



Environmental Management Commission Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2009

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council, 1st Floor, Westview Room

Attendance

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jimmy Adegoke, Bob Berkebile, Taylor Haynes, Dustin Jensen, Marty Kraft, Richard Rocha, Jack Schrimsher, Jim van Eman, John Ware

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Andy Savastino, Matt McKinley, Jerry Shechter – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Matt Gigliotti – Law Department; Marlene Leonce – Public Works Department; Bruce Wiggins – Aviation Department

Guests: Kevin Chafin – Bridging The Gap (BTG); Mike Hoey, Dave Crawford, Beverly Johnson, and Bob Miller – MORE²

Carol Adams, Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 4:05 pm; a quorum was present

- A. The Chair welcomed all Commissioners, staff and guests and asked everyone to introduce themselves.
- B. Minutes – Jimmy Adegoke requested the following change: On page 2, Section E, the last sentence of Project 4 should read as follows: “The committee is being assisted by UMKC graduate students and the Center for Applied Environmental Research.” Jack Schrimsher made a motion, seconded by Richard Rocha, to approve the amended minutes of the meeting of January 14, 2009. The motion passed.
- C. Website Update – Jerry Shechter presented the EMC with the proposed updated chart of Commissioner names and term expiration dates and the list of EMC projects all of which is intended to update the EMC website. There was no objection to the update being posted.
- D. OEQ Reports – Dennis Murphey
 1. Andy Savastino presented the EMC with the Annual Ozone Report for 2008. The report documents activities by City departments during the ozone season. Each department has an Ozone Action Plan and, following an ozone alert, reports of ozone reducing actions taken are sent to OEQ. The report compiles those activities as well as other general information. It also includes descriptions of positive actions by City staff.
 2. The down turn in economic activity has had a negative impact on recycling and changes are coming specifically with regard to price of the service and, as a result, there may be an impact on service frequency. Batliner was the City’s only bidder the last time bids were requested. Batliner still has outlets and expects to bid again this year. However, they may want to re-schedule collections for greater efficiency. The current contract ends in August and a new RFP should go out in June.
 3. Climate Protection Plan Steering Committee met - January 30, 2009 - for the first time since adoption of the Plan by City Council. In the interim, many of the Committee have gone to Shadowcliff, and there has been significant movement in implementation. Staff provided the Steering Committee the implementation status update noting that there has been

implementation, at some level, of 48 of the 55 greenhouse gas reduction measures recommended. There appears to be momentum building that needs to be supported. There are currently two vacancies on the Committee for which names have been submitted to the Mayor's Office.

4. Dennis reported on the status of the federal stimulus legislation. Staff has spent a lot of time on this issue and his role has been to try to see the City positioned to go after funds focused on green solutions, such as the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) which were originally a part of the 2007 Energy legislation. That bill provided for up to \$2 billion per year for 5 years with 68% to be distributed on the local level. The original Act was never funded. A House/Senate compromise appears close with the EECBG offering a wider array of possible program activities for energy efficiency and renewable energy than the rest of the legislation. There will be a "use it or lose it" provision with a short implementation window. The EECBG will be a formula driven grant offering one of the few avenues for local funding. Home Weatherization Program is funded in both the House and Senate versions. City Council will get recommendations regarding EECBG programs for which the City might apply. Staff has been working with MARC and the Metropolitan Energy Center (MEC) to be able to take advantage of energy efficiency legislation.
5. Apollo Alliance – Dennis and others have met with representatives of the Apollo Alliance – a national organization supporting green collar jobs – may decide to open an office in Missouri. They would help push the legislative agenda. Their initial interest is that Proposition C passed supporting energy efficiency, renewable energy and green jobs.

Richard Rocha asked if stimulus money could be used in support of curbside recycling. Dennis thought that might be a stretch but he will research the possibility.

