



**Environmental Management Commission  
Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2009**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council, 2nd Floor, Westview Room

Attendance

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Bob Berkebile, Amy Bhesania, Faith Brennan, Taylor Haynes, Dustin Jensen, Marty Kraft, Rachel Norton, Richard Rocha, Jack Schrimsher, Evaline Taylor, Jim van Eman

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

Guests: Kevin Chafin – Bridging The Gap (BTG); Mike Hoey, Dave Crawford, Beverly Johnson, Kerry Stanley, Ron McLinden – RTA, Camealia Murray – Perfect Home KC

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 – Carol Adams explained a change in the minutes relative to the draft copy that was e-mailed clarifying the expanded Air Quality planning areas. The change is included in the set of minutes distributed at the meeting. Jack Schrimsher made a motion, seconded by Amy Bhesania, to approve the amended minutes of the meeting of February 11, 2009. The motion passed.
- C. EMC Input to the City Budget Process – Several of the Commissioners have attended several of the public hearings. Dennis Murphey reported that the meeting at 51<sup>st</sup> & Oak was very well attended including 9 City Council members and the City Manager. Faith Brennan noted that there was concern north of the river about possible reductions in para-transit options. The Mayor has made recommendations to City Council based on a revised budget from the City Manager. His recommendations include cutting another 100 City employees, cutting nothing from the KCPD, cutting \$2 million from the sports stadia and not raising taxes. The budget is to be adopted in two weeks. Councilperson Deb Hermann wants no last minute changes that might disrupt any balance on which the Council might be able to agree. City Council members have expressed appreciation to the EMC for its considered and constructive input. There was discussion of the trash pick up and recycling options. The EMC decided it should do nothing more.
- D. OEQ Reports – Dennis Murphey
  1. Staff has received an e-mail from Lawrence, Kansas transmitting their newly drafted climate protection (CP) plan. It is expected to be voted on the end of this month. In their plan, assistance from Dennis Murphey is acknowledged. Lawrence is the first city in Kansas to develop a CP plan.
  2. City Manager Cauthen has hired a new Director for Water Services Department named Bernardo Garcia. Mr. Garcia is an engineer who comes with a number of awards for performance.
  3. Jack Schrimsher reported that former Water Services Director Gurney Gunter had died. Jack recounted Mr. Gunter's role in helping to establish the former Environmental Management Department.

4. FY'10 Environmental Goals – Andy Savastino reported the Environmental Coordinating Managers, as representatives of each department, help their respective departments focus on achieving the adopted goals. The goals for FY'10 are the same as for FY'09. Any impacts are reported in the annual report to the City Manager. Dennis reported that it is recommended that a proposal has been made to reduce the number and cost of contracts for training and that the function be more fully provided by City staff.
5. Annual Ozone Report – Andy Savastino – The Annual Ozone Report was released last month and is available. The report includes actions to be taken by each department in an ozone alert. And, because of the change in the alert threshold by US-EPA, it is expected there will be more ozone alerts. Accordingly, the City Manager has asked all departments to review their respective ozone action plans.
6. Hearings are being held in Jefferson City about energy efficiency legislation – HB882 & SB367 – that would allow utilities to realize income from energy efficiency programs (KCPL) rather than just from selling electrical power. The City is supporting the legislation with some qualifications including protection of low income households. NRDC and Sierra Club are supporters while AARP and the Office of the Public Counsel are opposed. The legislative wild card is the CWIP proposal that would allow utilities (Amren) to build charges into the rate base during construction - in advance of operations. There was discussion about the Pay As You Save (PAYS) concept in which utilities would opt to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy applications with the loans paying off from realized energy savings.
7. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009 – also known as the stimulus act. Dennis Murphey discussed, and provided a handout detailing, the varied federal stimulus funding opportunities. The focus of the discussion was on the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (EECBG) and the State Energy Programs (SEP). Dennis provided a handout briefly describing the SEP.

