



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Meeting Minutes - Approved COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, September 15, 2014

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 4:32 p.m., with confirmation that the meeting had been properly noticed and a quorum present.

Present: 7 - Patricia A. Lasky; Mike DePue; Jennifer L. Giegerich; Timothy D. Baker; James P. Bennett; Elizabeth A. Katt-Reinders and Patricia J. Gadow

Excused: 2 - Lucas Dailey and Steven M. Fix

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present when the Public Comment item was called on the agenda. A member of the public later arrived at the meeting and filled out a registration statement indicating her wish to speak. Members of the committee were discussing another agenda item. The member of the public left the meeting and her Registration Statement was read into the minutes following the agenda item, "Discussion of Future Items."

C. Elkington, Madison, "offers her organization as a task force to address sustainability, present solutions and work on them."

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

1. [35011](#) Directing the Madison Food Policy Council to convene, develop, and provide implementation direction to city departments for strategies to promote the health of honey bees and other pollinators.

Attachments: [35011-version1.pdf](#)
[Pollinator Plants - Great Lakes Region.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Lasky, seconded by Baker, for this Resolution to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the MADISON FOOD POLICY COUNCIL.

Mark Woulf of the Mayor's Office and Staff to the Madison Food Policy Council, presented the resolution to the members of the Committee on the Environment. He said the resolution is intended to solicit COE input on the recommendations and best practices on pollinator protection that will eventually be put forth in a report by a City task force. This report will review the City's own practices, identify best practices and ultimately provide recommendations to the Common Council on what actions we can take as a City, as well as offer recommendations about how individuals can protect and promote pollinator health in the community. The Resolution states the task force will have six months to perform research and report back to the Common Council by August 2015.

Pat Lasky asked Woulf who is on the committee. Woulf said a number of different City departments have a representative on the task force. The staff members are from departments that have responsibility for City land, such as Parks Division, Engineering, Water Utility and Public Health Madison-Dane County. A professional bee keeper is also serving on the task force.

James Bennett asked Woulf how the task force will define pollinators. Bennett said pollinators can include bats and birds. Woulf said pollinators is a broad category. The Federal Government also has a task force researching pollinator health. Any information that task force publishes can be used to help guide the City's research. This may also be of assistance for pesticide research.

Mike DePue said that the state of Wisconsin is eighth in the nation for honey production. There is a significant economic component to be considered in discussing health of pollinators.

Members of the COE stated they are interested in the task force's findings and assisting with research and or outreach as appropriate.

Later in the COE meeting, the committee reopened their motion and added a clause volunteering the COE to place a member on the Pollinator Policy Subcommittee of the Madison Food Policy Council. Mike Dailey, Secretary to the COE, has contacted Mark Woulf regarding the COE's motion.

2. [33788](#) Private Salt Applicators

Attachments: [2014RoadwayWorkshop.pdf](#)
[2014ParkingLotWorkshop.pdf](#)

Gadow made the motion, seconded by Baker to discuss and continue the Private Salt Applicators item.

Elizabeth Katt-Reinders summarized the discussion on this topic from the July COE meeting. The possibility of a consultant coming to the Madison area to offer training on salt application procedures to municipalities and contractors has been discussed. The COE would like Engineering staff to follow up with Madison Area Municipal Storm Water Partnership (MAMSWAP) for details on cost and consultant availability for training. The timeline for training is around November 11-12 or 12-13.

3. [34456](#) Discussion of Committee Goals and Focus Areas

Gadow made the motion, seconded by DePue to Discuss and continue discussion of committee goals.

At the July COE meeting, committee members were asked to consider what issues the COE can focus on.

Steven Fix (excused) stated via email his belief that stormwater management is an important focus area and may offer opportunity for the COE to support the work the City is doing.

Pat Gadow said the COE could work to develop a comprehensive view of factors that feed into the problem of stormwater management. It's not just leaves cementing over the ground she said, but runoff from buildings. The COE can look for a way to knit the issues together.

