

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 15, 2009**

The Environmental Services Advisory Committee met on Thursday, January 15, 2009 at the Steamboat Room in the Gov't Center at 3:45 pm. Present were: Joe Kubicek, Dan Sargent, Brooke McGuire and Jack Considine; Scott Fichtner, Vickie Finnegan, Dave Kronlokken, Ken Frederick and Jean Lundquist of the Environmental Services Department. Not present were: Patty Woodruff, Wanda Winch and Kip Bruender.

Dan Sargent, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Jack Considine moved and Brook McGuire seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Joe Kubicek moved and Brook McGuire seconded the motion to approve the minutes of November 20, 2008. The motion carried.

Jean Lundquist, Environmental Services, gave a power point report on the Message in a Bottle Program. Jean also presented information to the committee on the new Home Sharps Disposal Program that is being started in Blue Earth County; and presented an update on the Burn Barrel Program Grant that has been completed.

Ken Frederick, Environmental Services, gave the committee an update on the Household Hazardous Waste Program from 2008. He passed out reports on the comparison for the Household Hazardous Waste Facility Yearly Totals which included a graph for Disposal by Years.

Jean Lundquist, Environmental Services, gave the following report for the Recycling Education Committee: held their 1st meeting of the year; will concentrate their education efforts at Farmers Market during the year; a new member has joined the committee; and the committee now meets on Monday nights.

Scott Fichtner, Environmental Services, gave a Commissioner's report as follows: the Justice Center opening has been delayed to possibly March; Blue Earth County was recognized by the National Community Corrections Department for the new jail and the planning process. The facilities were toured by members of this committee.

Jack Considine, City of Mankato Council member, reported that the City was still going to continue their clean-up program in May for citizens, reported on a new Compost site; and usage of canvass bags vs. plastic bags.

Scott Fichtner & Dave Kronlokken, Environmental Services, presented the following report: **Solid Waste, Recycling:** Burn Barrel Program; Electronics Recycling; Multi-County Solid Waste Meeting; Tri-County Solid Waste Meeting; **Ponderosa Landfill:** Liner cover for new cells; Landfill gas-to-energy grant; Mattress disposal; Teal Operations Contract; **Department Staffing:** Veryl Morrell retiring 12/31/08; Replacing from within; staff hiring freeze; **Miscellaneous:** Sewer extension to Lakes Region; Air, Water and Waste Conference; Clean Air and Climate Protection model; Electronic Permitting Request for Proposal (RFP); Next scheduled meeting – March 19, 2009.

The following informational articles were distributed: **Star Tribune** – “Talking Trash”, “The Crash of Trash: Recycling Goes Bust”, “Recycling Rough Spot”, “MPCA Chief is Leaving for Private-Sector Job”, “Legacy Spending Must Pass Smell Test”, “Newly Appointed Council to Meet Monday”, “Farmers Ripping Out Trees to Avoid Tax Hit”, “Tax Breaks for Going Green”, “Target Center Green Roof Likely to Get Green Light”, “Geothermal Energy Use Gets Hotter”; **Free Press** – “Role Model”, “New ‘Home Sharps’ Disposal Program Underway”, “Electronics Recycling No Longer Free Starting Today”, “Trashed: Recyclables Market Bottoming Out”; **Waste & Recycling News** – “Recycling Touted as GHG Reducer”; **Readers Digest** – “Quick Study: Alternative Study”; **Lake Crystal Tribune** – “Burn Barrel Program Vouchers to Expire Today”; **Pierre Capital Journal** – “Trash to Cash”; **USA Today Snapshots** – “Where Old Electronics Go When They Die”; **USA Today** – “Down Market Curbs Recycling”.

There was no Old Business.

Under New Business a discussion was held concerning possible tours for the committee. A thank you was given to Vickie for providing lunch today.

The next advisory committee meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2009, which might be held in the Environmental Services Conference Room.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:25 pm.