



City of Madison

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

Monday, July 21, 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

This was Approve the Minutes

Present: 5 - Lucas Dailey; Steven M. Fix; Patricia A. Lasky; Elizabeth A. Katt-Reinders
and Patricia J. Gadow

Absent: 1 - Timothy D. Baker

Excused: 2 - Mike DePue and James P. Bennett

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None.

1. [33788](#) Private Salt Applicators

Elizabeth Katt-Reinders said she has spoken with Rebecca Power, Dane County Lakes & Watershed Commission, about the work that group is doing on the issue of private salt applicators. Elizabeth said Dane County Lakes & Watershed Commission is open to joint participation. Dane County is looking at conducting a salt training workshop for both public and private applicators. Steve Fix said the COE should consider partnering with the Lakes & Watershed Commission, as it would lend weight to educational efforts with both the County and City being “on the same page.”

Pat Gadow asked if the Lakes & Watershed Commission has considered a letter to municipalities to get them involved in looking at road salt application issues. Elizabeth will follow up with R. Power.

Fix asked if other municipalities that are not served by the Madison Water Utility have tested the levels of sodium chloride to see if road salt is finding its way into their water supply. Pat Lasky said the Public Health Department of Madison and Dane Co. do not have a lot of data on this issue. Fix said that may be because a community doesn’t have a driver to get involved. Pat Gadow suggested that when one community performs testing on their water, it motivates other communities to get involved and that could be a question asked by the Lakes & Watershed Commission and part of eventual educational outreach efforts.

Mike Dailey, City Engineering, suggested Madison Metropolitan Sewerage District is an organization to invite back to a future meeting to discuss road salt and find out how they are progressing on the issue.

Katt-Reinders said the COE’s position at this time is to stay in touch with the Lakes & Watershed Commission and perform a supportive role.

Mike DePue (excused), provided an update via email on his research into a color-changing solution to help applicators determine the right amount of road salt. He looked into a gel product invented in 2007 at MIT and will continue to investigate other products.

2. [34456](#) Discussion of Committee Goals and Focus Areas

Focus Areas discussed included: Phosphorous in lakes; Climate Change Impacts/Resilient Cities. Links to related material: Wisconsin's Changing Climate: Impacts and Adaptation; The Madison Sustainability Plan: Fostering Environmental, Economic and Social Resilience; Erosion Control (both construction related and storm water related); bio-digesters; air quality; leaf study update to the four neighborhoods participating in the pilot program. Fix suggested drafting an update of results thus far. The committee agreed a letter thanking the neighborhood for their efforts and continued support for pilot program would be a good idea. Time these materials for early Fall.

Pat Gadow said one of the goals of the committee should be to be well informed and proactive. This would assist members in deciding if an issue is appropriate for the COE to address. At the same time, the committee recognized other City committees such as Sustainable Madison Committee, Water Utility Board, Board of Health for Madison and Dane Co., and Board of Park Commissioners, may have similar interests and being aware of their activities might offer opportunity for collaboration or prevent redundancy in work.

Ald. Lucas Dailey made a friendly motion to table the sentinel species discussion. Motion seconded by Fix. Motion carried by voice vote/other.

3. [34457](#) Proposal of "Environmental Health Register" Idea

Not present.

REPORTS

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

Fix reported that as part of a public works contract near Dunn's Marsh, a large screened debris and sediment capture device will be installed. A similar device was installed in Arboretum Pond 3 (behind Steinhafels and Culver's at the Beltline Highway and Todd Rd.). The device is proving to be very successful at catching trash and cutting down on maintenance costs.

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

Not present.

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

Not present.

7. [14746](#) REPORT FROM BOARD OF HEALTH FOR MADISON AND DANE COUNTY:
Pat Lasky reported Public Health has recently published the Madison and Dane County Environmental Health Report Card - 2012. The link to the report is available at: www.publichealthmdc.com.
8. [13375](#) STAFF REPORT
Mike Dailey reported that Gadow and Fix are re-appointed to the COE for three years. Genesis Steinhorst, staff to the COE, will be pursuing new opportunities in Colorado. Her last COE meeting will be in August. Johanna Johnson, City Engineering Division, will attempt to fill Genesis' shoes as staff to the COE.
9. [19947](#) Discussion of Future Items
For the August meeting:
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

A motion was made by Gadow, seconded by Fix to Adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.