

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
March 17, 2011**

The Environmental Services Advisory Committee met on Thursday, March 17, 2011 in the Valley Room at the Gov't Center at 3:45 pm. Present were: Dan Sargent, Gillia Olson and Kip Bruender; Scott Fichtner, Dave Kronlokken and Vickie Finnegan of the Environmental Services Department. Not present were: Brooke McGuire, Joe Kubicek, Charlie Hurd and Patty Woodruff.

Dan Sargent, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Kip Bruender moved and Gillia Olson seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Gillia Olson moved and Kip Bruender seconded the motion to approve the minutes of January 20, 2011. The motion carried.

Scott Fichtner, Environmental Services Department, gave a brief history of past river cleanup fund requests and how the Mankato Paddling & Outing Club works together with the Environmental Services Department. It was mentioned that with current budget concerns, the Mankato Paddling & Outing Club have kept their costs down in the past years. There should be no problem with an appropriation again this year.

Pat Baskfield, Mankato Paddling & Outing Club, presented the committee with a written request for an appropriation of up to \$500 for the 2011 Annual River Cleanup along with a history of 2010's cleanup event. The recreational access point ground cleanup is scheduled for April 30, 2011 and the paddling portion of the river cleanup will occur in late June as flows subside. A listing of the River Cleanup sites for 2011 was also given to the committee. Pat also discussed the portion of the Blue Earth River Cleanup that was going to be done with a Watonwan County River Cleanup.

Kip Bruender moved and Gillia Olson seconded the motion to approve an appropriation of up to \$500 for the Mankato Paddling & Outing Club 2011 Annual River Cleanup. It was also discussed that part of the appropriation could go to the cleanup of the Blue Earth River flowing out of Watonwan County. Bill Goebel will continue to

work with the Paddling & Outing Club to help coordinate the proper disposal of the material collected. The motion carried with all voting aye.

Scott Fichtner, gave a brief history for GreenTech and the tour that Environmental Services staff had taken of the company.

Kash Kahn, President of GreenTech Recycling, talked about the mission for recycling solutions that his company is providing for local companies, governments and citizens. He explained the process used for breaking down appliances and the different uses for each part of that appliance such as crushed pellets.

In a history of his business, Kash Kahn mentioned that he had purchased Mankato Appliance Company. The business was refurbished and he added additional recycling in April 2010. He receives recycling from Blue Earth, Sibley, LeSueur and Nicollet Counties at a reduced cost for consumers and collectors as part of his business. Kash mentioned he is always looking for new and innovated ways to process recycled materials and hopes to continue to grow his company.

It was discussed by the committee of a possible tour of GreenTech at a later meeting this summer.

Gillia Olson, Recycling Education Committee, gave the following report: Fishing line recycling program with the Lake Associations; ReStore art project with recycled material; Ways to reach more businesses for recycling options. Kip mentioned that he could provide names for Lake Association members for Gillia to contact for fishing line recycling.

Kip Bruender, County Commissioner, presented an update as follows: Job announcements have gone out for the County Administrator's position which the commissioner's hope to have filled by the middle of April; Current budget's are being worked on by departments; Wage/hiring freeze is off for awhile with some backfill positions being opened for hiring; Re-Negotiations with Union contracts next year; Bob Meyer is doing a good job as County Administrator and he has promoted Phil Claussen as interim Human Services Director; NACo meeting went well with congressional leaders; AMC Conference is coming up and the County Board will be discussing upcoming legislative issues.

Charlie Hurd, City of Mankato Council member, was not present at the meeting for an update.

Scott Fichtner, Environmental Services Department, presented the following report: **Miscellaneous:** Pharmaceutical waste disposal options, Youth Health Conference, Electronic Permitting system, Shoreland Buffer clean water fund grant, County Board & Planning Commission meetings, State Auditor, Silver LEED Certification for the Justice Center, Web site redesign, Expected spring flooding, Motion sensor lighting, County Administrator position was discussed by Kip, Citizens Academy.

Dave Kronlokken, Environmental Services Department, presented the following report: **Solid Waste, Recycling:** 2010 SCORE Report, Xcel ash landfill construction for 2011, Prairieland Compost Facility, MPCA review of state public entity requirements; **Ponderosa Landfill:** Annual Planning meeting with consultant, Equipment, Landfill Gas Collection article, Annual Landfill Report; **Household Hazardous Waste:** Bids for improving parking/traffic areas, Facility will open April 5, 2011, Tour for Nicollet County leadership group; **The next scheduled meeting is May 19, 2011.**

The following informational articles were distributed: **Free Press:** "Trash Into Cash", "Minn. Clean Energy Policies Could Get Overhauled", "Environmental Rollbacks in the Works", "Manufacturing Sector Turning Green", "Studies Link Warming, Extreme Rain", "Mercury Falling: End of Still-Common Thermometers is Near", "Harmful Chemicals Threaten Streams"; **Minnesota Counties:** "MPCA Readies Report to Legislature on SSTS Inventories, Compliance Efforts"; **Star Tribune:** "Cities Pass Up Green Stamp of Approval, Say it Costs Too Much", "A Rush to Cut Red Tape in State", "Clean Energy's Sputnik Moment", "Green Goal, Then Reality", "Nuclear Power Should Be an Option", "The Unseemly Side of Carbon Trading", "We Can't Plant Our Way to CO2 Cuts", "Studies Tie Heavy Rainfall to a Rise in Gas Emissions", "Federal Website to Track Hazardous Products", "Support Your Local NIMBY", "Regulation of Leaky Ore Pit Near Ely Criticized", "Crematory Outcry has Cities Weighing Risks", "Hopkins Firm Faces Hefty EPA Fine", "Transfer Station Fined for No Permit", "3M State in Accord on Water Plan", "Are Legacy Funds Being Well Spent?"; **Waste & Recycling News:** "EPA: Waste Generation Falling", "Built From Trash", "States Consider Single-Use Bag Ban";

**St. Paul Pioneer Press:** "Right Now, Nowhere for Xcel's Fly Ash to Land"; **Maple River Messenger:** "BEC Justice Center Becomes LEED Certified"; **Ladies Home Journal:** "Test Your Green IQ"; **County News:** "New Web Resources Added for Green County Projects"; **Duluth News Tribune:** "Garbage Goal: Keep Yours"; **Milwaukee Journal Sentinel:** "Recycling Mandate Eliminated in Budget"; **Family Circle:** "Recycling Rewards".

There was no Old Business.

There was no New Business.

The next advisory committee meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2011.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:05 pm.