



City of Madison

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

Monday, February 20, 2012

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:** 6 -
Anita Weier; Dan Melton; Lori O. Grant; Roger T. Bannerman; James P. Bennett and Reginald N. Weide
- Absent:** 1 -
Steven M. Fix
- Excused:** 1 -
Patricia A. Lasky

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

1. [25388](#) 2011 Road Salt Report

Rick Wentz, Public Health Madison- Dane County, gave a quick overview of this year's Road Salt Report, indicating that this was the first time the city's data was statistically analyzed against data from other municipalities in Wisconsin. Data associated with chloride levels in the lakes is an average; Bannerman suggested that looking at extreme levels may be a worthwhile endeavor, though he appreciates the current work in creating this year's report.

Chris Kelley, acting Street Superintendent, was also present to answer questions. He noted that the beet juice/salt brine mixture was not used this winter (and likely won't be) but they can store it and use it in later years. They did use some anti-icing, and have been using pre-wetting techniques (which speeds up the melting time) for several years. All operators were trained with a simulator this year. Due to warmer than usual weather, they have been able to get street sweepers out in January and February.

2. [18528](#) Discussion of Environmental Impacts of Fireworks Residue

The amendment to the original budget amendment is nearly approved. The changes include moving the oversight from Health to Engineering, and removing the necessary matching funds. Even without the match requirement, a combination of grants and other private donations may be as high as

\$12,000.

Brynn Bemis, a hydrogeologist for City Engineering, and Jim Bennett met to discuss a sampling strategy for Warner Park. Brynn explained that they are currently proposing a three-part study. The first part is water sampling for perchlorates right before, right after, a week after, and a month after the fireworks event; cost for this is estimated to be \$8,000. The second part involves soil sampling of the launch island in the lagoons in several locations. There are likely many heavy metals that would be found in the lagoon sediment, since this area has functioned as a stormwater pond for several decades, and it would be difficult to determine if the source is urban pollutants or fireworks residue. The soil sampling would cost about \$1500. Jim Bennett discussed the proposed vegetation sampling. He proposes to sample one emergent species (likely cattails), and two upland species (one woody, one annual). He explained that if there is perchlorate in the sediment/soil, the vegetation will take it up. Vegetation sampling and analysis is a fairly involved process. The cost of this part of the study would range from \$15,000 to \$20,000. The sampling itself will be done as much in-house as possible to save money, likely by Brynn and Jim. Samples will have to be taken to two different labs for analysis.

Alder Weier asked why we wouldn't want to do sediment sampling. Discussion included the difficulty in discerning specific pollutant sources. Melton indicated that their intent was always the environmental health of Warner Park/Lagoons, not necessary just the effects from the fireworks residue. The budget amendment does not include language specific to fireworks residue sampling. Some members suggested sampling the sediment to know what pollutants are there. Brynn estimated that the additional cost for sediment sampling would be about \$2000. She also indicated that air samples would tell us exactly what pollutants are getting into the environment before they get diluted, though that would be a costly endeavor. Committee members indicated they may be interested in doing air quality testing in the future if there are funds available.

3. [08477](#) REPORT FROM BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

Not present

4. [08478](#) REPORT FROM WATER UTILITY BOARD:

None

5. [08479](#) REPORT FROM SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

None

6. [14746](#) REPORT FROM BOARD OF HEALTH FOR MADISON AND DANE COUNTY:

Not present

7. [13375](#) STAFF REPORT

None

8. [19947](#) Discussion of Future Items

None

ADJOURNMENT

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