



**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*

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Monday, October 17, 2005

4:45 PM

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

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Pierce called the meeting to order at 4:46 p.m. noting for the record that the meeting was properly noticed and a quorum was present.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Ald. Larry Palm, Michael W. Rewey, Theresa Stabo, Roger T. Bannerman, Bruce C. Dickie, Reginald N. Weide and Keith W. Pierce

**Excused:** Jonathan H. Standridge

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Noted for the record that seven residents were present to speak to the blasting issues with the surrounding quarry [Yahara] and comments were received as follows:

Jeff DuFrane, 5206 Forge Drive, Madison - was present to request the Commission on Environment to review concerns and look into the vibration issues with blasting in the area by Yahara Quarry. He stated that he hoped that residents from the several neighborhoods including Heritage Heights, Elvejhem, and Richmond Hills would be present to speak to the issues concerning the vibration and possible safety issues as a result of the blasting. He stated that in late July a structure beam fell a couple of days following blasting which was done. He was requesting that because the residents live in the City of Madison that it review the infrastructure and assist the residents in finding a resolution to this blasting issue.

Tonja Hamilton Nisbet, 9 Fern Circle, Madison - representing East Heritage Neighborhood expressed concerns that the land beneath the homes actually moves when the blasting occurs. This wakes up adults, children, and she is concerned with what it is doing to their homes and property. Requested the Commission to see if they could review what is happening to their properties.

Darrin Repp, 1801 Grafton Road, Madison - has lived in the area three years and has notices that the blasting has worsened. He has a two-story home that literally shakes when the blasts occur. He is concerned with the infrastructure on the east side.

Sandra Spink, 14 LaCrescenta Circle, Madison - Stated that the problem with the quarry blasting has been a long time issue. The homes shake from foundation to the roof top. Has lived there since 1991. There are natural causes that occur, but this is a man-made cause and the last blast registered .2 on the scale and is concerned about what may happen with the next blast.

Gene Ackerman, 5205 Forge Dr., Madison - Has lived in the area for 14 years and has always been a quiet good neighbor. Now he is making a concerted effort to express concerns with the blasting and feels that no one is listening. When Yahara gets ready to blast, they come to the area and bring their large equipment and walk around as if to irritate the residents. It seems as though they are flaunting the fact that they can blast and residents have nothing to say about it. It gets him very upset.

Lisa Engel, 18 Tern Circle, Madison - Stated this is a human factor - the residents have attempted to be "good neighbors" with the quarry and would like to see if the Commission might be able to assist them in finding a resolution.

Helen Meeker, 5605 Irongate Dr., Madison - Has lived there 19 years and wonders why developers are allowed to build homes near a quarry. She would like to see Yahara work with the residents to resolve this.

Alder Palm inquired as to how long the blasting has been going on -

One resident responded that blasting has been occurring for 50 years.

The Commission discussed the fact that in 2003 the blasting became worse - before that time the residents indicated they were unable to feel the shakes. The residents were frustrated because the Department of Commerce were no longer around to do anything about it - whenever the residents attempt to get someone to help them, it is pushed from County, to State, to City - they would like to see someone help them. They were told as long as the vibrations are below 2.0 the quarry may blast.

Alder Compton then addressed the Commission and stated that this has been a real problem for the residents in these neighborhood areas. Prior to this last few years, the blasts were "gentle" in nature [18' deep blasts, 20' deep blasts] - but recently the blasts were 75 feet deep and coupled with the fact that a limestone vein basically runs from McFarland to Heritage Heights, this adds to the vibration problems.

She stated that State Rep Joe Parisi is also attempting to work with the Quarry to attempt to get their blasts to be less deep.

Question was posed whether a permit was required from Dane County for the Quarry to blast. Response was it was necessary and would need to be renewed annually in order to continue blasting. In past years, the quarry only did blasting 2-4 times a year; however they did 24 blasts last year and it is continuing.

Commissioner Rewey requested that the issue of Blasting Vibration Issues be added to the November Commission on Environment Agenda, and that staff be directed to obtain the geotech report on the limestone vein and where it is located; motion was seconded by Commissioner Stabo; motion unanimously passed.

1. Minutes of September 19, 2005 Commission Meeting

A motion was made by Ald. Palm, seconded by Dickie, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by acclamation.