- E. City budget – Mayor Funkhouser is scheduled to present his input and recommendations, based on the budget package submitted by the City Manager, at the Business Session on February 12, 2009. Carol Adams provided the Commissioners a draft of a letter to the Mayor and City Council which modifies and updates the letter previously sent to the Budget Officer. There was significant discussion of changes recommended to strengthen the letter. Dennis has shared the draft of the letter with Michael Shaw, Solid Waste Division of Public Works, who offered his input especially with regard to state law requirements. The long-term goal, with regard to solid waste, is a major shift in how we think about our trash and to eliminate the concept of waste in favor of resources to be recovered. It also encompasses a shift in our thinking to see recycling and waste (resource recovery) management as a basic public service. Marlene Leonce, Solid Waste Division, helped to clarify the current and projected increased costs of trash collection and recycling. They are currently negotiating with Deffenbaugh.

There was a general discussion about the overall philosophical position of the EMC with regard to the paramount importance of changes in the environment and their impact on the economy. Concern was expressed about rejuvenating the consumer-oriented economy that has gotten us into our current difficulties and that will increasingly use more resources and further contribute to climate change.

Marty Kraft made a motion, seconded by Jimmy Adegoke, to approve the letter, with various amendments, to be sent to the Mayor and City Council. The motion passed with unanimous support.

F. Liaison Updates

1. Air Quality Forum – Carol Adams reported that Missouri has recommended that EPA broaden the air quality planning area for ground level ozone to include Clay, Platte, Jackson, Cass, and Clinton Counties. The Kansas component of the area remains

Johnson and Wyandotte Counties. Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has a new, interim rule on carbon offsets for baseline energy generation plants. Discussion of Mercury emissions limits is back on the national table.

2. Solid Waste Planning – Jim van Eman reported the Solid Waste Management Division of Public Works has requested proposals for implementation of the new Solid Waste Management Plan. This includes a team to help shepherd the proposed Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and transfer station (the “Eco-Center”) through the planning, construction and LEED evaluation processes.

G. New Business - None

H. Announcements –

1. Congressman Cleaver will host a green jobs meeting at the Discovery Center on February 20, 2009 at 4:00 pm. As part of the presentation, he will discuss the economic stimulus package (The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009).
2. KCP&L and others are supporting state regulatory changes in support of net metering and other energy efficiency programs.
3. MARC has collaborated with others and has circulated a request for qualifications (RFQ) for a market survey for workforce development opportunities and an initial marketing strategy.
4. February 12, 2009 Wes Jackson will be at the Central Library.
5. National League of Cities will host a Green Cities Conference in Portland, OR in April.
6. Jim van Eman and Andy Savastino noted that the annual Environmental Achievement Awards process has begun and that the request for submittals has been distributed. The awards ceremony will be scheduled close to Earth Day. Rachel is the lead judge with Jim van Eman on the panel. They need two more judges to help review the submittals. Jack Schrimsher and Jimmy Adegoke volunteered.
7. Jimmy Adegoke noted that he, Molly Davies and Dustin Jensen attended a strategy meeting of the Missouri Energy Initiative and will circulate meeting notes.
8. The Platte Woods United Methodist Church will host an electronics recycling event February 14, 2009.
9. Bob Berkebile indicated he and others are looking at the potential for aligning codes with the recent Overflow Control Plan and the proposed new Development Code.
10. The Mid-Blue River pilot project has begun public meetings and the scope of an RFP for pilot activities has been reduced to focus on water capture.
11. Jerry Shechter noted the City had adopted the IECC 2006 energy standards and that staff is looking for a trainer for more advanced training on implementation for plans examiners and inspectors.
12. The City is interviewing to hire a new Water Services Director

I. Remarks from Visitors

1. A new book is available from the United Kingdom titled “Transition Handbook” discussing what people might have to do in the coming environmental/economic transition.
2. The meeting was interesting and worthwhile

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for

Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Time: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Place: MARC – 2nd Floor, Westview Room

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.