



City of Madison

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

Monday, June 16, 2008

4:45 PM

210 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Room 108, City-County Building.
Meets the 3rd Monday of the month.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present: 6 -

Larry Palm; Jonathan H. Standridge; Roger T. Bannerman; Bruce C. Dickie;
Reginald N. Weide and Keith W. Pierce

Excused: 1 -

Michael W. Rewey

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jennifer Feyerherm, Sierra Club, was present to thank the Commission for their work in organizing a public hearing for air quality related to local coal plants. Their efforts resulted in a resolution that forged the way for requiring studies of the UW Charter Street plant (through a lawsuit brought on by Sierra Club) and possibly a future study of the Blount Street coal plant (depending on what comes out of the first study).

She invited the Commissioners to attend a Town Hall meeting to look at the UW study thus far and offer public input on June 17th.

The Sierra club would like to see several options come out of the UW study, including possibly a hybrid plant, a larger joint plant with the Blount Street location, or a 100% biomass fuel plant that would use surplus wood or prairie grass as fuel.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. [05291](#) Approving the report of the Salt Use Subcommittee to the City's Commission on the Environment and adopting the recommendations of the report.

Board of Public Works is lead; the report was referred to the Dane County Lakes & Watershed Commission last year. They in turn referred it to the Dane Co Lakes & Watershed Commission Urban Runoff & Discharge Committee, who has yet to take up the item.

Commissioner Bannerman moved that the Board of Public Works should request action/comments from the Dane County Lakes & Watershed Commission and return to Common Council for final approval; Seconded by Dickie; vote passed by acclamation.

- 2. [08435](#) Discussion of Plastic Bag Use

The joint subcommittee between Commission on the Environment and Solid Waste to discuss moving forward on reducing the use of plastic bags has not met yet.

Commissioner Weide stressed that plastic bags are a major problem and needs to be addressed.
- 3. [08918](#) Discussion of the Environmental Issues pertaining to useage of bottled water

Chair Standridge asked Commissioners to decide by next meeting (July 21) whether or they wished to pursue future action on regulating the availability of plastic water bottles.

REPORTS

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

None
- 5. [08478](#) REPORT FROM BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS:

Chair Standridge reported that the new director of the Water Utility was selected and will be starting soon.
- 6. [08479](#) REPORT FROM SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Commissioner Weide reported on City Recycling Coordinator George Dreckman's efforts to reduce the city waste stream to 65% by 2010 with an overall goal of 0%. [Commissioners acted on this resolution at the May 19 meeting.]
- 7. [08481](#) REPORT FROM EROSION CONTROL SUBCOMMITTEE:

Chair Standridge reported that the erosion control group now includes a design engineer and that they are making progress. He said that the feeling from the regulated community is that more inspectors are needed and possibly larger fines for violations. The subcommittee will eventually have specific recommendations for the city.
- 8. [08482](#) REPORT FROM STAFF:

Commissioner Rewey was reappointed to the Commission on the Environment. Commissioner Stabo's vacancy will be filled shortly by Ms. Lori Grant.

The recent MedDrop event was another success (it is gaining in popularity). There will be another even in October of this year.

The recent flood did not present a lot of major issues for City Engineering, though there were lots of reports of flooded basements and yards. The east side had sanitary sewer backup for over a day due a pump that cannot keep up

during major rain events. The lake levels are quite high (Monona is over the record), and the John Nolen bike path is under 6 inches of water near Monona Terrace.

ADJOURNMENT

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