

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
July 16, 2009**

The Environmental Services Advisory Committee met on Thursday, July 16, 2009 in the Conference Room for the Environmental Services Department at the Gov't Center at 3:45 pm. Present were: Joe Kubicek, Dan Sargent, Gillia Olson, Brooke McGuire and Jack Considine; Scott Fichtner, Vickie Finnegan, Dave Kronlokken and Scott Salsbury of the Environmental Services Department. Not present were: Kip Bruender and Patty Woodruff.

Dan Sargent, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Jack Considine moved and Joe Kubicek seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Gillia Olson moved and Jack Considine seconded the motion to approve the minutes of March 19, 2009. The motion carried.

After describing a brief history of the current landfill gas collection at the Ponderosa Landfill, Dave Kronlokken, Environmental Services, gave a power point presentation to the committee of the Landfill Gas to Energy Feasibility Study that was completed in June to determine if the production of gas at the landfill was sufficient to be used as an alternative energy source. Members of the committee were given copies of the report.

Scott Salsbury, Environmental Services, presented a report on paper reduction options for the Environmental Services Advisory Committee packets. A discussion was held on how to proceed on the possibility of doing an email or setting up a Web Browser Link for the ESAC packets, agendas and minutes. It was decided that possibly the packets for the September meeting could be done as an example for the committee. Those committee members that still wanted hard copies would have them available at the meeting.

Gillia Olson, Recycling Education Committee member, gave the following report for the Education Committee: Trash to Treasure game for the Kennedy School carnival and also at Franklin Elementary School, Community Garden presentation at Good

Counsel was rained out, Blue Earth County Fair, recycle radio ads, Kids Day @ Farmer's Market on Saturday, July 18th form 8:00 – Noon, Earth Day Celebration, Climb Theater performances at the schools were done in April.

Scott Fichtner, Environmental Services, gave a Commissioner's report as follows: 5,000 people toured the new Justice Center, budgets & staff costs.

Jack Considine, City of Mankato Council member, reported the following: City of Mankato will do an orderly annexation of Lime Township. Homeowners in the annexation area have requested that the County extend the time requirements to upgrade septic systems that are non-imminent health threats until the annexation occurs. The County Board has to approve the compliance extension of these septic systems for Lime Township.

Jack also discussed the possibility of using prison labor for some recycling programs. He and Dave Kronlokken, Environmental Services, were going up to Duluth on Friday to look at a program to recycle mattresses and box springs.

Scott Fichtner & Dave Kronlokken, Environmental Services, presented the following report: **Solid Waste, Recycling:** Solid Waste legislation; 2008 SCORE Report; Sharps Disposal Program; Pharmaceutical Waste Collection Program; Recycling possibilities using prison labor; **Ponderosa Landfill:** Teal operations contract; New dozer; MPCA Inspection; OSHA Inspection; Areas for special waste collection; **Household Hazardous Waste:** MN Department of Agriculture waste pesticide program; Loadout scheduled for the end of July; **Miscellaneous:** Citizens Academy; Magnatometer; Xcel construction of cell 7; Electronic Permitting system. The next scheduled meeting is September 17, 2009. Also mentioned was the loss of two Blue Earth County Highway employees and an HHW employee in separate accidents.

The following informational articles were distributed: **Star Tribune** – “First National Study Finds Range of Pharmaceuticals in Fish Near US Sewage Treatment Plants”, “Disposing of the Disposable-Wipe Habit”, “Plastic Bags and Recycling: A Primer”, “San Francisco Approves Toughest Recycling Law in the Nation”, “Reusable Shopping Bags can Breed Bacteria”, “Paper or Plastic?”, “Plans for Gasification Facility Spark Concerns”, “Unwanted Paint is Their Raw Material”, “A Push to Burn More Trash”, “Bid to Burn More Trash Near Ballpark Turned Down”, “City to Hear Appeal on

Bid to Burn More Trash”, “Out of Ashes”, “Fueling Minnesota’s Need for Electrical Power”, “Wetlands Protection Gets Boost”, “Pawlenty Signs Legacy Funding Bill”, “From the Toilet to Lakes, Streams, Wells”, “Climate Debate Heating Up in Congress”, “Student Finds Signs of Climate Change in Ice”, “For 1st Time, House Passes Bill to Curb Global Warming”, “Climate Change is Real; A New Report Paints it by Numbers”, “We Can Cool the Planet. We Have the Technology”; **Free Press** – “Needle Disposal to Get Easier”, “How to be Green @ Work”, “Koochiching County Frustrated by Wetland Laws”, “Picking Targets”, “Minn. Sales Tax Projects”, “Green and Burpless”, “Excuse Me! Lobby Wins on Burps”, “Raising a Stink”, “Quick Compost”, “MPCA, LeHillier Landlord Squaring Off”; **Parade Magazine** – “Keep Drugs Out of the Water Supply”; **Hermantown Star** – “Medication Disposal”; **USA Weekend** – “Waste Not, Want Not”; **Reader’s Digest** – “Going Green”; **Waste News** – “Bag Makers Set Recycling Goal for 2015”; **County News** – “Counties Help Businesses Go Green, Improve Bottom Line”; **Duluth News Tribune** – “In a Recession, Less Stuff Bought Means Less Tossed”, “Dormant Dump Sites Get Green Cap”; **Time Magazine** – “Going Green: Got Wind?”; **Scientific American** – “Why Do Wind Turbines Have Three Narrow Blades”, “Act Now on Global Warming”; **Kiplinger’s Personal Finance** – “5 Pillars of Renewable Power”; **Minnesota Counties** – “Septic System Enforcement: State and County Partnership”.

There was no Old Business.

There was no New Business.

The next advisory committee meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2009.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:35 pm.