



City of Madison

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

Monday, February 16, 2015

4:30 PM

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

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m., following confirmation that the meeting had been properly noticed and that a quorum was present.

Committee members Baker and Leeper arrived at 4:45 p.m. and 4:50 p.m., respectively.

City staff present included Brynn Bemis, City Engineering.

Patrick Delmore was officially welcomed as a new member of the COE.

Present: 8 - Steven M. Fix; Patricia A. Lasky; Patrick E. Delmore; Tyler D. Leeper; Timothy D. Baker; James P. Bennett; Elizabeth A. Katt-Reinders and Patricia J. Gadow

Excused: 1 - Lucas Dailey

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Lasky, seconded by Fix to approve the minutes from December's meeting. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

There were no disclosures or recusals.

1. [36064](#) REPORT OF CHAIR

Chair Katt-Reinders utilized the Report of Chair agenda item to discuss and solicit input from committee members on how the Committee on Environment can best provide value to the City and citizens who have questions and concerns about environmental issues. Committee members agreed being responsive to citizens may include referring them back to materials, such as reports, where the issue has been resolved. In other instances, the COE may need to direct people to subject experts. If a member of the public comes to the COE, the committee can take a look at the issue and then respond to that person. Some issues are on-going, such as the leaf collection study or road salt, and can be scheduled to appear on the agenda as applicable (i.e., seasonally). Developing a work plan for the committee will also be of assistance (item 3 on the meeting agenda).

2. [36072](#) Discussion item: 2014 Fireworks Summary

Attachments: [2014 Rhythm and Booms Report to City of Madison.pdf](#)
[Warner Park Fireworks Report \(Legistar File ID 29706\).pdf](#)

Assistant City Engineer and Executive Secretary to the Committee on the Environment, Mike Dailey, provided an explanation of why this item appeared on the agenda. It was a continuation of a discussion item from the December 15, 2014 COE meeting, where members of the public asked questions about the fireworks summary report provided by Madison Festivals and their fireworks operator for the June 2014 event over Lake Monona.

Brynn Bemis, City Engineering Division, was present for any questions.

Committee members asked Dailey questions about revisions to the City's fireworks ordinance.

Steve Fix said that the Warner Park Fireworks Environmental Impact Baseline Study, 2012, prepared by Brynn Bemis (City Engineering), Dr. James Bennett, (Department of Botany, University of Wisconsin-Madison, and COE Member) and the Committee on the Environment, is an example of a resource that members of the public with questions can be referred to. The findings of the report can also be applied to any future events over Lake Monona.

Katt-Reinders asked if the committee felt any additional response or action was needed. Members of the committee agreed that no further response was needed. The 2012 study, in conjunction with City staff response to questions was sufficient. The committee thanked Bemis and Kristi Sorsa, Public Health Madison-Dane County, for their assistance.

3. [37267](#) Discussion of Future Agenda Topics

The committee identified five issues to focus on:

1. Water softeners (salt discharge to environment)
2. Leaf Collection Study
3. Pharmaceutical disposal
4. Phasing out sales of products in State of WI that contain microbeads
5. Road salt

1. Water softeners are a major contributor to salt in water. Patrick Delmore said this is one issue the Water Utility Board may focus on as well. He will report back to the COE at the next meeting regarding the Water Utility Board's discussion at their February meeting. One of the questions asked by COE members is if rebates might be available for water softener units meeting efficiency standards. Steve Fix said this might be an area where the Water Utility Board and COE could collaborate to raise awareness of Water softener impact on the environment. Pat Gadow said she sees a public education role for the COE on this issue. Press releases and letters to the editor can help raise public awareness. Elizabeth Katt-Reinders said this issue will be placed on the March agenda.

