

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
March 18 2010**

The Environmental Services Advisory Committee met on Thursday, March 18, 2010 in the Valley Room at the Gov't Center at 3:45 pm. Present were: Joe Kubicek, Gillia Olson and Jack Considine; Scott Fichtner, Vickie Finnegan, Dave Kronlokken, Ken Frederick, Bill Goebel and Pete Otterness of the Environmental Services Department. Not present were: Brook McGuire, Dan Sargent, Kip Bruender and Patty Woodruff.

Jack Considine, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order.

Joe Kubicek moved and Gillia Olson seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Gillia Olson moved and Joe Kubicek seconded the motion to approve the minutes of January 21, 2010. The motion carried.

Bill Goebel, Environmental Services Department, introduced Pat Baskfield, Mankato Paddling & Outings Club. Pat is before the committee to request funding for disposal of waste collected from the 2010 River Cleanup which will be held on May 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Bill Goebel gave a brief history of past river cleanups and how the Paddling & Outings Club works together with the Environmental Services Department.

Pat Baskfield presented the committee with a written request for an appropriation of up to \$500 for their 2010 Annual River Cleanup. This will be the 14<sup>th</sup> year that the Club has held their river cleanup. In 2009 the Mankato Freedom School also helped with cleanup around Hiniker Pond. The committee was given copies of the schedule for the River Clean-up Sites for 2010 including a map of the different river routes.

Joe Kubicek moved and Gillia Olson seconded the motion to approve an appropriation of up to \$500 for the Mankato Paddling & Outings Club for the 2010 River Cleanup. Bill Goebel will work with the Paddling & Outings Club to help coordinate the proper disposal of the material collected. The motion carried with all voting aye.

Pete Otterness, Environmental Services Department, gave a Powerpoint presentation to the committee on the changes for the Subsurface Sewage Treatment

System (SSTS) Ordinance as follows: SSTS Ordinance Summary, How The Ordinance Was Created, Things That Are Continuing, Things That Have Changed. The proposed changes have been approved by the County Board and will become effective on April 1, 2010.

Gillia Olson, Recycling Education Committee, gave the following report: activities for 2010 will include Farmers Market, Earth Day at the Library, Good Council Community Garden, radio ads and the Youth Health Conference.

There was no County Commissioner's report.

Jack Considine, City of Mankato Council member, reported on the continuing budget concerns for the City of Mankato.

Ken Frederick, Environmental Services Department, presented the committee with a review of year 2009 for the Household Hazardous Waste Program and the VSQG Program. Ken also discussed the disposal process for oil filters, oil and rechargeable batteries; medical monitoring was also discussed for the HHW staff.

Scott Fichtner, Environmental Services Department, presented the following report: **Solid Waste, Recycling:** Landfill siting legislation, Steve Bubert new District Manager for Waste Management, Sharps collection, Pharmaceutical collection; **Ponderosa Landfill:** Clay Borrow area study completed, 2010 Construction, Dozer for the ash landfill; **Household Hazardous Waste:** 2009 Household Hazardous Waste Program Update, Facility opens April 6<sup>th</sup>, Rechargeable batteries, Collecting waste oil; **Miscellaneous:** Claire Faust, Citizens Academy, Electronic Permitting System contract. **The next scheduled meeting is May 20, 2010.**

The following informational articles were distributed: **Star Tribune** – “What to Do With Unwanted Pills”, “Local Company's Twist on Recycling”, “Carbon Tax Preferable to Cap and Trade”, “Dust-Up Over Carbon”, “What's All This Talk About Global Warming?”, “With Climate Change Comes New Federal Agency to Track It”, “Biggest Polluters Officially Pledge to Knock It Off”, “Fervor for Action on Climate Change Has Cooled”, “Supreme Court Muddies Clean Water Act”, “MPCA Moves to Close Dairy”, “Reconsider Setbacks for Wind Turbines”, “Toxic Mess Left for County”; **Free Press** – “Faust a Builder of Connections”, “Home Sharps Disposal Offered”, “Disposing of Medicines Not an Easy Task”, “Bill Seeks Beverage Container Fees”,

“Mankato Buys Factory for Recycling Startup”, “Faster Fixes and More Inspections in Septic Reform”, “Future of Minnesota Wind Energy Under Scrutiny”, “Hawaii is Paradise for Green-Tech Entrepreneurs”; **Business Week** – “Getting to the Bottom of Plastic Bottle Risks”; **Waste & Recycling News** – “Winter Games Aim for Low Eco Impact”, “Host Labels ‘Dirty Jobs’ Greenest Show on TV”, “Landfill GTE Doing Well”, “GHG Change Irks Waste Groups”; **Time** – “Power of One”; **American Profile** – “Recycling Electronics”; **Minnesota Counties** – “Septic System Ordinance Due For Revision in 2010”.

There was no Old Business.

There was no New Business.

The next advisory committee meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2010.

The Vice-Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:15 pm.