



City of Madison

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

Monday, July 16, 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: 7 -
Anita Weier; Steven M. Fix; Patricia A. Lasky; Dan Melton; Jennifer L. Giegerich; James P. Bennett and Patricia J. Gadow

Absent: 1 -
Roger T. Bannerman

Excused: 1 -
Reginald N. Weide

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

1. [26893](#) Accepting the report of the Emerald Ash Borer Taskforce and adopting the recommendations contained therein.

Marla Eddy (City Forester) and Karl Van Lith (HR and member of EAB task force) presented the City of Madison Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Plan. They went through the background of the issue as well as the four recommendations outlined in the report: preemptively remove Ash trees in poor condition, remove during infrastructure replacement projects, provide the option of chemically treating publicly owned trees by a certified applicator, and facilitate connections between private property owners and certified chemical applicators for privately owned trees.

The closest documented occurrence is in Janesville, WI. Last winter, staff sampled from 550 branches around the city and did not find any indication of EAB. There have been several public outreach meetings and other educational outreach efforts to discuss the various methods for trying to manage the urban forest such that there is minimum impact from EAB.

The task force continues to keep up to date on ongoing research related to EAB, including the effectiveness of treatment techniques in other cities. Bio-manipulation using predatory wasps is being researched by a UW professor. Toronto and Oakville, Ontario have had success with a Canadian produced bio-pesticide called Azadirachtin. They are waiting for US researchers to provide their opinion on its effectiveness against EAB.

Questions were raised as to the safety of chemical applications. Many of the treatments are injectable, which eliminates any groundwater contamination concerns. Even in cases where the treatment is applied directly to the soil, staff has found through research that there is very little risk for contamination. However, the recommendation was to advocate for using injectable products over soil-applied products. Alder Weier asked about regulating private application to soil. This would need to be done through an ordinance change, and may be difficult to regulate, other than at the point of sale.

Dan Melton had the following comments: Chemical soil treatment for EAB should not be done within a wellhead protection zone or near surface water; Based on personal experience, Toronto and Oakville (Ontario) are quite advanced and they know what they are doing [regarding use of a bio-pesticide]; While street trees may make up only 15% of the urban forest, if a lot of Ash trees are removed along one block, the visual impact could be startling; therefore, It would ideally be up to the residents along the whole block as to what measures are taken in terms of controlling EAB (whether a tree should be taken down and/or chemically treated).

Public comment by Jim Carrier of Wild Warner included a suggestion of not ignoring the trees within City Parks (need to think long term), though he acknowledges that it is a daunting task. He offered volunteer services within Warner Park for any bio-prevention experiments that Forestry might want to try. Performing an important inventory of the tree canopy within public property (other than street terraces) could be another volunteer effort.

A motion was made by Weier, seconded by Lasky, to Return to Lead with the Following Recommendation(s) to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES: Approve the report with the additional recommendation that there should not be soil-applied treatment (for EAB) within a wellhead protection zone or within 100 feet of surface water. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

2. [18528](#)

Discussion of Environmental Impacts of Fireworks Residue

Brynn Bemis, City Engineering, went over the results from sediment samples taken in Warner Lagoons in February. She went through a spreadsheet that showed sample levels compared to some related state standards. The sediment samples showed typical contaminants for a stormwater detention area, and nothing stood out from a fireworks-related standpoint (higher levels of barium or strontium).

So far there have been three rounds of water sampling (day before fireworks event, day after, and a week after). The results are not available from the lab yet. There will be one more water sample taken a month following the event (in 2 weeks).

Jim Bennett had a question for the committee regarding completing the plant/soil sampling. The baseline was completed, but the intention was to take the post-event samples after a rain event. Given the drought conditions, it may not make sense to try to sample now, unless we get rain in the near future. Brynn suggested installing a few monitoring wells (about \$5000) to do perchlorate testing, as this is what other fireworks impacts research has included. This may be able to be funded this year, depending on any future

plant/soil analysis.

The committee thanked Jim Carrier (Wild Warner) for volunteering his boat and time towards this study. Jim suggested sampling some of the residue from the fireworks debris. Steve Fix indicated that it might be worth looking into, though it is beyond the scope of the study at this time.

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

Several approved projects will require DNR permits; one will require a permit from Army Corps of Engineers.

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

Results from the PCE testing by Well 15 will be available on July 20. There was an article in the Isthmus last week on the testing as well.

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

Not present

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

None

7. [13375](#) STAFF REPORT

1. The COE needs to appoint a representative to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. Dan Melton indicated an interest. Lasky made the motion to appoint Dan; the motion was seconded by Alder Weier. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

2. Mike Dailey is working on filling the new vacancy left by Roger Bannerman, whose is no longer eligible to serve.

3. The Committee needs to vote for a new vice-chair. Lasky made a motion to appoint Jim Bennett; the motion was seconded by Gadow. Motion passed by voice vote/other.

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

Parks staff will attend the August meeting to discuss their research on rubber crumb mulch at playgrounds.

ADJOURNMENT

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