2. Leaf Collection Study: This is an on-going study and on-going issue about the importance of keeping leaves from going down the storm drain and going into the lake. Tyler Leeper raised the issue of the stencils/signs that are placed near storm drains that state "Drains to Lake." He added that making people more aware of which lake would help increase a sense of responsibility. Raising awareness could be accomplished through reaching out neighborhood associations and their related publications, social media. Katt-Reinders said this issue will be added to the August meeting agenda.

3. Pharmaceutical disposal: Correct disposal of unused medications is an on going issue with opportunity to help educate public on correct methods and drop off sites. Educational efforts can also be targeted to larger care facilities and At Home health care providers. Katt-Reinders said this issue will be added to the March agenda.

4. Phasing out sales of products in State of Wisconsin that contain microbeads. Katt-Reinders said that a number of environmental groups have been involved with writing legislation to phase out products that contain microbeads. The legislation has bipartisan support. Katt-Reinders disclosed that she works for the Clean Lakes Alliance, which has been involved with the legislation. The microbeads, which are in skin care products and toothpaste, are turning up in the water. Steve Fix said he would be interested in more information about the microbeads and their environmental impact. Katt-Reinders said she could contact the Mayor's Office to see if the City is aware of the issue, or would consider weighing in. Tyler Leeper said this seems like an issue the City should be aware of. Katt-Reinders also referenced finding a report for more information about microbeads and their environmental impact.

5. Road salt: On-going issue. In 2006, the COE prepared a report and the conclusions haven't changed considerably since its publication. In 2014, MAMSWAP (Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership) presented workshops for private road salt applicators. COE members promoted the

workshops through their professional networks. Tyler Leeper asked about workshop attendance. No attendance numbers or information from MAMSWAP on participation was available. Patrick Delmore said the road salt issue continues to be important for the Spring Harbors Neighborhood, where there is a challenge of balancing personal safety with environmental impact. Katt-Reinders said to place the Road salt issue on the meeting agenda for August or September.

Other issues that were discussed, but not flagged for immediate follow up include:

Reviewing land controlled/owned by the City for improvement possibilities. Mike Dailey suggested that if the COE looks at this issue that old greenways are considered. The greenways were designed as flood control. However, encroachment issues have developed over the years, with property owners using the land and there is the potential of the land being lost through adverse possession. Elizabeth Katt-Reinders asked how the COE could play a role. Dailey suggested that the COE could help identify areas that are under utilized and encourage the City to do something with the land.

Pollinator Task Force: Mike Dailey said the task force is just City staff, but other groups do show up to the meeting and participate freely. Patrick Delmore asked for background information on the task force. Dailey provided an explanation and gave the example of the City Stormwater Utility having 1200 acres of turf areas. But maybe the City's mowing practices in greenways are impacting the pollinators' food source.

Long Range Transportation Committee: Elizabeth Katt-Reinders said she believes the COE needs a member to monitor what the transportation committee is addressing. Steve Fix is an appointee on the Long Range Transportation Committee. He said he can report out to the COE on issues that are related to sustainability. Pat Gadow said that if there are decisions being made by that committee that have a favorable impact, the COE could recognize the positive impact that change is making.

REPORTS

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

Steve Fix reported that none of the major street reconstruction projects planned for the 2015 public works construction season had the potential of significant environmental impacts. On the private development side, the Royster Clark Development continues. That site had soil remediation work performed.

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

Patrick Delmore reported the Water Utility Board is looking at road salt, smart meters (water conservation), well head protection and pipe replacement and pipe lining.

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

No Report (did not meet).
7. [14746](#) REPORT FROM BOARD OF HEALTH FOR MADISON AND DANE COUNTY:

Pat Lasky said the Board of Health didn't discuss a topic related to environmental health at their last meeting. She said Ebola and the local health care system's response to it was discussed. The same system response also applies to measles.
8. [13375](#) STAFF REPORT

Mike Dailey reported that Patrick Delmore had been officially appointed to the COE.

ADJOURNMENT

The motion to adjourn was made by Gadow; seconded by Leeper. Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.