



**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes – December 14, 2011**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council – 600 Broadway

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Tom Brink, Molly Davies, Spencer Fields, Elizabeth Fischer, Jim Hansen, Marty Kraft, Ken Kramme, Chuck Moore, Jason Parson, Jack Schrimsher, Tom Wyrsh

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Jerry Shechter – OEQ, Matt Gigliotti – Law Dept.

Guests: Ron McLinden

Carol Adams, Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 4:05 pm; a quorum was present

A. Welcome and Introductions

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

B. Minutes of November 9, 2011 – Tom Wyrsh made a motion, seconded by Chuck Moore, to approve the minutes of November 9, 2011. The motion passed.

C. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey

Jerry Shechter, Sustainability Coordinator, OEQ – The City has received two large energy efficiency grants from the US Department of Energy. The smaller of the two was detailed for the EMC at the November meeting. The second was awarded following a competitive process in the amount of \$20 million. The program overview was distributed along with several of the marketing pieces that have been developed.

Program elements include:

- (1) The grant is managed by the Office of Environmental Quality. The administrative cost is \$1,250,000 which is 6.25% of the grant.
- (2) A contract was executed with Metropolitan Energy Center (MEC), in the amount of \$2.2 million, to manage the day to day operations in the field with regard to program applicants getting access to good energy analysts, energy improvements contractors and financing incentives.
- (3) A contract was executed with Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), in the amount of \$3,000,000, to regionalize the effort, in support of the primary policy item of the Climate Protection Plan. Accordingly, the contract with MARC is focused in four areas: (a) policy and program replication, (b) public education and outreach, (c) workforce development, and (d) implementing lessons learned from the Green Impact Zone in other neighborhoods
- (4) Marketing and videography - \$1,260,000
- (5) Financing incentives including:
 - loan loss reserve funds at two credit unions - \$1.01 million
 - low interest rate revolving loan fund - \$3 million
 - interest rate buy down fund, and - \$1 million
 - rebates to help defray the costs of an energy analysis as well as installation of energy improvements - \$2 million
- (6) Deconstruction (reverse construction) which is more labor intensive than current machine-based demolition. This addresses saving energy embodied in materials already manufactured, reducing the amount of construction materials sent to the landfills, and workforce opportunities not otherwise available. Project partners include MARC for a grant to pay for worker and contractor training, and Habitat ReStore for materials reuse/recycling.
- (7) Neighborhood resources
 - A contract has been executed with Blue Hills Community Services to renovate an existing facility at 5008 Prospect into a small green business incubator, office space, and neighborhood meeting space, and

- Funds are available for small energy efficiency grants to neighborhoods for projects designed, by the neighborhoods, to meet their specific needs

(8) Water Efficiency Initiative includes

- an agreement with the Water Services Department to smoke test water infrastructure to pinpoint leaks, and
- a contract with Bridging The Gap to develop and provide water conservation education to the public and to purchase and install water conserving measures such as low flow faucet aerators, high efficiency showerheads, downspout disconnection and installation of rain barrels

(9) Asbestos assessment and abatement in properties where asbestos is found that is a barrier to energy efficiency improvements being done

D. EMC Strategic Planning meeting – Carol Adams

The EMC has done strategic planning on several occasions in the past. However, this is a different EMC and a different time which requires a different plan. The EMC has been a catalyst for changes including development of the Climate Protection Plan and the City's Green Solutions Policy. Staff has been heavily involved implementation of large grants, policies, etc. Staff has provided handouts with a list of sustainability activities by staff, City Council policies adopted. One possible area for EMC focus might on climate adaptation recognizing that there will be significant effects of climate change and planning must be done to address the issues.

Ideas to be considered:

- Local food; local agriculture; changes in agricultural practices to address carbon sequestration
- Look at Land Trust lots as potential for growing cover crops and trees
- Invitation to certain City staff for presentations about specific areas of interest – e.g., water services, green solutions, solid waste management, Climate Protection Plan results
- Where would the EMC best help the City?
- Parks and Recreation regarding the proposed climate center
- Energy security
- Cost of power and diversity of power sources
- Extending resources through energy efficiency
- Regional challenges
- Preparation of a paper on the state of the City - environmental

Draft agenda items –

- Slide show that was available for the previous planning session
- Sharing of Interests
- Recap of items on the handouts about Council and staff accomplishments
- Big issues; How would the EMC address them; How the EMC might affect the issues
- Goal setting, as appropriate
- Organizing the EMC

Time allocation –

- 8 am to 9 am – continental breakfast and slideshow
- 9 am to 12 pm – discussion of issues
- 12 pm to 1 pm – Lunch and interaction
- 1 pm to 3 pm – discussion of issues

E. Liaison Updates

1. Air Quality Forum – The KC area has been designated, by EPA, as “attainment unclassified”

F. Old Business – None

G. New Business - None

H. Remarks from Visitors – None

I. Announcements - None

The next monthly meeting is the planning meeting which is scheduled for January 7, 2012 at Lakeside Nature Center from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm