



## **Environmental Management Commission**

### **Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2009**

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

#### Attendance

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jimmy Adegoke, Faith Brennan, Dustin Jensen, Marty Kraft, Rachel Norton, Richard Rocha, Jack Schrimsher, Evaline Taylor

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Andy Savastino, Jerry Shechter – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Matt Gigliotti – Law Department; Scott Cahail – Water Services

Guests: Camealia Murray, Mike Hoey, Beverly Johnson, Claus Wawrzinek, Ron McLinden – RTA, Chris Green – graduate student - UMKC

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 – Dustin Jensen made a motion, seconded by Faith Brennan, to approve the minutes of the meeting of April 8, 2009. The motion passed.
- C. OEQ Reports – Dennis Murphey
  1. Dennis attended the Ozarks New Energy Conference in Springfield, MO at which he and made a presentation focused on sustainability efforts in KC. Mary Norman is heading a new effort there and facilitated a discussion including local elected officials and Dennis Murphey. Mary spoke with Mary Boone, who works with Mark Templeton - the newly appointed Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, to recommend that Kansas City be represented on the advisory committee for a new sustainability plan for Missouri.
  2. State legislation – SB 376 – now known as the "Missouri Residential and Small Business Energy Efficiency Investment Act" is down to the wire in Jefferson City. The bill passed the Senate and is out of House committee with amendments. AmerenUE opposes the legislation while KCP&L supports it.
  3. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) application – The City's application will include a range of 9 projects developed by City staff in multi-departmental meetings. A resolution to approve the application is to be heard in Transportation and Infrastructure Committee tomorrow (5/14/09). Dennis reviewed the projects with the EMC.
  4. Competitive Grant Application – An allocation of \$400 million will be made available in a competitive application process later this year for energy efficiency proposals. The City intends to apply based on a concept just approved by City Manager Cauthen. The application would focus on an intensive education/outreach throughout neighborhoods city wide about implementation of the Climate Protection Plan.
  5. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (EECS) – The City intends to submit this required plan concurrent with the submission of the EECBG proposal. Hopefully, the final draft will be completed next week and then be presented to City Manager and to City Council.
  6. "City That Works" handout – Dennis distributed a copy of the outline of his remarks to be made to the Mayor's City That Works weekly informational sessions. The presentation is scheduled for May 26, 2009 at 3:30 pm and is open to the public.

7. Curbside Recycling – Dennis was on a review panel for proposals to the Solid Waste Division of Public Works for curbside recycling pick up. The contract for pick up in the north and the south areas of the city was awarded to Town and Country. Their contract began May 1, 2009. The City will pick up recycling in the central portion of the city. Awarding the contract to Town and Country allows us to keep weekly curbside pick up. Materials are taken to their MRF in Harrisonville. Further, planning for the City's proposed Eco-Center is moving ahead with a planning contract awarded to TetraTech and a sub-award to Jim van Eman.

#### D. Liaison Updates

1. EECS Letter of Support – Dustin Jensen circulated a draft letter to the Mayor and City Council, to come from the EMC, in support of the proposed EECS (see item C-5, above). The letter is meant to emphasize the role the EECS has in other aspects of the City's sustainability planning. After review and suggestions for modification, Jack Schrimsher made a motion, seconded by Richard Rocha, authorizing the co-chairs to sign and forward the letter. The motion passed without dissent.
2. Air Quality Forum – Carol Adams distributed a draft copy of the Strategic Regional Framework being worked on by MARC and others. The strategy encourages addressing building and development codes regionally.
3. Solid Waste Planning District – No report.

#### E. Project Reports

1. Jimmy Adegoke – Updated the EMC on progress of the scenario planning activities along with graduate student Chris Green who has been working on the project. The project is moving forward in a number of ways. The UMKC Center for Applied Research (CAER) has asked the questions of (a) opportunities to apply the Climate Protection Plan, (b) risks associated with the opportunities, and (c) how to look at scenario-based planning that would be useful at policy level. Overall focus includes: how to move toward a carbon-neutral future, implications for societal well-being, and the local and regional economy. The project has used a "hazard-vulnerability" paradigm in looking at the various sectors. They are undertaking a gap analysis for the region. First cut phase 1 concluded last week following a range of focus group meetings. A report will be generated.

Chris Green reported on the software analysis package for water resources planning he developed as part of his master's thesis. Chris briefly walked the EMC through the software providing an indication of its potential.

2. Rachel Norton – 2009 Environmental Achievement Awards – A total of eight nominations were received for review and, of that eight, five projects/activities were selected for an achievement award. These include: (1) Birmingham Tree Nursery, (2) Stream Buffer Ordinance, (3) Recycling at the Convention Center, (4) Vehicle Impound Facility (tow lot) for targeted LEED-Gold rating, and (5) Water Services Department for its staff rain garden.

Dennis Murphey reported it is being recommended the awards be given at the EMC monthly meeting in June in the MARC Board Room. Carol Adams will work out the details with Dennis and Andy Savastino. It is suggested the awards ceremony begin at 3:30 pm, that it last for 90 minutes and that the Mayor and City Manager be invited as usual. The EMC would conduct a shortened business meeting after the awards. The Commissioners agreed with the approach.

3. Faith Brennan – Missouri legislative update –
  - a. Biographical information about Mark Templeton, new Director of M-DNR, was circulated
  - b. General Assembly session ends May 15, 2009 having passed several pieces of legislation including: (1) omnibus environmental bill, (2) Stimulus and Stabilization funds calling for \$660 million in spending.
  - c. There are several other bills pending including bills introduced by Sen. Beth Lowe of Kansas City focused on: (1) residential renewable energy, (2) global warming, (3) disclosure

of energy efficiency ratings, (4) alternative energy loan authorization, (5) energy conservation act, and (6) real estate/renewable energy trends report.

- d. Other legislation pending: (1) HB 31 - tax credits for purchase of hybrid vehicles, (2) HB35 - tax credits for residential renewable energy devices, (3) SB 376 – energy efficiency bill allowing utilities to recover expenses supporting energy efficiency rather than power plant expansion (see item C-2, above).

F. Old Business – None

G. New Business – None

H. Remarks from Visitors/Announcements

- 1. Mike Hoey noted the Sierra Club and Transition Kansas City will show a movie at the Discovery Center next Thursday to be followed by discussion.
- 2. Jerry Shechter noted the cover article of the latest edition of “inc” is a good article about KU’s Studio 804 and the house they designed and are building in Rosedale which is targeted LEED-Platinum. They will have an open house on Saturday May 16, 2009.

I. Events

- 1. Carol Adams – The June, 2009 EMC meeting will be devoted to two items: (1) Environmental Achievement Awards, and (2) a presentation on the Green Impact Zone. Carol Adams suggested the EMC dispense with regular business except possibly after 5:45 pm. A suggestion was made to invite other people from the community.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for

Date: Wednesday, June 10, 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.