The biggest winner of the group is the Home Weatherization Program (Wx) which, for Kansas City, will increase program funding from about \$2 million per year to about \$10 million per year for the next two years. Guidelines also allow service for households whose income is up to 200% of federal poverty level (increased from 150%) and for services up to \$6,500 per household (increased from about \$3,000). The number of households served and the potential impact are both increased.

There are capacity questions on the local and federal levels. Bob Jackson, Neighborhood and Community Services Department, has been holding discussions with the Metropolitan Energy Center (MEC) and the Full Employment Council (FEC) to address both training and job opportunities. The US Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) budget has been increased from about \$300 million to about \$11 billion in the three programs – Wx - \$5 billion, EECBG - \$3.2 billion, and SEP - \$3.1 billion.

The EECBG funds will be disbursed to local cities and counties in a number of ways including both by formula and by competitive grants. Of the total of \$3.2 billion available, about \$1.904 billion will be disbursed by US-DOE by formula to eligible cities (over 35,000 people) and counties (over 200,000 people net of eligible cities). There are several other provisions that apply as well. The DOE has not yet completed or released its guidelines and will only release the distribution formula after the guidelines have been released. Grants are for multiple purposes in 13 categories. There is a dual focus on both capital projects with immediate impact as well as long-term impact projects such as improved building energy codes. Regional collaboration is highly encouraged. Each applicant is required to submit, at the end of the first year of funding, an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy to be approved by the DOE which will be the base for future funding. KC,MO is working with MARC on regional issues such as energy code upgrades. There was discussion of the process the City is using to determine staff priorities to be recommended to the City Manager for recommendation to City Council.

Of key importance is the balance between projects with measurable energy savings and others with long term impact potential. Ron McLinden noted it is important to understand both the

catalytic and the impactful. He said we should be careful not to disincentivize such projects as bike/ped projects in favor of motorized vehicle oriented projects.

There is \$ billion set aside for Vehicle Electrification Projects and \$3 billion for alternative fuels projects (Clean Cities Coalition). There is a problem in that the new Clean Cities legislation raises the local cost share percentage (match) from 20% to 50%. While there is a match requirement for the electric vehicle programs, it is waivable.

Amy Bhesania also noted there is \$300 million set aside for diesel emissions reduction (DERA)

Jim van Eman asked about the amount of attention being paid to jobs.

E. Liaison Updates

1. Air Quality Forum – No report.
2. Solid Waste Planning – No report.

F. Project Reports

1. Rachel Norton – 2009 Environmental Achievement Awards – She has received nominations and is in need of assistance in judging them.
2. Amy Bhesania – Urban Agriculture – They are targeting taking work product and proposals to City Council. They are looking at barriers and best practices and getting input from others.

G. EMC Website issues

1. Posting EMC correspondence on the web – The issue was deferred to the April meeting.
2. Webpage format – After discussion about the difference between what the EMC authorized as format and what the Corporate Communications Office actually posted, the EMC accepted what has already been posted on the webpage.

H. New Business Announcements –

1. A question was raised about Commissioners not attending meetings and how the EMC should respond. The issue was deferred to the April meeting.
2. Councilperson Sharon Sanders Brooks and Dennis Murphey will be taping a Ch. 2 television segment about the State “Show Me Green Sales Tax Holiday” from April 19 to April 25 annually. The City has declared its intention to participate as well. There will be no sales taxes from the State of MO or the City of KC,MO for purchase of Energy Star rated appliances in that time period. The Commissioners asked that information about the tax holiday be sent to them.
3. Carol Adams noted that Jack Schrimsher will represent the EMC on the selection panel for the consultant team to oversee implementation of the Solid Waste Management Plan.

I. Remarks from Visitors

1. Kevin Chafin reminded the Commissioners that Earth Day this year will be held at the original Earth Day site at Theis Park just south of the Nelson Art Gallery

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 2009

Time: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Place: MARC – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Westview Room

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 pm.