

BLUE EARTH COUNTY  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
March 15, 2007

The Environmental Services Advisory Committee met on Thursday, March 15, 2007 in the Steamboat Room, Gov't Center at 3:45 pm. Present were: Joe Kubicek, Dan Sargent, Jack Considine, Katie Thompson, Kip Bruender, and John Zehnder; Scott Fichtner, Vickie Finnegan, Bill Goebel and Ken Frederick of the Environmental Services Department. Not present was: Wanda Winch, Patty Woodruff.

Dan Sargent, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Dan introduced a new Youth In Government member, John Zehnder. John is a Junior at Mankato East and a member of several Environmental groups.

Kip Bruender moved and Jack Considine seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Jack Considine moved and Katie Thompson seconded the motion to approve the November 16, 2006 minutes. The motion carried.

Bill Goebel, Environmental Services, presented a written request from the Paddling & Outings Club requesting funding for their 2007 River Cleanup. Bill also gave the committee a brief history of the past river cleanups by the Paddling & Outings Club. Dean Peterson, Paddling & Outings Club, was also present to provide information to the committee. They will dispose or recycle the items collected. They will also follow the conditions listed in the "Request Packet Requirement".

Jack Considine moved and Joe Kubicek seconded the motion to approve an appropriation up to \$500.00 for the Paddling & Outings 2007 River Cleanup Project. The motion carried with all voting aye.

Ken Fredericks, Environmental Services, presented a 2006 report for the Household Hazardous Waste Facility/Product Exchange participation by residents.

Scott Fichtner, Environmental Services, presented the Recycling Education Report as follows: Booth at the Home & Builders Show at the Civic Center March 16-18<sup>th</sup>, summer will be the start of town parades and celebrations, Earth Day celebrations

will be held at the Elementary Schools in the area with Al Batt giving a presentation on wildlife habitat and recycling. An Earth Day program will also be held at the Blue Earth County Library on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>.

Kip Bruender, County Commissioner, gave the following Commissioner's Update report: bids for jail structure and dirt work approved by the County Board, Mechanical & Electrical bids will be going out shortly, breaking ground is planned in April; Jessie Beyer, Administrative Assistant, is working on an Earth Day celebration; budget process for the next two years is in the process; Union contracts are expiring the end of 2007 and negotiations are being started; an Appreciation Luncheon was held on March 13<sup>th</sup> for Years of Service Awards and Zero Sick Leave Awards for Employees.

Scott Fichtner, Environmental Services, presented the following information: **Solid Waste, Recycling:** Recycling Agreement, 2007 Hauler Licenses, Model Solid Waste Ordinance Workshop, SCORE Report, Solid Waste Management Plan extension, Spring Appliance Collection; **Ponderosa Landfill:** Compactor upgrade, Annual Report, Gas monitor purchase, Independent landfill inspection, MPCA Public Meeting on the Ponderosa, Planning Meeting with Teal/Foth and Van Dyke, Guidance for Leachate Recirculation at MSW Landfills; **Hazardous Waste:** Season ready to open April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Safety Training, Standard Operating Procedures meetings (SOPs), Truck, skid steer and trailer purchases, Bulking Building construction, Disposal of old medications; **Miscellaneous:** Air, Water and Waste Conference, Nuisance complaints, Legislation, NAZCA contract, Electronic Permitting software, Staffing changes for the Department.

The following informational articles were distributed: **Star Tribune** – “Electronic Items Are a Big No-No for Trash”, “Recycling Plastics Has To Be Done By the Numbers”, “Brits Cry ‘Bin Brother’ Over Sensors in Trash Cans”, “Trash Old Medications with Cat Litter or Coffee Grounds, Government Says”, “Time to Transfer Pesticide Regulation”, “St. Paul is Talking Trash: Illegal Dumping is a Gigantic Problem”, “Concerns Deepen over 3M Chemicals in Groundwater”, “Should You Drink It?”, “The Greenhouse Effect”, “Clean Water Legacy Act Needs a Revenue Stream”, “EPA Takes a Pass on Pesticides in Water”, “Go Green: Here are Ten Simple Steps You Can Take”; **Free Press** – “Risk from Landfill Downplayed”, “County May Soon Sell Electronic Maps”, “Recycling Request”, “Electronic Recycling Bill Should Be Passed”,

“Computer Firms Boost Recycling”, “Recycled Cell Phones Drive Third World Wireless Boom”, “Testing Done for Possible Manure Runoff”; **Waste News** – “Groups Vow to Recycling 100% of E-Waste”, “Trash Flow’s Fate”; **Time Magazine** – “Flat Battery: It Works On Paper”; **St. Paul Pioneer Press** – “It Should Be Recycled. It Ends Up on the Roadside”, “Gifts In - And Garbage Out”; **Lake Crystal Tribune** – “Ponderosa Landfill Public Hearing Set”; **New Ulm Journal** – “Electronic Recycling Needed, but State Law is not Working”; **Pierre Capital Journal** – “Polluting Particles in Air Hurt Women’s Heart”.

Under Old Business, Dan commented on the success of the Retirement Coffee for Claire Faust.

Under New Business, a Letter of Thanks was passed around to the committee members by Katie Thompson. Katie’s Science Fair project was awarded a trip to the State Science Fair and also the International Science and Engineering Fair in Albuquerque, New Mexico in May. Katie’s project was on leachate circulation in landfills. The committee congratulated Katie on her success.

There will be no advisory committee meeting in April. At their May meeting, the committee will discuss changes in the by-laws, committee’s role, membership, structure and meeting dates. The by-laws will be sent out to members for their review and comments before the May meeting.

Dan praised the committee for moving forward with a new chair and he would do his best for the committee. Dan mentioned that if anyone was interested in being Vice-Chair to let him know or let Scott Fichtner know.

The next advisory committee meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2007.

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