

BLUE EARTH COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 17, 2007

The Environmental Services Advisory Committee met on Thursday, May 17, 2007 in the Steamboat Room, Gov't Center at 3:45 pm. Present were: Joe Kubicek, Dan Sargent, Jack Considine, Kip Bruender, and John Zehnder; Scott Fichtner, Vickie Finnegan and Jean Lundquist of the Environmental Services Department. Not present was: Wanda Winch, Patty Woodruff and Katie Thompson.

Dan Sargent, Chair, called the meeting to order.

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

Jack Considine moved and Joe Kubicek seconded the motion to approve the March 15, 2007 minutes. The motion carried.

Jean Lundquist, Environmental Services Department, presented information on an MPCA Burn Barrel Grant Request. After meeting with township officials, it was decided to focus on youth education. There will be coloring books for grades 3-5 and activities books for grades 5-6. Bernie the Burn Barrel will visit schools during one week of the promotion. It was also decided that the first 50 people to dispose of their burn barrel would receive a \$100.00 coupon redeemable at the Ponderosa Landfill, Garbage Haulers or the Transfer Station to dispose of their garbage. The County Board signed a resolution to proceed with the Grant for the MPCA Burn Barrel Program.

Jean Lundquist, Environmental Services, presented the Recycling Education Report as follows: Booth at the Home & Builders Show (passed out seed packets to the committee members); the Education Committee will participate in the Eagle Lake Tator Days parade held in July; there will also be a booth at the Blue Earth County Fair.

Kip Bruender, County Commissioner, gave the following Commissioner's Update report: ground breaking ceremony for the Justice Center was held (the ESAC could possibly tour the facility at a later date); Electrical bids are going to be re-bid and will be

opened in June; budget process for the next two years is in the process; County Road #26 mediation process; Employee Appreciation Luncheon.

Scott Fichtner, Environmental Services, presented the following information:
Solid Waste, Recycling: SCORE Report, FY07 second half SCORE funding, Solid Waste Management Plan extension, Earth Day, Appliance Collection, Supreme Court decision on flow control; **Ponderosa Landfill:** New monitoring well installation in June, Testing some residential wells, Spray application area, Working on permit modification, MPCA will be testing spray application area; **Hazardous Waste:** Fluorescent bulb recycling agreement, Season opened April 3rd, Mobile collections in Arlington and LeCenter, Truck purchase, Bulking Building construction, Storm Damage at facility; **Miscellaneous:** Nuisance complaints, Legislation, Well Delegation Program Audit, Electronic Permitting software, Supervisor position for the Waste and Recycling division.

The following informational articles were distributed: **Star Tribune** – “Easing Way for Electronics Recycling”, “Green Computers Can Cut Toxic Waste”, “11 Things to Know About Recycling”, “There’s New Life for Old Carpet”, “Fluorescent Facts”, “31 States Will Jointly Track Greenhouse Gas Emissions”, “Scientists Put Price on Global-Warming Efforts”, “A Green Grass-Roots Revolution”, “Two 3M Chemicals Hazardous, State Says”, “3 More Landfills Have 3M Chemicals”, “Pollution Agency is Getting Tougher on 3M”, “3M, State Outline How to Clean Up Chemicals”, “EPA Proposes Cutting Lawnmower Exhaust Fumes”; **Free Press** – “Electronics Recyclables Wanted for SMILES Fundraising Event”, “Free Tire Collection Turns Costly”, “A Little Can Mean a Lot”, “The Minnesota Is Getting Cleaner”, “Feedlot Draws Ire of Rural Residents”; **Waste News** – “Minnesota Adopts Tough E-Waste Law”, “MN Prof Creates Furniture from Old Paper”, “San Francisco Votes to Ban Plastic Shopping Bags”, “Closing Up the Cracks”, “The Ebb and Flow”, “Can These Simply Be Thrown Away”; **County News** – “Counties Victorious in Supreme Court Flow Control Case”; **Parade Magazine** – “The Call of the Wild”; **USA Weekend** – “13 Ways to Go Green”; **Session Weekly** – “More for Mother Nature”; **Pierre Capital Journal** – “Scientists to Lay Out Ways to Head Off Climate Change”; **Minnesota Session Weekly** – “Use and Reuse”.

The by-laws were sent out to members for their review. The committee discussed changes in the by-laws, committee's role, membership structure, meeting dates and the material in the monthly packets. It was also mentioned that an Appointments Committee could be formed by the County Board to recruit and screen members for all of Blue Earth County Committees.

It was decided that at the July meeting for the Advisory Committee, the committee was to come prepared to give their recommendations for the bylaws with emphasis on the following: **membership** (size, defined slots, term length, recruitment of new members); **Chair and Vice-Chair** appointed internally rather than by County Board; **meeting dates** (schedule bi-monthly, speakers recruited by committee members); mentor's for students on the committee. A new draft will be made with the changes and presented to the committee at a later meeting.

No Old Business.

No New Business.

There will no advisory committee meeting in June.

The next advisory committee meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2007. Current plans for this meeting are for Katie Thompson to show her Science Fair Project on leachate circulation in landfills and Bill Goebel to discuss a Bioreactor Landfill he toured in Iowa.

Joe Kubicek moved and Kip Bruender seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:10 pm.