2. [02093](#) Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute the Green Tier/Clear Waters Initiative Environmental Results Program Charter pursuant to Section 299.83, Wisconsin Statutes. (City-Wide AD)

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

- 3 Road Salt Report

Commissioner Rewey moved to refer to the November meeting, the Road Salt Report; motion seconded by Alder Palm; motion unanimously passed.

4. Wingra Creek Parkway - Phase I Improvements [Information only]

Ms. Bichanich with Engineering briefed the Commission on the Wingra Creek Park Way Phase I improvements, stating that the master plan was begun in 1994; but due to funding issues, only the bike path was completed. Residents have recently requested the City to look at the Wingra Creek Parkway again. Several public meetings were held and the parkway was split into four phases. The Parkway runs from Fish Hatchery Road to the Lake Monona. The First Phase runs from Park Street to the second Railroad Bridge just east of Baird Street. She displayed photo illustrations depicting the various types of improvement applications including vegetation geogrid, littoral shelf, and vegetation boulder revetment. The City will try the littoral shelf as a test for Phase I.

She discussed the input received from public meetings from which the phases were created. This phase was selected because it is the area that had the most residential input and request to be done.

Monona Adams Winston, 15 Lakeshore Court, addressed the Commission and expressed concerns as to why that particular area was selected as phase I, rather than by the Lake. She stated that her residence is on the lake and she would like to have the project begin there; she would like to see the Creek dredged for better flow. She cited a tree with a very low branch that extends over the creek and nearly brushes against her kitchen window. She also stated that several residents in her area have sold because they were unable to launch their boats - the water is very shallow, about 6 inches deep. She felt that if the area was dredged and cleaned up it would help.

Mr. Dailey responded that the residents requested the area between Park Street and the 2nd Railroad Bridge as a result of their input at the public meetings.

It was pointed out to Ms. Winston that the tree issue could be discussed with City Parks for removal of the branch.

There was no action required, this was an informational briefing only.

5. Update Solar Bees

Ms. Bichanich updated the Commission on the Solar Bee project, stating that when first begun it appeared that the Solar Bees were working well. However with different species of algae and weeds popping up, the Solar Bees do not seem to be making a difference. She displayed a graph with the beginning levels and current levels.

She stated that she has received an e-mail from a resident who is unhappy with the job the Solar Bees are doing and wants them removed; and also received an e-mail from a resident who is thrilled with them.

Alder Palm stated that the money has been put in the 2006 budget, but if after further evaluations the project is deemed not desirable, the funds could be used elsewhere.

Ms. Bichanich also stated that if the Solar Bees do not work out in the lakes, she has been receiving inquiries to utilize them in larger detention basins where they may work well. The costs per Solar Bee is \$37,500.

No action required - just an update provided to the Commission.

6. Madison Coal Plant Emissions

The Commissioners received information from MG & E relative to the concerns expressed at the previous meeting relative to the coal fired Blount Street plant and emission concerns. Also distributed was a response to the MG & E letter from the Sierra Club.

Jennifer Feyerherm representing the Sierra Club also explained that MG & E has indicated that they are working on upgrading the Blount plant so by 2012 it will be not be a problem. She discussed the concerns again with the Commission and requested that the Commission might wish to gather more input and hold a public information hearing on this issue.

Commissioner Stabo suggested that the Commission also send a letter to MG & E requesting that they provide information as to what they are doing now to reach the 2012 goals; and to request a report from them as to where they are now in working towards the goals.

The Commission Secretary to look into holding a public hearing on the MG & E emission issue at the Blount Street Plant, as well as looking into other coal-fired plants in the area in November/December.

## REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

- A. Board of Public Works - no report
- B. Board of Water Commissioners - no report
- C. Dark Sky Update - no report - waiting to hear from Asst. City Attorney Lara Mainella on the status of the rewrite ordinance.
- D. Solid Waste Advisory - no report
- E. Subcommittee on Salt Reduction - Commissioner Bannerman reported that the subcommittee has met and hopefully they will have a report for the COE for the January 2006 agenda.
- F. Staff Report - no report

Meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

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

### ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA OR FUTURE AGENDA

- A. Blasting Vibration - Quarry  
---> Staff report on geotech study from State RE Limestone Main location
- B. Public Hearing - MG & E Emissions - Update - Change COE December Meeting Date to December 12 - 4:45 p.m. regular meeting in Rm. 103A and Public Hearing at 6 p.m. in Council Chambers - [need to confirm a quorum]
- C. Road Salt Report - [Hausbeck]