

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 20, 2011**

The Environmental Services Advisory Committee met on Thursday, January 20, 2011 in the Valley Room at the Gov't Center at 3:45 pm. Present were: Dan Sargent, Joe Kubicek, Charlie Hurd and Gillia Olson; Scott Fichtner, Dave Kronlokken, Ken Frederick and Vickie Finnegan of the Environmental Services Department. Not present were: Brooke McGuire, Kip Bruender and Patty Woodruff.

Gillia Olson, Recycling Education Committee, gave the following report: reviewing new avenues for 2011 on how to get recycling education out to the general public & businesses and possible school programs. Their committee will divide into individual groups for ideas and recommendations. Charlie mentioned that Vision 2020 is looking for people to man a booth at the Home & Builders show if the Education committee was interested.

Dan Sargent, Chair, called the meeting to order.

The committee was introduced to Charlie Hurd, City Council member, who will represent the City of Mankato on the Advisory Committee. Charlie gave the committee a brief history of his background.

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 November 18, 2010. The motion carried.

Dan Sargent, Chair, asked Gillia if she would serve as Vice-chair for the committee. The committee unanimously approved Gillia Olson as Vice-chair of the Advisory Committee.

Ken Frederick, Environmental Services Department, presented the committee with a Household Hazardous Waste Update. Yearly reports and graphs were passed out to the committee.

Kip Bruender, County Commissioner, was not present at the meeting. Scott Fichtner, Environmental Services Department, presented the following: Katie Nerem resigned as Interim County Administrator effective February 4 and Bob Meyer, Human Services Director, will be appointed as the interim County Administrator, the County levy was set at 1.9% for 2011, Kip Bruender is the County Board Chair for 2011 and Mark Piepho is the Vice-chair.

Charlie Hurd, City of Mankato Council member, reported on the following: Karen Foreman new council member for District 1 and Eric Anderson is the new Mayor for the City of Mankato, LGA proposed cuts, Wage Freeze with 0 increases and the snow plowing budget. The City of Mankato has been designated as a "Green Step City" which means the City follows guidelines to become energy efficient. The new Wastewater Treatment Plant is now on-line with a new micro-filter system for the City of Mankato water. The Advisory committee discussed a possible tour of the new treatment plant for a future meeting.

Scott Fichtner, Environmental Services Department, presented the following report: **Solid Waste, Recycling:** 2010 SCORE Report, Holiday Lights Recycling, Green Tech Recycling Solutions; **Ponderosa Landfill:** Annual Report, Leachate management, Equipment, Meeting with consultant on future planning; **Household Hazardous Waste:** Completed sale of 80 foot section of land behind HHW Facility, Facility will open April 5, 2011; **Miscellaneous:** County Board and Planning Commission meetings, Electronic Permitting System, Septic article, Credit Cards, Xcel ash landfill expansion, Pharmaceutical waste disposal options, the Justice Center has been certified as a Silver LEED building and the County has received a grant for motion detection lighting for the Courthouse, Government Center and the Library. **The next scheduled meeting is March 17, 2011.**

The following informational articles were distributed: **Free Press:** "Program Recycling Holiday Lights", "BE County Applying Tough Septic Rules", "Cornish Sets Sights on Regulators", "Martin County Waste Issue Affects Others", "Xcel Buying Part of County Landfill", "Report Says Minnesota Must Take Better Care of Rivers and Lakes", "Don't Let Up on Fixing the River", "Electric Cars May Challenge Electric Utilities' Capacity", "Bright Idea", "Enough Already", "Finally, the EPA Goes After

Carbon", "Weak World Economy Cuts Carbon Pollution"; **Minnesota Counties:** "MPCA Responds to Septic System Program Concerns"; **Star Tribune:** "How to Empty Your Medicine Cabinet Safely", "700 Turn Out for Hennepin's Drug Takeback Day", "Drug Take-Back Collects 2 Tons", "While State Struggles, Legacy Money Flowing", "Website May Help Track Legacy Dollars", "25-Year Plan for Clean Water", "Seize Momentum on Water Quality", "Cities Worried About DNR Rules for River Corridor", "Judge to Farmer: Jail", "State Lags on Fixing Farm Pollution", "A Whiff of Change", "Students Become Waste-Watchers", "Food and Farm Waste Powers Swedish City", "Finding Gold in Grease", "Town in Japan Now Mining Old Tech Trash for Rare Earths", "Headwinds", "Experts Join in Climate Debate", "Climate Scientists Prepare to Take the Fight to Skeptical Politicians", "Who's Vulnerable to Warming?", "A More Bearable Future?", "How Much Do You Flux?", "Electronic Makers Go for the Green", "EPA to Set Rules For Power Plant, Refinery Emissions", "Pollution Fines Rise in Third Quarter", "MPCA Taken to Task Over Fines for Polluters", "Fast-Tracked Projects and Pollution?", "An About-Face on Wilderness Rules", "Dayton Fills Slots in 3 Key Agencies"; **Waste & Recycling News:** "Law Gives Options for Unused Medicines"; **St. Paul Pioneer Press:** "Prescription Drug Abuse is Up - and So are Pharmacy Heists", "Sheriffs Collect Unwanted Rx Drugs", "Agencies Offering Prescription Meds Take Back".

There was no Old Business.

There was no New Business.

A tour of the Waste Management Recycling Center in the cities was discussed for a future meeting.

A thank you was given to Vickie for providing refreshments for today's meeting.

The next advisory committee meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2011.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:20 pm.