

BLUE EARTH COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 15, 2008

The Environmental Services Advisory Committee met on Thursday, May 15, 2008 in the Steamboat Room, Gov't Center at 3:45 pm. Present were Jack Considine, Dan Sargent, Kip Bruender, Joe Kubicek, Wanda Winch, Katie Thompson, John Zehnder, Patty Woodruff and Brooke McGuire; Scott Fichtner, Dave Kronlokken, and Jean Lundquist of the Environmental Services Department. Visitors attending were Matt Maes, representing Waste Management.

Jack Considine, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order.

Joe Kubicek moved and Kip Bruender seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Dan Sargent moved and Wanda Winch seconded the motion to approve the March 20, 2008 minutes. The motion carried.

Brooke McGuire was introduced and welcomed as a new member of the Environmental Services Advisory Committee. Brooke was appointed by the County Board on May 13th.

Jean Lundquist, Environmental Services, presented information regarding the Message in a Bottle program and the Burn Barrel Program.

The Message in a Bottle (MiB) program was officially launched in Mankato earlier in the day. The away-from-home recycling project will place recycling bins near trash cans at local convenience stores, carwashes, and other places where people are likely to clean out their cars and throw recyclables in the trash if no recycling containers are convenient. In addition to the recycling component, the program also provides jobs to disabled adults at MRCI. MRCI clients and staff will collect the materials, sort them, and use the revenue to sustain the program. Partners in the local program are Pepsi of Mankato, Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM), LJP Waste and Recycling, MRCI, Radio Mankato and Blue Earth County. RAM has a patent pending on the program, with the possibility of taking it nationwide. The Greater Mankato Project is the third MiB campaign.

The Burn Barrel Reduction grant Blue Earth County received from the MPCA continues. The educational component in schools was an intense three weeks, visiting elementary schools in Lake Crystal, Good Thunder and Mapleton. Commercials voiced by students in those schools telling of the dangers of burn barrel poison are currently airing again. So far, 11 burn barrels have been received at the Ponderosa Landfill. Each former burn barrel owner has received vouchers worth \$100 to use for waste disposal at either the Ponderosa Landfill or the MWPC Transfer Station, or with Waste Management, Madelia Sanitation, or LJP Waste and Recycling.

Wanda Winch, Recycling Education Committee, gave the following update: Bernie the Burn Barrel was at the booth at the home and builders show; Earth Day activities at the Library; and the committee is gearing up for the fair and community parades during the summer.

Kip Bruender, County Commissioner, gave the Commissioner's update: The County has begun the budget process for 2009; the construction of the Justice Center is on time and on budget and prisoners should be moving in about this time next year; The County Board is considering options for climate change programs; and the Board approved the landfill construction contract.

Jack Considine, City of Mankato Council Member, gave the City of Mankato update: The City adopted the U.S. Mayors Initiative for Carbon Reduction. There will be a number of guidelines considered including not using bottled water and reducing the bags at retail stores.

Scott Fichtner and Dave Kronlokken, Environmental Services, presented the following information: **Solid Waste, Recycling:** 2007 SCORE Report, 74% recycling rate; Fiscal Year 2008 second half SCORE Block Grant; **Ponderosa Landfill:** Construction of cells 8 and 9; Construction contract approved; Stormwater permit; Letter of Warning for litter; Industrial Waste Plan; Mattress recycling program; Tours of various landfills; Landfill gas-to-energy grant request; **Hazardous Waste:** Open for the 2008 season; Mobile collections for Tri-County; Co-Sponsoring contracts approved; **Department Staffing:** Herb Wenkel retired; Mandy Landkamer resigned; **Miscellaneous:** Youth Health Conference; Meth Lab found in rental home; Climate Change/Global Warming Programs; Electronic Permitting Request for Proposal (RFP); Revised Zoning Ordinance; July meeting – possibly tour landfill construction.

The following information articles were distributed: **Star Tribune** - "Disposal Will Still Be a Problem with New TVs", "Bachman is Pro-Choice on Bulbs", "Stop! Don't Toss That Phone Book", "Test Recycling Program Offers New Life for Old Shoes", "Biodegradable Bags May Not Be as Green as They Seem", "Linden Hills Talks Trash", "Minnesota River Wins Unpleasant National Ranking", "Home Buyers Left on Hook to Repair Bad Septic System", "City Hedges on Linking Into Metro Sewer Lines", "Tainted Ballpark Dirt Ends Up Near River", "Cleaning Up River Site May Cost 3M \$18 Million", "EPA Bores in on the Source of Mystery Vapors Contaminating Groundwater", "State Will Pay for Cleanup of Couple's Tainted Land", "EPA Scientists Allege Political Pressure", "EPA Official Who Pressed for Cleanup Forced Out", "Let's Make This Earth Day a Day When Action Begins", "Minnesota 3rd in U.S. in Wind-Power Ability", "A New European Renaissance: Coal", "Going Green Brings Greenbacks to Firms", "A Green Niche", "Cap-and-trade System for Emissions Starts Hot House Debate", "Climate Change Report Called Fantasy"; **Free Press** - "MRCI to Add Recycling Bins", "County Offers Vouchers to Stop Burn Barrels", "Landfill Add-On is Approved", "County to Study Methane Capture", "Hazardous Waste Facility Opens", "Blue Earth County Appliance Recycling Days", "Unenforced, Townships Grumble About Problem Properties", "Get Tough on Land Owners Who Break Laws", "Power From Trash", "Statewide Effort Underway to Increase Recycling of Waste", "Bright Idea - Downtown Mall Going Solar", "Everyday Ways to Positively Impact the Environment", "Where to Find a Green Computer", "How Big is Your Carbon Footprint?", "The Dust-Climate Connection"; **Waste News** - "Recycling Record Set", "Pepsi to Promote Recycling on Cans", "Waste Management Goes Natural", "Carbon Credit Impact Often Tough to Gauge",

"States Sue to Force EPA's Hand on GHG", "Governors Unite Against Global Climate Change", "Dingell: Congress Should Take Lead on GHG", "Climate Change Law Would Pose Challenges", "Study: GHG Bill Will Raise Energy Prices"; **Minnesota Counties** – "Sewage in the News: An Opportunity for County Septic System Programs", "NACo Launches Green Counties Database"; **St. Paul Pioneer Press** – "Beware of the Many Shades of Green"; **Duluth News Tribune** – "Manufacturers Now Foot Part of the Bill for E-Waste Disposal in Minnesota"; **Lake Crystal Tribune** – "Bernie the Burn Barrel"; **Maple River Messenger** – "Residents Offered Cash for Burn Barrels"; **USA Weekend** – "Recycling Old Gadgets", "Dumping Old Drugs", "Something Old, Something New, Something Borrowed, Something Green?"; **Time Magazine** – "The Kitchen Stinks"; **Parade Magazine** – "Is Plastic Destroying Our Oceans?", "Better Ways to Go Green"; **People Magazine** – "Plastic Bag Ban".

The Advisory Committee discussed touring the Ponderosa Landfill during the cell construction. Kip Bruender moved and Patty Woodruff seconded a motion to tour the landfill for the next Advisory Committee meeting scheduled for July 17, 2008. The motion carried.

There was no Old Business

Under New Business: Katie Thompson announced that this would be her last Environmental Services Advisory Committee meeting because she was graduating and moving to Arkansas in June to begin college. Katie handed out graduation announcements to the committee.

It was determined that Wanda Winch would act as the mentor for Brooke McGuire if she has any questions about the Advisory Committee.

Dan Sargent moved and Wanda Winch seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 pm.