



City of Madison

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

Monday, June 18, 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; Steven M. Fix; Patricia A. Lasky; Dan Melton; Roger T. Bannerman and James P. Bennett

Excused: 1 -

Reginald N. Weide

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

1. 26711 Staff update on environmental investigation at Kipp site

COE members asked what the issues are and what is being done at the Madison Kipp Corporation site (foundry located near Atwood Ave and Fair Oaks Ave). Brynn Bemis, City Engineering, and Jeff Lafferty, Public Health, were present to give a quick history and summary of the problem. Kipp Foundry had been releasing solvents consistently over many years. There are a couple of serious concerns about the contamination. First, since the solvents (PCE) are denser than water, they are very difficult to clean up since they have created a groundwater plume that continues to expand. The strong downward gradient will prove to be a challenge in trying to control it. Nearby Well 8 is scheduled to receive an iron and manganese filter soon, which would allow it to be used more heavily than in the recent past. This additional pumping may, however, redirect the groundwater plume. If the PCE contamination does reach the well, it is treatable, though it is expensive to do so. It would make fiscal sense to incorporate a PCE filter with the iron and manganese filter, if that is the case. The Water Utility is aware of the concern and will install a sentinel well between Madison Kipp property and Well 8 to track the plume.

Kipp will be installing 2 bedrock wells in the heart of the plume. The rock contents will be crushed and tested and the wells will be important in studying the movement of the solvents since fractures and other bedrock features can greatly impact how quickly and where pollutants move through groundwater.

Standards for PCE in groundwater is 5 ug/l, though the MCL goal is 0. Samples of the area surrounding the Kipp site have uncovered levels of PCE up to 8,000

ug/L.

Another concern is movement of the solvent through air spaces in soil, called soil vapor. The contaminated soil vapor has been detected below neighboring basements, and can seep into foundations, creating an air quality concern for inhabitants. DNR is now studying this problem in much greater detail than they had been previously. If houses are found to have an issue, a mitigation system (\$800-1000) can be installed. The first round of the soil soil vapor intrusion study has been completed, and the second round has begun. The intention is to find out the extent of the impact (pollutant levels and geographic extent). Results should be available in July or August. COE members asked about the health risks associated with the soil vapor intrusion. The likelihood of it causing cancer is extremely low, however, it is still a concern.

Kipp has recently installed a trench along its property line with the intent to suck soil vapor from soil and release it into the atmosphere, preventing further underground spreading. When the trench was being dug, a soil sample indicated a high level of PCBs. The source is unknown at this point, which has launched another study.

COE members asked about air quality concerns at this site. Brynn indicated that Midwest Environmental Advocates have sent a letter to State Rep Chris Taylor regarding air quality concerns at this site.

COE members indicated an interest in hearing back from staff following the DNR study of the area, likely in September.

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

Contract will be going out for two storm ponds at Cherokee Marsh Park.

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

Forty soil vapor canisters are being installed around City Well 15 to determine source of PCE. Currently there are 32 possible sources. This is the first phase of the investigation, information from this phase will likely lead to a more detailed second phase in select areas. This is the first time the city has taken such measures. Dan also wanted to stress the importance of the impact across North America of legacy costs from similar decades-old pollution.

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

Not present

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

None

- 6. [13375](#) STAFF REPORT

1. Fireworks study: Vegetation and soil samples will be take this Friday at Warner Park.

2. One of two new members was present and a round of introductions was done. Welcome, Jennifer Geigerich.

3. COE needs to appoint a representative to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee; the decision was delayed to the July meeting.

7. [19947](#) Discussion of Future Items

Members indicated an interest in hearing more from city staff about the possible impacts from crumb rubber at playgrounds.

ADJOURNMENT

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