. Fix; Jennifer L. Giegerich; Timothy D. Baker and James P. Bennett
- Absent:** 1 -
Patricia A. Lasky
- Excused:** 2 -
Mike DePue and Patricia J. Gadow

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Giegerich, seconded by Ellingson, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Maria Powell commented that her past work has included studying toxins in lake sediment. Monona Bay sediment has been shown to be high in several toxins, which impacts the fishery and those to consume them. She has requested (thus far unsuccessfully) that Public Health reinstall fish consumption warning signs near Monona Bay and Tenney Park. Maria believes there is also a link between construction site runoff and contaminated sediment, and suggests the COE should look into the issue further.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

1. [30180](#) Divestment of Fossil Fuels by the City of Madison

Public Comment

1. Judy Skog, supports - Spoke on behalf of 350 Madison, which promotes keeping fossil fuels in the ground by creating a buzz and getting the attention of fossil fuel companies by encouraging divestment from these companies.
2. Maria Powell, supports
3. Sue Pastor, supports
4. Zach Madden supports

Alder Ellingson indicated that while the City doesn't currently have any investments in fossil fuel companies, this resolution holds us to that policy and encourages other municipalities to do the same, in order to promote global warming awareness.

A motion was made by Ellingson, seconded by Bennett, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

2. [29859](#) For information regarding Mercury Contamination at the Public Retention Pond at Post & Watford

Attachments: [postwatford_watshed.pdf](#)
[postwatford1.pdf](#)
[post-watford-12075-51_blp.pdf](#)
[post-watford-20130405223109143.pdf](#)

Greg Fries, City Engineering, reported on a situation near an industrial park that resulted in high mercury levels in a nearby stormwater pond. A fluorescent bulb recycling collection operation was storing crushed bulbs in open dumpsters upstream of the pond. Rain flowing through the dumpsters likely carried powdery residue from the bulbs to the pond. Sediment cores indicated that the operation may have improved over time, as the sediments near the top did not have the highest levels of mercury. The City has worked with the owner of the operation, who is now using water-tight dumpsters. Since this is not a water of the state, the DNR has indicated it won't pursue further investigation, and has recently sent a letter to the owner indicating they are in compliance. Since the operation is not a traditional recycling operation, nor is it a hazardous waste handler, it seems to fall into a gray area with regards to regulations.

The City will dredge the pond later this year, and charge a percentage of the cost to the owner of the facility. A trap filled with compost will also be installed between the operation and the pond, with the intention of binding the heavy metal to the compost, and making it easier to clean in the future, should that prove necessary.

3. [30550](#) Informational Discussion on Erosion Control Practices/Regulations

Public Comment

1. Sue Pastor, advocates enforcing erosion control plans to the maximum extent of the law, and requests that the strictest standards possible be used. She also raised an issue about dust control and air quality especially when multiple projects are going on at once. She shared photos of construction site erosion from a South Park Street site that discharged to Monona Bay, and indicated that controlling erosion is the cost of doing business.

Tim Troester, City Engineering, discussed the general requirements of an active construction site and what goes into an erosion control plan. Most often, DNR defers erosion control inspection and enforcement to the City, specifically if the project is over an acre, which requires a DNR permit. Reconstruction projects over 4,000 square feet require a City Erosion Control permit.

The biggest issue with a construction site staying in compliance is maintenance of the practices. City staff visits active sites as time allows, and currently with summer help, each site is visited about once per week. Tim shared pictures of erosion control best management practices as well as before and after photos of practices that were not initially in compliance. Tim

spoke to a particular site where the construction schedule was changed late in the year and the area that was supposed to be seeded by 10/15 was used for staging instead. The area became a problem in the spring before it could be stabilized. State regulations indicate that a construction site is in compliance if perimeter control (silt fence or silt sock) is in place, which was the case for this site.

Compliance does not mean no erosion from a site. Dane County standards indicate that 7.5 tons per acre per year of soil can leave a construction site. While it may be possible for the City to require a contractor to use polymer on topsoil piles as well as perimeter controls, the ability for a city or county to be stricter than state standards is currently proposed to be eliminated with the state budget. There are currently no federal standards for erosion control. The EPA is working on a third iteration of proposed regulations, which are scheduled to be released for public comment this month.

A question was raised about demolition and who oversees it - a demo permit is granted through Building Inspection. City Engineering staff were not sure on demo inspection policies. We will address this at a future meeting. Another question was raised about TIF funds and if whether a site using TIF could be held to stricter standards.

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

Board approved pilot alum project on Monroe Street storm pond; Johnson Street is slated for reconstruction in 2014.

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

None

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

City if moving toward mattress recycling; George Dreckman, Recycling Coordinator, is looking into compostable plastics through UW-Oshkosh as part of the investigation into the feasibility of a City bio-digester.

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

None

8. [13375](#) STAFF REPORT

None

9. [19947](#) Discussion of Future Items

Alder Ellingson indicated a future interest in establishing a sentinel or indicator species for our area to affect public interest in water quality, similar to the salmon in the Pacific Northwest.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ellingson, seconded by Giegerich, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other.