Mike DePue said an issue is green infrastructure. It ties together many issues, including pollination issues that the committee just heard about from the Madison Food Policy Council. He explained green infrastructure as incorporating landscaping techniques similiar to what nature was already doing before humans came along; slowing down water through the use of swales and rain gardens. There are often techniques or soft structures that the average person can accomplish with a shovel.

Gadow asked if working with the Sustainable Madison Committee on environmental issues is a possibility. James Bennett said the COE met with that committee a year or two ago. Katt-Reinders said the COE should take the step of defining what it is the committee can do. What role can the COE play? How can the COE be useful? Inviting Greg Fries, Principal Engineer in the Engineering's Stormwater section to a COE meeting for a question and answer session would be helpful. Engineering staff will invite Fries to the October meeting and collect questions from COE members in advance to give to him.

Committee members also agreed climate change is a reoccurring focus area. Bennett said the salt applicator issue falls under climate change. The pollinator issue is one that fits under the scope of the COE's mission.

DePue said he likes the idea of the report card as a jumping off point. He said the 2012 Public Health Report Card could be a useful tool, as it takes huge topics and creates a logical tree for examining what's already included in the report that is related to the environment, as well as what's missing from the report card that is related to the environment. DePue will read through report and begin to develop a responsibility matrix. He will provide a progress update at the next meeting.

Katt-Reinders presented a draft copy of a letter to be sent from the COE to the residents in the USGS Leaf Study Areas thanking residents for their participation in the study along with highlighting the importance of the study. Jennifer Giegerich made the motion for the COE to authorize Katt-Reinders to sign the letter for Engineering staff to mail; motion seconded by Pat Gadow.

4. [34457](#) Proposal of "Environmental Health Register" Idea

Gadow made the motion, seconded by Baker to discuss and continue the item of Proposal of Environmental Health Register" Idea.

DePue presented the item and discussion about the item took place under the Discussion of Committee Goals and Focus Areas (Item 3).

5. [08477](#) REPORT FROM BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

No report. Steven Fix not present (excused).

6. [08478](#) REPORT FROM WATER UTILITY BOARD:

DePue reported that the Water Utility Board had passed a salt policy and he will bring a copy to the next COE meeting. The practice of monitoring salt will be made part of a monitoring report.

7. [08479](#) REPORT FROM SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Timothy Baker said there was nothing to report.

8. [14746](#) REPORT FROM BOARD OF HEALTH FOR MADISON AND DANE COUNTY:

Lasky reported the Board of Health for Madison and Dane County in October will receive a report on fluoride in drinking water. Environmental Health is monitoring many different issues including the Madison-KIPP Corporation site, rain gardens and monitoring wells.

9. [13375](#) STAFF REPORT

Attachments: [2014 Rhythm and Booms Report to City of Madison.pdf](#)
[2015 COE Meeting Dates.pdf](#)

Pat Gadow asked Mike Dailey, City Engineering Division, about the Royster Clark site. Dailey said the site is being redeveloped. The soil has been remediated and the site will be mixed use.

James Bennett asked Mike Dailey about a report for the 2014 Rhythm & Booms Fireworks, July 28, 2014. Dailey said COE members will be provided a copy of the report.

10. [19947](#) Discussion of Future Items

Reference materials for ongoing discussion related to Committee Goals and Focus Areas:

Wisconsin's Changing Climate: Impacts and Adaptation
(<http://www.wicci.wisc.edu/publications.php>)

The Madison Sustainability Plan: Fostering Environmental, Economic and Social Resilience
(<http://www.cityofmadison.com/sustainability/sustainPlan.cfm>)

Madison and Dane County Environmental Health Report Card 2012
(<http://www.publichealthmdc.com/publications/documents/2012RptCard.pdf>)

ADJOURNMENT

Giegerich made the motion, seconded by Gadow, to Adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.