



Environmental Management Commission

Meeting Minutes – January 12, 2011

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council – 600 Broadway

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Bob Berkebile, Stephen Hopkins, Marty Kraft, Camealia Murray, Rachel Norton, Jim Scott

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Jerry Shechter – OEQ; Scott Cahail – Water Services; Matt Gigliotti – Law Dept.

Guests: Sadie Gardner – Bridging The Gap; Ron McLinden – Regional Transit Alliance

Carol Adams, Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 4:10 pm; a quorum was not present

A. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed commissioners, staff and guests to the EMC meeting. Everyone introduced themselves.

B. Minutes of December, 2010 – Deferred to the February meeting

C. KC Major Street Plan – Greg Rokos, City Engineer – Did not attend the meeting

D. Biochar – Marty Kraft – When earth is plowed, CO₂ is released into the atmosphere. What is released into the atmosphere is mediated by absorption by the oceans (a reservoir). Biochar is a way to move CO₂ from the air to the soil creating enriched soil. Marty suggests we should be looking at this process more closely and analyzing its potential in a conscious manner. We should be studying its potential on the city's policies and impacts on vacant lots and he suggested a book by Albert Bates titled "The Biochar Solution". There is no one currently doing this on any scale and the public is in very early stages of awareness about the issue and no one has yet figured out the economics. There was a question about whether the process of creating biochar is more energy intensive than the output potential. The Chair asked Marty to investigate on behalf of the EMC.

E. Follow-up to discussion with Acting City Manager Troy Schulte re E-tax – Rachel Norton, Stephen Hopkins and Jim Scott -

The working group distributed a draft fact sheet suggesting action items to look at and discuss including:

1. Tax fairness – Fair and stable revenues to support the EMC mission focus;
2. What would happen to hard-fought progress, programmatically, both immediately and over the next 10 years;
3. The EMC should work with others to make good, solid information, with implications, available to the public;
4. There is value in looking at the current tax structure and possible tax-based sharing opportunities

Issues to be considered:

- Sierra Club is going take a public stand on the issues
- What may be the impact of voter fatigue given the primary and general elections for Mayor and Council immediately preceding this vote?

The working group was asked to draft a letter to the Mayor and City Council expressing concern about potential tax supported services, preserving funding for environmental services and programs and not

losing ground re progress already made. Take into consideration both State Line and Hancock Amendment issues. This issue is to be re-visited at the February, 2011 meeting.

- F. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey
 - 1. Climate Protection Steering Committee will meet on Friday, February 4, 2011 at MARC with possible presentations about (a) Green Impact Zone, (b) MARC Sustainable Communities Planning grant; (c) future meetings and topics, (d) Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventory update
 - 2. A resolution will be submitted to City Council re KC participation in the State of Missouri ShowMe Green Sales Tax Holiday.
 - 3. IESCO visit has been postponed to sometime in the Spring
 - 4. Copies of the City's Annual Report on Environmental Management System and Green Solutions has been published and were distributed to the EMC.
 - 5. There is a growing local interest in Commercial PACE and in creating a Clean Energy Development Board (CEDB). The first CEDB in the state to be created was authorized in Jefferson City
- G. Liaison Updates
 - 1. Air Quality Forum – Carol Adams – MARC is making good progress on the Clean Air Action Plan working to confirm emissions decrease potential from energy efficiency, green building, 2012 IECC, etc
 - 2. Solid Waste – No report
- H. Old Business
 - 1. Commissioners were asked to help develop a list of topics to discuss with new elected officials. It was agreed the slide show needs to be refreshed.
 - 2. Staff was asked to re-invite Greg Rokos to be at the February, 2011 meeting.
- I. New Business – None
- J. Remarks and Announcements – None

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for February 9, 2010 at MARC at 4:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm