



**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes – January 9, 2013**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jensen Adams, Bob Berkebile, Elizabeth Fischer, Jim Hansen, Marty Kraft, Ken Kramme, Sal Madge, Robin Martinez, Tom Wyrsh

Staff: Jerry Shechter – OEQ, Matt Gigliotti – Law Dept

Guests: None

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

A. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed commissioners. As there were no guests, introductions were forgone.

B. Minutes – Tom Wyrsh made a motion, seconded by Bob Berkebile, to approve the minutes of the meeting of December, 2012 as amended. The motion was approved. Amendments were offered to show Tom Wyrsh as attending the meeting and to correct several factual items in the text.

C. Strategic Planning for 2013 – There was general discussion about what the Commissioners want to address over the next year and brainstorming about how to approach various issues.

1. Vacant lots – Robin Martinez reported that we are moving ahead now following the holidays. An updated version of the City's Scattered Sites Guidebook was distributed to Commissioners. Marty Kraft expressed concern about determining seeds because seeding needs to be done very soon. Robin and Jerry are to talk with Mike Schumacher. Bob Berkebile noted he had received contact from Global Prairie regarding Bayer Industries and their research about urban bees. Both Bob and Robin will follow up with contacts at Bayer to bring things together for the EMC. It was noted that if anyone has any big ideas now is the time to make policy recommendations – based on implementation of the Guidebook and other concepts. Of concern is including neighborhoods in the discussion. It was agreed that it is more appropriate for the EMC to make recommendations on policy for inclusion of neighborhoods in the process.
2. Climate Protection Plan – Funds to contract out for doing an updated greenhouse gas inventory are included in the City Manager's budget for consideration by the Mayor and, subsequently, by City Council.
3. Adaptive Strategies for Climate Change and Strategic Opportunities for the City –
 - a. Bob Berkebile strongly recommended viewing the movie "Chasing Ice" which is a compelling study over time of the loss of glacial ice around the world. He noted we have three challenges –
 - (1) Vacant lots (see above),
 - (2) "Urban Acupuncture" (UA) – UA is a phrase Bob has coined to describe strategic investment of time and capital for specific issues/activities, and
 - (3) 1st and 2nd Creek Watershed development. This area is 22 square miles (14,000 acres) of potentially developable real estate and it is critical that policy be developed governing potential development. This is an area strategically located in Platte County adjacent to the airport and to I-435 and I-29 with access to good schools. It is obvious there will soon be development proposals for the area and the issue is how the City can create new patterns of development before it is too late to do so. Bob reported on a good meeting with the City Manager and several department directors and staff, on January 8, 2013, about this issue. There were questions about potentials for inclusion of Google Fiber as well as a smart grid for the area. The EMC agreed to become more informed about the Missouri River watershed and its various issues. Carol volunteered to do some research.
 - b. Bob Berkebile would like the EMC to begin to look at the issue of applying sludge to land to ultimately create biofuel. What are the environmental issues, especially with regard to ground water and land contamination? The EMC might invite Marlene Leonce to come and talk about the RFP for the Eco-Center.

Marty Kraft asked that creation of Biochar be considered for inclusion in discussions about responses to the RFP. Marty will send an e-mail about Biochar to Jerry to distribute to Michael Shaw and Marlene Leonce as a potential opportunity for alternative fuels and for combined heat and power.

4. EMC Areas of Interest – The list of areas of interest developed at the last retreat were reviewed. Bob Berkebile suggested looking at the issues in three inter-related categories:
 - (1) Integration and systems management,
 - (2) Resilience, and
 - (3) Demonstration. Bob asked Commissioners to give some thought to this way off looking at the areas of interest and Carol agreed to include this discussion in the next meeting agenda.

- D. OEQ Report – Jerry Shechter - OEQ Customer Service Strategy – Jerry presented a brief overview of the first time effort at developing the strategy for the City Manager. OEQ intends to be inclusive of the EMC in input into the strategy and feedback on progress on a regular basis. Bob suggested inclusion of how OEQ serves the various city departments because OEQ has relationships with all departments on varying levels. He also suggested it might be appropriate that the EMC discuss how to evaluate OEQ and how to provide input (a) directly to the Mayor, City Council and the City Manager about OEQ, and (2) feedback to OEQ. It was also suggested that Commissioners review the EMC webpages, on the KCMO website, for suggestions to OEQ for updates and changes.

- E. Liaison Updates – No report

- F. Old Business – No report

- G. New Business – No report

- H. Visitor Remarks and Announcements – Jensen Adams spoke about the Electrify the Heartland Coalition Kick-Off event. The event is scheduled for January 16, 2013 at 5:30 pm at the Overland Park Convention Center at 6100 College Blvd.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for

February 13, 2013
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway – 2nd Floor