

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 19, 2011**

The Environmental Services Advisory Committee met on Thursday, May 19, 2011 in the Valley Room at the Gov't Center at 3:45 pm. Present were: Dan Sargent and Charlie Hurd; Scott Fichtner, Dave Kronlokken and Vickie Finnegan of the Environmental Services Department. Not present were: Brooke McGuire, Joe Kubicek, Kip Bruender, Gillia Olson and Patty Woodruff.

Dan Sargent, Chair, called the meeting to order.

There was no quorum for the meeting to approve today's agenda and the minutes for the meeting of March 17, 2011. The minutes will be approved at a later meeting.

Scott Fichtner and Dave Kronlokken, Environmental Services, discussed Disaster Recovery – Solid Waste Issues pertaining to floods and tornados. Mike Maurer, Blue Earth County Emergency Management, has asked if the Environmental Services Department would like to be part of the disaster response team for Emergency Services on cleanup issues involving solid waste, septic systems & wells. Scott replied that the department would be a part of the response team. Scott then gave a brief history of the St. Peter Disaster Relief Hazardous Waste collection after the tornado in 1998 and the departments' participation in cleanup efforts. A report was passed out with a brief history of Blue Earth County's assistance and amounts of materials collected in the aftermath.

Dave Kronlokken also presented the committee with information from the MPCA instructions on how to separate your waste at the curb. He also mentioned that Blue Earth County Environmental Services has responded to Mower County for their flood disaster; SE Minnesota flooding in Winona and Houston Counties; and to Freeborn & Goodhue Counties for their flood disasters. It was also mentioned that the Household Hazardous Waste Facility was used for both the St Peter disaster and the current flooding that occurred in Blue Earth County.

There was no Recycling Education Committee report.

Kip Bruender, County Commissioner, was not present. Scott Fichtner, Environmental Services, provided the following update: Budgets are being discussed and the County hopes for a zero increase for the coming year, budgets are also the biggest legislative issue, Bob Meyer has been appointed as the new County Administrator and the Joint County Board & Planning Commission meetings are still being held.

Charlie Hurd, City of Mankato Council member, presented the following update: Orness Plaza is half-finished for its remodeling project, City Environmental Committee citizens group held discussions for re-defining committee policies and City budgets.

Scott Fichtner, Environmental Services Department, presented the following: **Ponderosa Landfill:** Annual Planning meeting with consultant, MPCA Inspection April 26; **Miscellaneous:** Citizens Academy, Service Awards for 2010, FEMA Floodplain Maps, Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) Loans/Administrative Plan.

Dave Kronlokken, Environmental Services Department, presented the following report: **Solid Waste, Recycling:** 2010 SCORE Report, MPCA Public Entity Report, Pharmaceuticals disposal planning, State rules regarding Farm burial of solid waste, Prairieland Compost Facility; **Ponderosa Landfill:** Litter, Concrete acceptance, Spring Updates to Flare, Mattress and Furniture charge, John Deere 850K, Hours change, eGGRT reporting to EPA, Storm Water; **Household Hazardous Waste:** Facility Opened April, STS has assisted with paint bulking, Bid for parking lot awarded. **The next scheduled meeting is July 21, 2011 which will be a tour of Green Tech Recycling.**

The following informational articles were distributed: **Free Press:** "Household Hazardous Waste Facility Open for Season", "Regional Aquifer Stable, For Now", "Old-Style Bulbs Shunted Aside", "Sediment Problems Brewing in Lake Pepin", "Minnesota River Will Be Under a Microscope", "Net Zero Water is New Goal", "EPA's Successes Are Many"; **County Communicator:** "Environmental Services"; **Good Housekeeping:** "How Green Are You?"; **Lake Region Times:** "Earth Day, April 22, 2011"; **AARP:** "Changing Earth"; **Lafayette Nicollet Ledger:** "Sustainable and Green Industries Topic of CNC"; **Star Tribune:** "Recycling Turns Trash Into Jobs", "Uniformity in Recycling Isn't Easy", "In Search of Wayward Garbage", "Green Cleaners Wilt on the Vine", "How State Wetland Bank Offsets Development Losses", "20-Year Checkup Finds Minnesota River Still Ailing", "Strangling Our Rivers", "Saving the Region's Creeks and Lakes, One

Lawn at a Time", "Still Chasing the Wind", "Pretty Setting, but Dirty Air", "Scientists Tracking Soot as Culprit in Arctic Warming", "Will Arctic's Summers Be Ice Free in 40 Years?", "Britain Aims High on Greenhouse Gas Curbs", "Effort to Limit EPA's Greenhouse Gas Role is Rejected", "True Drilling Costs Unearthed", "Drill Baby, Drill, Again", "GOP Targets Environmental Rules, Programs Across the Nation", "Businesses Gain Environmental Clout", "Who Should Guard the Henhouse?", "Audit: Environmental Review Process Too Slow", "The War on Prescription Drugs"; **Waste & Recycling News:** "Pepsi 1-Ups Coke", "Paper, Plastic or ECO?", "Wis. Mulls Cutting Recycling Subsidies", "Ceiling Tile Program Hits Milestone".

There was no Old Business.

There was no New Business.

The next advisory committee meeting is scheduled for July 21, 2011 which will be a Tour of Green Tech Recycling. Information will be sent out as to the time of the tour and a map will be sent on how to get to Green Tech Recycling.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:15 pm.