

BLUE EARTH COUNTY  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
January 17, 2008

The Environmental Services Advisory Committee met on Thursday, January 17, 2008 in the Steamboat Room, Gov't Center at 3:45 pm. Present were: Joe Kubicek, Dan Sargent, Wanda Winch, Jack Considine, and Kip Bruender; Scott Fichtner, Vickie Finnegan, and Dave Kronlokken of the Environmental Services Department. Not present were: Kate Thompson, John Zehnder, and Patty Woodruff.

Dan Sargent, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Jack Considine moved and Wanda Winch seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Jack Considine moved and Wanda Winch seconded the motion to approve the November 15, 2007 minutes. The motion carried.

Scott Fichtner, Environmental Services Department, presented a brief history of the Blue Earth County Environmental Services Advisory Committee Bylaws and a *DRAFT* of proposed changes in the bylaws. Discussion was held on the proposed changes and the process for approval of the updated bylaws.

Kip Bruender moved and Jack Considine seconded the motion to approve the proposed Blue Earth County Environmental Services Advisory Committee Bylaws. The Blue Earth County Environmental Services Advisory Committee Bylaws will be forwarded to the County Board for their approval. Upon roll call, all voted aye. None voted nay. The motion carried.

Jack Considine moved and Kip Bruender seconded the motion to appoint Dan Sargent as Chair for 2008. The motion carried with all voting aye.

Kip Bruender moved and Dan Sargent seconded the motion to appoint Jack Considine as Vice-Chair for 2008. The motion carried with all voting aye.

It was also discussed and approved to schedule meetings for the Advisory Committee every other month for 2008 with the option to call a special meeting if necessary on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of a month.

Wanda Winch, Recycling Education Committee, gave the following update for the committee: Burn Barrel Reduction project, participation in parades, the County Fair and Mardi Gras held February 29<sup>th</sup> at the Mankato Civic Center.

Kip Bruender gave the Commissioner's Update report as follows: a thank you was given to Scott Fichtner and Julie Conrad for their presentation of the *DRAFT* for the revised Water Plan at the public hearing held at the January 8<sup>th</sup> County Board meeting; Justice Center update; Budget approval for 2008-2009 with a 9.9% levy increase.

Jack Considine gave a City of Mankato Update report as follows: Truth-N-Taxation meeting, Set 2008 Budget, Envision 2020, Liquor Moratorium, Social Host Ordinance and the City Renaissance Committee.

Scott Fichtner, Environmental Services, presented the following information: **Solid Waste, Recycling:** SCORE Report preparation for 2007; Burn Barrel Grant; Multi-County Solid Waste meeting; Monopoly charges against Waste Management; **Ponderosa Landfill:** 2007 Annual Report being prepared; Biofilter rebuilt for landfill gas; Re-Permitting Process; **Hazardous Waste:** Final materials loadout for 2007; Preparing for training for the 2008 Season; Pharmaceutical wastes; **Miscellaneous:** Environmental Health Specialist position, Updates of Land Use Ordinances; Electronic Permitting software.

The following informational articles were distributed: **Star Tribune** – “Bottles, Bottles Everywhere”, “Electronics Show Goes for Green”, “Public Has Need to be freed of Tech Trash”, “Shoreline Buffers? NYMBY is the Reply”, “Murky Lakes: What to Do”, “From Pond Scum to Your Tank”, “A ‘Green’ Bridge Teardown”, “I-35 Bridge Remnants Will Be Recycled”, “U.S. Getting Greener from Ground Up, but Roadblocks Remain at the Top”, “Past, Present and Future Collide in Rice County Debate”, “Why Hotter is Harmful”, “Global Warming Info Just a Click Away”, “U.N.: 2012 is Deadline for Action”, “Plants and Animals Already Falling Victim to Global Warming”, “China Blames West’s Lavish Lifestyle for Global Warming”, “The Arctic is Screaming”, “State’s Peat Bogs ‘Wild Card’ in Global Warming”, “Mercury Vapors Pose Worst Threat”, “Minnesota Joins Lawsuit Against EPA Rule Change”; **Free Press** – “Waste Management Settles Monopoly Charges”, “China: Bag It”, “E-Waste Economics”,

“Building Green”, “Climate Forecast Bleak Ahead of Pivotal Meeting”; **Waste News** – “Taking Out the Trash”, “Analog’s Epilogue”, “Congress to Address Climate in 2008”; **Time Magazine** – “It’s Inconvenient Being Green”, “Diapers Go Green”, “Need to weed your roof?”, “Change of Climate”, “Cutting a Climate Deal”; **Public Works Magazine** – “Gas Attack”; **Minnesota Counties** – “It’s Eleven O’clock. Do You Know Where Those Septic Systems Discharge?”; **Duluth News Tribune** – “Does the Federal Government Need to do More to Assure Clean Water?”, “Wasteland Crops”.

There was no Old Business.

Under New Business a discussion was held concerning use of grocery store plastic bags vs reusable bags/boxes and the [www.FreeCycle.org](http://www.FreeCycle.org) web site.

There will no advisory committee meeting on February 21, 2008.

The next advisory committee meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2008.

Jack Considine moved and Kip Bruender seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:00 pm.