

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
November 19, 2009**

The Environmental Services Advisory Committee met on Thursday, November 19, 2009 in the Conference Room for the Environmental Services Department in the Gov't Center at 3:45 pm. Present were: Joe Kubicek, Dan Sargent, Gillia Olson, Patty Woodruff, Brooke McGuire and Jack Considine; Scott Fichtner, Vickie Finnegan, Dave Kronlokken and Jean Lundquist of the Environmental Services Department. Not present was: Kip Bruender.

Dan Sargent, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Jack Considine moved and Joe Kubicek seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Jack Considine moved and Gillia Olson seconded the motion to approve the minutes of September 17, 2009. The motion carried.

Jean Lundquist, Environmental Services Department, presented information on the Pharmaceutical Waste Collection Program. Blue Earth County has received permission from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to hold waste pharmaceutical collections, the first County in Minnesota to receive permission. The collections were held the morning of Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, and the afternoon of Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup>. The first collection had a total of 63 people participate and the second collection had a total of 105 people participate for a total of 191 pounds of residential pharmaceuticals collected. The next scheduled collections have been set for April 22, 2010 and April 29, 2010. A business collection is also being considered for 2010. There was good press coverage in the local newspapers and radios.

Several organizations are participating: Blue Earth County Environmental Services, Community Health and Sheriff's Departments, ISJ-Mayo Health Systems and Snyders Drug Store. Additionally, the Minnesota Pharmacists Association will provide volunteer help if people are available. The collections address both environmental and social concerns of improper disposal.

The committee viewed a video segment on "The Wasteland" that was reported on 60 minutes. This segment was on the E-Waste recycling that was ending up in China. E-Waste is the fastest growing component in the world. At the January 2010 meeting, Matt Maes and Joe Aho, Waste Management, will give a presentation on where the products from Blue Earth County are being recycled. A trip to the Waste Management Recycling Facility is also being considered for the advisory committee.

Gillia Olson, Recycling Education Committee, gave the following report for the committee: Spring events for school presentations on recycling and also considering a non-school setting; a "Tip-of-the-week" program .

Scott Fichtner, Environmental Services, gave a Commissioner's report as follows: 2010 Budget and an update on the Nichols Building.

Jack Considine, City of Mankato Council member, reported the following: the City is working on the 2010 Budget.

A comment was made on how good the City looks with all of the flowers and the Spring Lake Park reclamation.

A discussion was also held concerning the use of prison labor on a program to recycle mattresses and box springs. This has been put on hold for now. They are looking into the possibility of banding recycling.

Scott Fichtner, Environmental Services, presented the following report: **Solid Waste, Recycling:** Fiscal Year 2010 SCORE Block Grant - \$149,375, Multi-County Solid Waste Meeting, Recycling agreement with Waste Management, Rick Roemer and Steve Weimert, Christmas light and extension cord recycling; **Ponderosa Landfill:** Went to winter schedule, Scalehouse, Clay Borrow area, Landfill gas project, Dozer for the ash landfill, New stormwater rules, Litter cleanup by GAC students, Cell 10 for the Ponderosa may have to be constructed in the summer of 2010 instead of 2011; **Household Hazardous Waste:** Facility closed October 27<sup>th</sup>, Bucket recycling, Used oil acceptance, traffic safety at the facility; **Miscellaneous:** Building deconstruction, New septic ordinance, Electronic Permitting system. **The next scheduled meeting is January 21, 2010.** The future ESAC meeting locations will be either in the new conference rooms in the Government Center or the Conference Room for the department. The committee was asked to be sure and check the location on future agendas. The Steamboat Room

can no longer be considered as it is being used by Elections for storage of their equipment & supplies.

The following informational articles were distributed: **Star Tribune** – “Yard Waste Bags are Going Green”, “A Village in China Gets Trashed”, “Philips Claims a Brighter Idea for Energy-Saving Light Bulbs”, “Green Math”, “Sweden Puts a New Twist on Diet”, “Aspen Trees Fall Victim by Thousands to Climate Change”, “Study: Earth Being Pushed to ‘Humpty Dumpty’ Great Fall”, “Protected Aquifer Feared at Risk Outside Metro”, “Road Salt May Be Hurting Aquatic Life”, “ATV’s Banned From Parts of State Forest”, “Something Foul in Standards for Septic System”, “We’re Not Fixing Septic System”, “Raising a Stink With City Hall Doesn’t Always Pay Off”, “Ad Fuels Debate Over Ballroom Septic System”, “State Tells Carver County to Have Waconia Center’s Septic System Inspected”, “Septic System Situation Hits Compliance Snag”, “Official Gets Gag Order in Septic Stink”, “2 Inspectors Will Check Contested Septic System”, “MPCA Apologizes for Gag Order on Commissioner”; **Free Press** – “County to Gather Excess Drugs”, “Drug Collection Plan Promotes Safety”, “Tis the Season to Recycle Lights”, “Glass Recycling Market is Broken”, “A Glut of Glass”, “Teens Produce ‘Artificial Tree Towers’ to Help Environment”, “River Rendezvous”, “What a Mess”; **Lake Crystal Tribune** – “Initial Waste Pharmaceutical Collection Events Successful”; **Time Magazine** – “Building a Carbon Lockbox”; **Argonne National Laboratory** – “Worker Trees”.

Under Old Business it was noted that the agenda and minutes for this meeting were done electronically. All went well for the first meeting notifications.

There was no New Business.

The next advisory committee meeting is scheduled for January 21, 2010.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:05 pm by thanking all of the members for showing up at this meeting and to have a good Holiday. See you all in 2010!