

BLUE EARTH COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 20, 2008

The Environmental Services Advisory Committee met on Thursday, March 20, 2008 in the Steamboat Room, Gov't Center at 3:45 pm. Present were Dan Sargent, Joe Kubicek, Wanda Winch, and Katie Thompson; Scott Fichtner, Dave Kronlokken, Bill Goebel, and Ken Frederick of the Environmental Services Department. Not present were: Jack Considine, Kip Bruender, John Zehnder, and Patty Woodruff.

Dan Sargent, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Joe Kubicek moved and Katie Thompson seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Wanda Winch moved and Joe Kubicek seconded the motion to approve the January 17, 2008 minutes. The motion carried.

Bill Goebel, Environmental Services, presented a brief history of the past river cleanups held by the Paddling & Outings Club and how they have worked together with the Environmental Services Department. Bill then introduced Mr. Brand Frentz, Paddling & Outings Club, who provided a report on the successful 2007 river cleanup project. Mr. Frentz also described the plans for the 2008 River Cleanup that are planned for May 9th and 10th and the requested funding for disposal of the collected waste.

The Club was commended on their work to clean up the rivers and asked to consider options to publicize the project. After discussion, Joe Kubicek moved and Wanda Winch seconded the motion to approve an appropriation up to \$500.00 for the Paddling & Outings 2008 River Cleanup Project. The motion carried with all voting ye.

The Paddling and Outings Club will continue to work with Bill Goebel to help coordinate the proper disposal of the collected material.

Ken Fredericks, Environmental Services, presented the 2007 report for the Household Hazardous Waste Facility/Product Reuse Center and provided information sheets on the amounts of materials collected at the facility. The number of households participating and the amount of materials collected both increased over 2006 figures. There was also an increase in the materials given out through the Product Reuse Center. Ken also discussed the completion of the new bulking building that will be used in 2008.

Wanda Winch, Recycling Education Committee, gave the following update for the committee: The Recycling Education Committee had a booth at the Mankato Area Healthy Youth's Mardi Gras in January. They included a game for kids to decide if various items were garbage or recyclable and this provided an opportunity to discuss recycling. The Recycling Education Committee will have a booth the Home and Builders Show in April is preparing for various community parades during the summer.

Kip Bruender was not available for the Commissioner's Update.

Scott Fichtner, Environmental Services, presented the following information:
Solid Waste, Recycling: 2007 SCORE Report preparation; Burn Barrel Grant; Multi-County Solid Waste meeting; **Ponderosa Landfill:** 2007 Annual Report submitted to the MPCA; Waste electronics loadout; Re-Permitting Process; Landfill planning meeting; Cell construction in 2008; **Hazardous Waste:** Preparing for the 2008 season; Pharmaceutical wastes; Sponsoring/Co-Sponsoring contracts; **Miscellaneous:** Environmental Health Specialist position; Wetland authorities; Court of Appeals ruling on Vigness/Brunz enforcement; Electronic Permitting software; 2008 MN Air, Water and Waste Environmental Conference; Possible expansion of the Xcel Energy Ash Landfill; Well Sealing Program.

The following information articles were distributed: **Star Tribune** - "Chemical Companies Swayed MPCA Rule", "Battle Over Outdoors Tax Goes to the Ballot", "Don't Burn Treated Woods in Yard: Results are Toxic", "Bag'em Up: Plastic Sacks Losing Appeal", "Recycling Turns on End Markets", "Many Older TVs to Become Doorstops a Year From Today", "Old Medications Shouldn't be Flushed", "Who Should Pay to Clean Up Washington Co. Landfill?", "Small Towns Illegally Releasing Raw Sewage", "Lax Regulations are Allowing Our Water to be Badly Tainted", "State Seeking Abandoned Wells to Seal", "Is Ethanol Tapping Too Much Water?", "DNR to Buy 'Incredibly Rare' Wetland", "Momm! Can You Save the Planet?", "For Some Neighbors, Going Green is Getting Mean", "Global Warming - Cleaner Air", "Catching the Wind", "And the Wind Waits...and Waits...", "It's Time for the State to Get Serious about Climate Change", "Pollution's Source Dictates Air Alert Advice", "Too Dirty To Breathe"; **Free Press** - "No Jail for Junkyard Owner", "Much to Consider When Asked 'Paper or Plastic'", "Pharmaceuticals Increasingly Found in Tap Water", "Brown County Landfill Fined by MPCA for Violations", "Biofilter Concerns Fully Aired, Dismissed", "Hybrids are Hot Stuff, But Do They Really Save Money?", "Duluth Home Built For Efficiency", "Green Home Products Save Energy, Water and More", "Straw House", "EPA Issues New Smog Regulations", "Bush Role in New Smog Regulations Disputed", "Global Warming Becoming a Business"; **Waste News** - "EPA Plans to Classify Meds as a Universal Waste", "Builders Want to Mainstream Green", "Green Transition Not So Easy in Offices", "Report Points to Carbon Tax Benefits"; **Time Magazine** - "Geoengineering. Messing With Nature Caused Global Warming", "Tuning Up the House"; **Parade Magazine** - "Dangers of E-Waste", "As the Cost of Fuel Rises, Battles Rage Over Wind Power"; **Minnesota Counties** - "Septic System Rule Changes", "News for County SSTS Programs"; **County News** - "How 'Going Green' Has Taken Root in the Nation's Counties", "Counties Warm Up to Climate Action, Get Prepared"; **Popular Mechanics** - "New Fuel from Old Tires?", "Not a Watt to be Wasted"; **St. Peter Herald** - "CLIMB Theater Teaches Valuable Lesson"; **Pierre Capital Journal** - "Greener on the Other Side".

Under Old Business, Scott Fichtner passed out the final version of the Environmental Services Committee Bylaws that had been approved by the Blue Earth County Board of Commissioners on February 26, 2008.

Under New Business a discussion was held to invite Dr. Claire Faust, past Environmental Services Advisory Committee Chair, to attend any upcoming tours the committee might take.

The next advisory committee meeting is scheduled for May 15, 2008.

Wanda Winch moved and Katie Thompson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:58 pm.