



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Approved COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, October 14, 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: 7 -

Sue Ellingson; Patricia A. Lasky; Mike DePue; Jennifer L. Giegerich;
Timothy D. Baker; James P. Bennett and Patricia J. Gadow

Excused: 1 -

Steven M. Fix

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

1. [31729](#) [Resolution for the City of Madison to Not Purchase or Use Corn Based Ethanol and Corn Based Ethanol Fuel Blends for its Fleet]

Bill Vandebrook, City Fleet Service Superintendent, reported that their experience with ethanol products has been less than ideal. The alcohol absorbs moisture and separation can occur, rendering the product useless. Cellulosic materials have a smaller carbon footprint, should something like switchgrass be made available. At this time, availability of 100% gasoline is not an issue, though the resolution does not prohibit the purchase of blended fuel, should that be the only option in the future. The City does own several hybrid vehicles, though their overall carbon footprint (including disposal of the battery) remains a question.

A motion was made by Lasky, seconded by Ellingson, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed by voice vote/other.
2. [30910](#) 2013 Fireworks - Post Event Discussion

At the August meeting, the Committee indicated a request for more information on the 2013 Rhythm and Booms event at Warner Park, including pounds and

composition of fireworks. Thus far, Rita Kelliher, Madison Festivals Inc, has been unable to get this information from the manufacturer. Also, this request was never discussed by the Common Council, and so the request remained solely that of the COE. Additional questions were asked of the Committee, including why they want the data, as the event will be moving from Warner Park to Lake Monona, and could they even discern the impacts from the Warner event from other fireworks events in the area.

After some discussion as to the relevancy of having the more detailed data, a motion was made by Ellingson, seconded by Gadow, to respond to Madison Festivals Inc, that more detailed 2013 Rhythm and Booms event data is no longer necessary due to the move to Lake Monona. The motion passed by the following vote:

Ayes: 6 - Sue Ellingson; Patricia A. Lasky; Mike DePue; Jennifer L. Giegerich; Timothy D. Baker and Patricia J. Gadow

Abstentions: 1 - James P. Bennett

Excused: 1 - Steven M. Fix

3. [31692](#) Proposed 2014 Rhythm & Booms Event

- Attachments:**
- [Movement of Rhythm & Booms to Lake Monona: Review of Potential Health | Spreadsheet by Jim Carrier to COE members](#)
 - [Midwest Env Justice Org, Sept 2013](#)
 - [Env Fact Sheet by NH Dept of Env Services, 2008](#)
 - [Rhythm & Booms on Lake Monona](#)
 - [Madison Festivals Inc Presentation](#)
 - [Statement from Katie Crawley, Madison Mayor's Office](#)
 - [Jim Carrier Correspondence to COE members, 9/27/13](#)

Discussion included asking what the current required permits entail (from Fire Dept, Streets Use Staff Committee, and Parks Commission) and whether more requests could be made through one of the existing permits rather than trying to add another permit. San Diego Region of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board has a permit requirement in place for fireworks events, with varying requirements depending on frequency. Staff will attach the San Diego document to the minutes and send it to members for review.

There was a request to ask a representative from the City Fire Department to attend the November meeting in order to discern what is required for a fireworks permit and whether addition information could be requested through that channel. The Committee will need to discuss what information they will want to request, and how to make it inclusive of all fireworks events. Lakes and Watershed Commission is waiting for input from their council on what their authority is on the matter.

REPORTS

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

None

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

Continuing prior discussions, setting agenda for upcoming year

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

There were some issues with the company the city contracted with regarding the mattress recycling program; we are now working with a new company out of Watertown. There has been further discussion about the compost digester location.

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

The Director Report, which came out at the end of August, indicated an issue with groundwater nitrates in some areas of the county. A grant was awarded to determine sources (possibly fertilizer, manure application, and others). Nitrates are not as well understood as other pollutants.

- 8. [13375](#) STAFF REPORT

Pat Lasky was re-appointed; Reggie Weide was officially thanked for his time served on the Committee.

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

Bennett asked Ellingson if she was still interested in discussing a "sentinel species" for the City of Madison, similar to salmon for Seattle. She indicated she was still interested. Members were asked to consider their own suggestions for a sentinel species prior to the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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