

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 17, 2009**

The Environmental Services Advisory Committee met on Thursday, September 17, 2009 in the Conference Room for the Environmental Services Department at the Gov't Center at 3:45 pm. Present were: Joe Kubicek, Dan Sargent, Brooke McGuire and Jack Considine; Scott Fichtner, Vickie Finnegan, Jean Lundquist and Ken Fredericks of the Environmental Services Department. Not present were: Gillia Olson, Kip Bruender and Patty Woodruff.

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

Joe Kubicek moved and Brooke McGuire seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Brooke McGuire moved and Joe Kubicek seconded the motion to approve the minutes of July 16, 2009. The motion carried.

Jean Lundquist & Ken Frederick, Environmental Services Department, presented information on the Pharmaceutical Waste Collection Program. Blue Earth County has received permission from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to hold waste pharmaceutical collections, the first County in Minnesota to receive permission. The initial collections will be held the morning of Thursday, October 29th, and the afternoon of Thursday, November 5th. Several organizations are participating: Blue Earth County Environmental Services, Community Health and Sheriff's Departments, ISJ-Mayo Health Systems and Snyders Drug Store. Additionally, the Minnesota Pharmacists Association will provide volunteer help if people are available. The collections address both environmental and social concerns of improper disposal.

Jean Lundquist, Environmental Services Department, gave the following report for the Recycling Education Committee: booth at the Blue Earth County Fair, Farmers Market for Kids Day in July & will also be there in September.

Scott Fichtner, Environmental Services, gave a Commissioner's report as follows: H1N1 flu planning, department budgets, levy set at 3.2%.

Jack Considine, City of Mankato Council member, reported the following: Grand Opening for the Riverfront Park on September 16th.

Scott Salsbury, Environmental Services, discussed the Web Browser Link for the ESAC agendas, minutes and packets. Committee members were given information on what the Web Browser Link will look like and how to access the Link. At the meeting, the committee members decided that the agenda, minutes and packets would be provided on a Web Browser Link for the November meeting. It was also discussed that there will be an email response that shows that each committee member has received their agenda, minutes & packet information for the meeting. There will also be extra copies of the agenda at each meeting and a paper copy of the packet available for members still wanting them.

Scott Fichtner, Environmental Services, presented the following report: **Solid Waste, Recycling:** 2008 SCORE Report, Resolution to extend the Solid Waste Plan; **Ponderosa Landfill:** Consultant fall planning meeting, Leachate irrigation, MPCA proposing future EAW requirements for landfills; **Household Hazardous Waste:** Facility closing October 27th, Business Bulb Collection – Xcel Energy, Stormwater rules also apply, Safety program; **Miscellaneous:** Xcel construction of Cell 7 completed, H1N1 flu planning, new septic ordinance being developed, Electronic Permitting system, Pictometry technology, County Green Government Committee meeting. **The next scheduled meeting is November 19, 2009.**

The following informational articles were distributed: **Star Tribune** – “Recycling Takes Off – If It’s Simple”, “Pharmaceuticals Collector Admits to Selling Xanax, Other Drug”, “One Silver Lining of the Economic Downturn”, “A History-Making Landfill Do-Over”, “The Planet’s Price”, “Interest Grows in Turning Algae into Motor Fuel”, “Less Pollution, Less Free Earth”, “Green Backlash”, “It Isn’t Always Easy to be Green in the Suburbs”, “Cities Weigh Green Features vs. Expense in New Buildings”, “Green Can Be an Illusion in Construction”, “A Troubling Bypass”, “Glaciers Shrinking at Faster Rate, Study Finds”, “Arctic is Warmest Since 1 B.C.”, “Green Games”, “Help Enlisted to Diagnose Erosion Along Riverbank”, “Drinking Water Did This”; **Free Press** – “Heating Up: Geothermal Systems Becoming More Popular”; **Parade Magazine** – “The Push to Expand Bottle Bills”, “Will ‘Cap and

Trade' Really Work?"; **Elk River Star News** – "GRE Drafts Plan to Purchase RRT"; **Scientific American** – "The Not So Green Skies", "Prioritize the Carbon Strategy"; **Reader's Digest** – "Where Our Garbage Goes"; **Pierre Capital Journal** – "Hughes County Rezone Would Allow Residential Wind Turbines"; **Duluth News Tribune** – "Junk Hoarders Out of Control, WLLSD Says"; **Time Magazine** – "Where Pneumatic Tubes Rule. In Sweden, a Smart Way to Move Garbage?", "Going Green: Better Bulbs"; **Popular Science** – "Put the Earth to Work".

There was no Old Business.

There was no New Business.

The next advisory committee meeting is scheduled for November 19, 2009.

Joe Kubicek moved and Dan Sargent seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The Vice-Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:00 pm.