

AGENDA ITEM NO. 77

August 5, 2008 Common Council Meeting

ALTERNATE Resolution - Legislative File Number 05291

Sponsor: Ald. Brenda Konkel, District 2

Title:

Amending the report of the Salt Use Subcommittee to the City's Commission on the Environment and adopting the amended recommendations.

Fiscal Note:

Acceptance of this report requires no appropriation. Implementation of the recommendations contained in this report would have a number of modest economic impacts, some resulting in added costs and others generating savings. Some of these items are identified in the sections of the report entitled "Short Term Recommendations & Estimated Costs" and "Long Term Recommendations", which can be found on pages 13 through 16 of the report.

The establishment of a weather monitoring station (\$30,000 to \$50,000 for start up costs, plus \$2,200 to \$2,400 annually) is recommended, as is an anti-icing demonstration (\$5,000 to \$10,000). Enhanced snowplow driver training is also recommended (\$500 per session), along with infrared pavement and air sensors for supervisory vehicles and snowplows (\$400 to \$800 per vehicle), and a consultant to train private applicators (\$3,000).

On the savings side, it is recommended that the percentage of salt in the salt/sand mix be reduced from the current 20% to a new level of 10% (for savings of \$330 per 100 tons of sand used) or even 5% (for savings of \$500 per 100 tons of sand used). And a recommendation of reducing salt usage from the current 150 pounds per lane mile to a new standard of 100 pounds per line mile is projected to save the City \$75,000 to \$90,000 in an average year.

No additional appropriation is required for 2008. The fiscal impact of these and other recommendations will be integrated into future capital and operating budget requests.

Body:

WHEREAS, the amount of road salt used on public streets has been increasing since the 1960's when a "bare pavement" policy was put in place;

WHEREAS, in 1972, the City of Madison Common Council directed the Streets Division to regulate the amount of road salt used in winter maintenance to 150 pounds per lane mile;

WHEREAS, the level of chloride in surface water and in the drinking wells has been increasing for several decades;

WHEREAS, the recommended drinking water maximum for sodium is 20 mg/L and;

WHEREAS, drinking wells have seen sodium levels increasing with three wells having sodium in excess of 20 mg/L;

WHEREAS, only 30% of the area that drains into the Yahara River north of Lake Waubesa lies within the City of Madison;

WHEREAS, the governmental entities within the Yahara River watershed contribute to the remaining 70% runoff into the watershed;

WHEREAS, the private application rate of road salt is estimated to be comparable to the level applied to public streets, which is approximately 9000 tons annually in the City of Madison;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Madison Common Council hereby adopt the following recommendation:

1. The Mayor and Common Council request that the Dane County Lakes and Watershed Commission do the following:
 - a. Survey all governmental agencies, municipalities and private salt applicators in the watershed to determine their road salt policies.
 - b. Establish benchmarks for chloride content in lte water.
 - c. Recommend policies to all governmental agencies, municipalities and private salt applicators to achieve the benchmarks by a date established by the Commission