



City of Madison

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

Meeting Minutes - Approved COMMITTEE ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Monday, May 21, 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 Melton, seconded by Lasky, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by voice vote/other. [4/16/12 Minutes <http://legistar.cityofmadison.com/calendar/#current>]

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

1. [26143](#) Amending Secs. 10.18(7)(e) and 10.18(7)(e)1., creating Sec. 10.18(13) and renumbering current Secs. 10.18(13) and (14) to Secs. 10.18(14) and (15), respectively, of the Madison General Ordinances to require that televisions, computer monitors, CPUs, and laptop or desktop computers be separated from other waste items and bear a fee sticker issued by the Street Superintendent prior to disposal at authorized disposal sites.

Members reviewed a memo drafted by George Dreckman, City Streets' Recycling Coordinator.

A motion was made by Lasky, seconded by Bannerman, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

2. [26450](#) Rock River TMDL Update

Greg Fries, City Engineering, reviewed a presentation that he gave to the Common Council on February 24, 2012 titled "State and Federal Stormwater Regulations 2012, Total Phosphorus and Total Suspended Solids." He gave a brief summary of the state stormwater regulations that affect the City of Madison (NR 151 and NR 216). In addition to these regulations, the City will also need to meet water quality criteria in order to comply with the recently approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Rock River.

All municipalities in the Rock River watershed that have a DNR-issued

stormwater discharge permit are considered "point sources" that will need to comply with (often very strict) regulations that restrict the amount of total phosphorus and sediment that can be discharged into the Rock River watershed. Other point sources that will be impacted include sewerage treatment plants and other point dischargers, such as the DNR Fish Hatchery and industrial dischargers. At the outlet of the Rock River, approximately 93% of the pollutant load is from agricultural sources. The required reductions in agriculture areas, however, are not enforceable unless 70% state funding is available, as the state law is currently written.

Those that are impacted by these new regulations are given a choice in how they comply. In some cases, it will be possible to meet the reductions by building stormwater improvements such as detention basins within the municipal boundary. For the City of Madison and many of the surrounding municipalities, the reductions are upwards of 80% (and higher) of Total Suspended Solids. For reference, a new development with plenty of space would be able to meet this criteria with a new detention basin. In downtown and other established areas, there is a definite lack of space to construct such ponds, making the feasibility of meeting the requirements through standard Best Management Practices nearly impossible.

Another option for meeting the regulations is pollutant trading, in which permitted municipalities or sewerage districts purchase credits from agricultural land (i.e., pay a farmer to follow a certain crop rotation, use a certain tilling method, or turn cropped land into prairie). Another option is "adaptive management" which follows a similar concept, but pools resources of a group of permitted entities so there is no unregulated competition between municipalities for purchasing credits. Madison and most of the other impacted municipalities will be moving forward with a pilot adaptive management project for 3 years. Dane County Land Conservation will act as the broker between municipalities and farmers. Currently the proposed cost to Madison is \$340,000 per year for the pilot study. A full scale adaptive management program may be on the order of \$500-600,000 per year, in perpetuity. This is still less than what it would cost to condemn land and build detention ponds within the municipal boundary and it has more of a direct impact on lake quality.

Some city staff have questioned the forthrightness of more or less requiring urban municipalities to financially assist with agricultural improvements. One idea that has surfaced, which may or may not meet the pollutant trading requirements put forth by the DNR, includes purchasing cropland and converting it to prairie.

Questions by members included whether installing more digesters would be an option; there are some issues with digesters that would need to be addressed. Another question was related to the effluent from MMSD, which discharges to the Badfish Creek, located downstream from the Yahara Lakes. If MMSD were to make structural changes to their facility instead of pursuing an adaptive management program throughout the Yahara Watershed in order to meet the TMDL requirements, the water quality benefits would not impact the lakes, but rather Badfish Creek (and the Rock River below that).

3. [08477](#)

REPORT FROM BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

None

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

AECOM, hired by the Water Utility to investigate possible sources of PCE, has returned a list of 32 possible sources. Many of the top possibilities include dry cleaners. They plan to look further into the top 4-8 sources.

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

Not present

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

Also talked about PCE issue; Health staff presented the 2011 Mosquito Report (available online here <http://legistar.cityofmadison.com/attachments/89053440-850c-4c4e-93cd-2e9a5cf806bf.pdf>); new director has been hired.

7. [13375](#) STAFF REPORT

1. Fireworks update - Jim Bennett will meet with Brynn Bemis, City Engineering, and Jim Carrier, Friends of Warner Park, to discuss plant sampling, which will happen in June to establish a baseline. Soil samples will be taken at the same time. Staff will bring the results from the sediment samples to the June COE meeting. We will discuss coordinating the water sampling at the next meeting as well.

2. Committee member update - Mike read a letter from the Mayor, thanking Lori Grant (former member & chair) for her service; Jim Bennnett has been re-appointed. Mike has also made some connections with possible new members.

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

Possible future items: Environmental effects of rubber used at some city playgrounds by City Parks; Drinking water issue across city; Kipp environmental issues will be on June agenda; Roger Bannerman will report his findings on Lake Wingra chloride monitoring.

ADJOURNMENT

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