



City of Madison

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

Monday, March 18, 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 -

Anita Weier; Steven M. Fix; Mike DePue; Jennifer L. Giegerich; Timothy D. Baker; James P. Bennett and Reginald N. Weide

Excused: 2 -

Patricia A. Lasky and Patricia J. Gadow

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

1. [18528](#) Discussion of Environmental Impacts of Fireworks Residue

Attachments:

[NLS Water Samples Report, 12/8/10](#)
[COE Letter to Rhythm and Booms organizer - 12/23/10](#)
[2012 Warner Park study - progress report 1/28/13](#)
[DRAFT 2012 Warner Park R&B Env. Impacts Study, Bemis - 2/18/13](#)
[DRAFT 2012 Veg & Soil Analyses from Warner Park, Bennett - 2/18/13](#)
[Enviro. Effects of Fireworks on Bodies of Water \(82-92](#)
[American Pyrotechnics Assoc, Standard 87-1](#)
[Health Dept Response to Cap Times Article, 2/28/13](#)
[2010 Surface Water Sampling by R&B, 8/2/10](#)
[Phytoremediation of Perchlorate from Fireworks, 2009](#)
[Roger Schneider, Phd.D. \(Resume\)](#)
[Dr. Roger Schneider email & Table.pdf](#)
[Lake George Initial Study on Fireworks Effects, 2010](#)
[Comments to COE, Maria Powell, March 2013](#)
[Comments to COE, Wild Warner, 3/15/13](#)

Public registered to speak:

1. J. Hurst, opposed, questioned water quality issues of lagoons
2. L. Mathiak, proposed location other than wetland; COE should work with Parks to protect part of Warner as Conservancy Park; integrate fireworks water quality issues with larger Yahara Lakes study
3. T. O'Kane, concerned with perchlorate leaching into groundwater, proposed using non-perchlorate fireworks (like Disney World and other coastal cities)
4. J. Carrier, recommends COE take a stand against pollution of waters of the

state (fireworks have been polluting area for 20 years); read email from Kurt Welke, DNR staff: "We have a valuable natural local asset to Northside residents. We have a track record of public investment into Warner lagoon. The habitats that are present provide important services to the aquatic and terrestrial communities they support. The educational springboard you have begun fills a large and important gap in the environmental literacy of the neighborhoods children and young adults. We (DNR) affirm the value of the area and are committed to advocacy and building understanding as future plans for Warner develop."

5. T. Kelly, indicated concern in the past about impacts from fireworks, switched from plastic to cardboard years ago, more recently requested surface water quality tests, and has increased cleanup efforts in past couple years. Public safety an issue with fireworks, which makes Warner lagoons an ideal location. Cited a paper on phytoremediation playing a role in perchlorate mineralization (attached).

6. R. Carley, lives near Warner Park, on a private well; asked if wells were investigated as part of study, will be testing own well and will provide results to COE.

Joe Grande, Water Utility, indicated that the City tested for perchlorate in city wells a number of years ago. They didn't find any, and so have not tested since.

Brynn Bemis, City Engineering, clarified several concepts. Perchlorate doesn't disappear, but rather is broken down via microbial action. Other water quality issues that were raised earlier (e.g., fish kills) are likely related to a lack of oxygen, and are not uncommon in hyper-eutrophic water bodies. There was public comment regarding a sheen on the water of the lagoon; Brynn indicated this is likely due to oil/grease from urban stormwater, or naturally occurring wetland microbial action. While a more robust list of recommendations can be found in her report, she recommended that the post-event clean up be a priority and using low or no perchlorate fireworks. She does not recommend further water testing or air quality testing, as a literature review of previous studies will provide adequate information on the latter.

Jim Bennett will make recommendations regarding possible further testing within his report, but defers to the committee to make formal recommendations related to the fireworks event.

There was further discussion among members, staff, and public regarding impact of fireworks on various environmentally-sensitive areas and whether there is a better location for fireworks event. T. Kelly indicated that the 2013 event will be smaller and in 2014 low/no perchlorate fireworks will be used for a portion of the event, though they are hard to find and expensive.

Reggie Weide made a motion to recommend that (1) the area is entirely cleaned following the event; (2) duds are disposed of properly; (3) request that low or no perchlorate fireworks be used. Alder Weier seconded the motion. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

Jennifer Giegerich made a motion to request research for an environmentally ideal fireworks display with regards to height of detonation and location. Mike DePue seconded the motion. Following some discussion, the motion passed by voice vote/other.

The reports will be sent to Committee members for final review and if there are no objections, staff will compile the reports and Committee recommendations to send to Common Council. Otherwise, the item will be brought back to the April meeting.

Weide indicated that he would be interested in learning more about the stormwater impacts to Warner lagoons at a future meeting.

2. [08477](#) REPORT FROM BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

University Ave relief storm sewer to be underway soon; project will address flooding of the area.

3. [08478](#) REPORT FROM WATER UTILITY BOARD:

Discussed road salt; future discussions on groundwater stewardship concept.

4. [08479](#) REPORT FROM SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

None

5. [14746](#) REPORT FROM BOARD OF HEALTH FOR MADISON AND DANE COUNTY:

None

6. [13375](#) STAFF REPORT

1. A couple of the members' terms are due to expire in April.
2. Officer elections typically take place in May each year.
3. Dane County Lakes and Watershed interested in collaborating with COE on road salt issue.

ADJOURNMENT

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