

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
November 20, 2008**

The Environmental Services Advisory Committee met on Thursday, November 20, 2008 at the Blue Earth County Recycling Center at 4:00 pm. Present were: Joe Kubicek, Dan Sargent, Brooke McGuire and Kip Bruender; Scott Fichtner, Vickie Finnegan, Dave Kronlokken and Jean Lundquist of the Environmental Services Department. Not present were: Patty Woodruff, Wanda Winch and Jack Considine.

The committee met outside the Recycling Center and was given a tour by Matt Maes, and other Waste Management staff. After the tour, Matt presented a video on the Single Stream Recycling Facility in Minneapolis owned by Waste Management. Waste Management also has Electronics Recycling and Appliance Recycling at this same facility. Matt also mentioned to the committee that Waste Management has a program "Think Green From Home" which will recycle fluorescent lamps & tubes from your home. You can visit [ThinkGreenFromHome.com](http://ThinkGreenFromHome.com) and order your postage-paid Recycling Kit.

Dan Sargent, Chair, gave a Thank-You to Matt Maes, Waste Management, for the tour, video, coffee & cookies provided at today's meeting.

Dan Sargent, Chair, called the meeting to order.

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

Kip Bruender moved and Brook McGuire seconded the motion to approve the minutes of May 15, 2008 and September 18, 2008. The motion carried.

Jean Lundquist, Environmental Services, gave the following report for the Recycling Education Committee: no parades this year; the committee participated in several events at Farmers Market; there are two openings on the Recycling Education Committee due to the leaving of two long-time members. If anyone knows of someone that possibly might want to serve on this committee, please let Jean know.

Kip Bruender gave a Commissioner's report as follows: year-end budgets will be finalized on December 6<sup>th</sup>; Justice Center is progressing well and could be occupied by February 2009; tours will be available for the new Justice Center; Kip was re-elected for another term and enjoys being a member of this committee; new County Commissioner elected was Mark Piepho.

Jack Considine, City of Mankato was not present for a report. A comment was made that Madison Avenue is now open and the new Victory Drive was to be open shortly.

Jean Lundquist, Environmental Services, presented an update on the Burn Barrel Program/Grant: The Grant was used for a buy-back program for burn barrels in the rural areas. An educational program was held at the Lake Crystal, Good Thunder & Mapleton schools. Student's from each of those schools were picked to do commercials warning of the dangers of burn barrels. The first 50 people to participate received \$100 vouchers to spend on their waste disposal at Waste Management, Ponderosa Landfill, Minnesota Waste Processing Center, LJP or Madelia Sanitation. A total of \$1,781.55 has been paid out with the remaining to be paid out by December 31, 2008.

Scott Fichtner, Environmental Services, presented the following report: **Solid Waste, Recycling:** Burn Barrel Program; Fiscal Year 2009 First Half SCORE Block Grant - \$72,996.00; E-Waste story on 60 Minutes; **Ponderosa Landfill:** Tour of the Landfill in September; Industrial Waste Plan; Teal Operations contract; Landfill gas-to-energy grant; **Hazardous Waste:** Closed for the 2008 season; Number of households down slightly over 2007; Loadout scheduled for December 4<sup>th</sup>; **Department Staffing:** Veryl Morrell retiring 12/31/08; Sara Isebrand hired to replace Mandy Landkamer; Stacey Feser hired in Environmental Health; **Miscellaneous:** Constitutional amendment; Climate Change/Global Warming Programs; Electronic Permitting Request for Proposal (RFP); CapturX Digital Pen; next scheduled meeting – January 15, 2009.

The following informational articles were distributed: **Star Tribune** – “Next Step in Sales Tax Issue: Deciding Who Decides Who Gets Funds”, “Separate...or Together”, “Scientists Link Chemical Used in Plastics to Health Problems”, “Unused Drugs, Down the Drain”, “LeSueur River: Why So Much Mud”, “Keeping Watch in the Wetlands”, “Atrazine Found in Lakes Far From Farm Sources”, “Feedlot is Declared

Public Health Hazard”, “Creating Jobs of a Different Color”, “2 Greenhouse Gases on the Rise Alarm Scientists”, “A Shared Vision on Reducing Emissions”, “A Blooming Solution to Gas Crisis”, “Earth Power”, “Sustaining a Dream”, “Cloud of Smog Left Veil of Death, Illness”; **Free Press** – “Landfill Gas may be Power Source”, “States Find a Can of Worms in Bottle Deposit Law”, “Scientists Arriving to Highlight Pepin”, “Blue Earth County ‘Steps Up’ Green Policy”, “Global Warming Pollution Increases 3 Percent”, “Sunny Days”, “Windy Labyrinth”, “Asian Pollutants Reach U.S.”; **Waste News** – “WM to Help Landfill Owners Create Own Gas Projects”, “Fuel for Discussion”, “TV Conversion will be Headache for Landfills”, “S.F. Pushes for Producer Responsibility”, “Dems Expected to Push for Green Energy”, “House Unveils ’09 Climate Plan”, “Climate Bill Slowed by Transition, Economy”, “Auctions Seek to Cut Carbon Footprint”; **Time Magazine** – “Recycling Food Scraps”, “The Truth About Plastic”, “Eco-Buyer Beware”, “Growing Up Green”, “Too Little, Too Late”, “Sizing Up Carbon Footprints”, “Solar Power Hits Home”; **Lake Crystal Tribune** – “MPCA Reissues Permit to Ponderosa Landfill”, “Facilities Set to Close for Winter”; **County Communicator** – “Ponderosa Landfill Receives New Cell”, “Shoreland Rules, Where Your Garbage Goes”; **Pierre Capital Journal** – “Plenty of Reasons”; **USA Weekend** – “Right Way to Recycle”; **Newhouse News Service** – “Safe Plastics Primer”; **Maple River Messenger** – “Shoreland Development Standards Reviewed”; **County News** – “Counties go for the ‘Green’ in Two competitions”; **American Profile** – “Cleaning the Nation’s Air”.

Under Old Business the following was discussed: a welcome back for Vickie; potential candidates for Environmental Services Department committee replacements; letter from Katie Thompson, Youth-In-Government past committee member.

There was no New Business.

The next advisory committee meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2009.

Joe Kubicek moved and Brook McGuire seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 pm.