



## **Environmental Management Commission**

### **Meeting Minutes – April 10, 2013**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Bob Berkebile, Tom Brink, Julie Coon, Elizabeth Fischer, Jim Hansen, Marty Kraft, Robin Martinez, Jack Schrimsher

Staff: Andy Savastino and Jerry Shechter – OEQ, Matt Gigliotti – Law Dept.

Guests: Anne McGregor – Sierra Club; Michael Shaw – KCMO Public Works, Solid Waste Management; LeRon Fields – SE3

The Co-chairs called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm; a quorum was present

- A. Welcome and Introductions - The Chair welcomed commissioners and guests.
- B. Minutes – Jim Hansen made a motion, seconded by Bob Berkebile, to approve the minutes of the meeting of March, 2013 as presented. The motion was approved.
- C. Solid Waste Management/Eco-Center RFP Status – Michael Shaw, Solid Waste Management
  1. RFP #1 is for a transfer station that would take in waste and turn it into resources as much as feasible with much reduced waste. It is expected the transfer station would be in operation in about 18 months. Experience with the transfer station will inform a second RFP that, based on a certain threshold tonnage (volume), the waste would then go to a MURF. The proposed site is on top of the old solid waste management site but without the existing building. TetraTech is consulting and the RFP is in final review. The RFP is for a build and operate facility with revenue sharing. Next phases would include a City-owned MRF that would address management of leaf and brush waste (above Missouri Organics capacity), construction and demolition recycling, etc.
  2. Bio-Char facility – City will keep an open mind – the issue can be studied as a possibility. KCMO will set up a leaf and brush drop off facility south of the river that is compliant with Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) handling requirements, the same as the facility north of the river, so that when Jackson County gets quarantined, we will be ready to handle the flow. There is an issue that will be coming up soon. Landfill managers now want yard waste to go to landfills in order to harvest the gasses.
  3. Demand for recycling has been flat and trash to landfills has been reduced – all probably due to the economy.
  4. There is a bill introduced in Missouri to ban electronic waste to landfills. The legislation, however, may not move ahead. The City is considering getting involved.
  5. A glass recycling initiative will be launched in Summer 2013 at the City Market
  6. The City is looking at mandatory recycling possibly to start in business districts
  7. A major issue is unknown persons stripping refrigerators of copper tubing and releasing Freon into the air
- D. Energy Star Building Initiative – Anne McGregor, Sierra Club

Ms. McGregor is a 30-year consultant regarding the power industry. She took exception to a comment in the minutes of the last meeting with regard to KCP&L and biomass, as presented by Andy Bracker, that” City cannot replace coal with biomass output”. She noted that the City

  1. could sell Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) on the open market
  2. can generate power and pay KCP&L a small transmission fee to transfer power internally from one City facility to another

Ms. McGregor spoke about the EPA's Portfolio Manager and provided a handout about the program. Use of the online software is free. Several states/cities have required annual benchmarking at some level (Example: New York) and the use of Portfolio Manager to score performance. She asked the EMC to consider supporting this kind

of legislation especially, to begin the process, for buildings at or over 50,000 square feet. Bob Berkebile asked what would motivate the City to take a more aggressive position? Ms. McGregor is working with the GKC Chamber of Commerce to discuss this issue. Bob Berkebile suggested the timing may be positive now. Carol Adams asked how this would be enforced if it was mandatory? She noted there may be some merit in asking the Council to endorse a more robust but voluntary program. It may be that it would be better to address this in partnership with the Chamber.

The Sierra Club is undertaking energy efficiency supporting campaign to put pressure on KCP&L to adopt Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA) standard to reduce demand for energy by 9% by 2020. The question is how to get people to take action steps. The first step is to measure current conditions.

- E. KC Green Neighborhood Recognition Program and Environmental Achievement Awards – Andy Savastino, OEQ
  - 1. KC Green Neighborhood Recognition Program – Andy showed a brief powerpoint explaining the new program and shared the nomination form which will soon be ready to be sent to neighborhoods. He provided a couple of handouts explaining the benefits of the initiative to neighborhoods. Bob Berkebile said he thought this is a great idea and asked if it was open to innovation. Andy said that there is allowance in the review mechanism for innovative proposals.
  - 2. Environmental Achievement Awards (EAA) – The annual nomination form for the EAA should be ready to go out soon with a projected return date of May 24, 2013. Andy noted there has been a request that a brief presentation be made to the City Council Business Session highlighting and recognizing the awardees. A small working group of volunteers agreed to review the applications including Robin Martinez, Tom Brink, and Elizabeth Fischer. The month of August was targeted for the awards ceremony.
- F. OEQ Update – Jerry Shechter
  - 1. Dennis conveyed his regrets in not being able to attend the meeting. He is in Lawrence addressing the Lawrence and Topeka sustainability group who want more information about what Kansas City is doing and how we are doing it.
  - 2. There is a new ordinance before City Council to approve a solar lease agreement with KCP&L that would allow KCMO to enter into a lease agreement with KCP&L to install and maintain 25 kW photovoltaic systems on up to 40 buildings. This is similar to the agreement recently approved by City Council with Brightergy for solar arrays on up to 40 buildings. The agreements provide for purchase of electric power at less than we are currently paying with no capital outlay or maintenance requirements.
  - 3. The \$4.8 million grant the City received from the US Department of Energy (DOE) is now complete and terminated. The City spent 100% of the grant funds and completed all approved projects.
  - 4. Reminder: The Show Me Green Sales Tax Holiday is coming up from April 19, 2013 through April 25, 2013 during which time Energy Star® certified appliances can be purchased with no state sales tax obligation or KCMO sales tax obligation. Clay and Platte Counties are also participating but Jackson County is not.
  - 5. On April 22, 2013, Kristin Riott, Bridging The Gap, and Lara Isch, Water Services Department will be making a presentation in City Hall at noon about water conservation.
- G. Update – Sustainable and Beneficial Use of Vacant Lots – Robin Martinez
  - Robin indicated that, with the new Land Bank in place, he is intending to shift the EMC attention to mid-term and long-term policy recommendations.
- H. Legal Information Briefings for EMC – Matt Gigliotti, ACA
  - The intent of this item is to find a way to educate the Commissioners about legal issues concerning the environment. Matt asked about topics of concern and about a process to be used. This may include:
    - 1. Federal, state and local regulations and what is regulated
    - 2. Becoming better versed about the City becoming more advanced; who should get what incentives – such as tax incentives for development or redevelopment proposals; what criteria might be appropriate for awarding such incentives?
    - 3. How to suggest performance standards to be applied to development and redevelopment proposals.
    - 4. Basics of consolidating the economic development agencies to stop “incentives shopping”, etc.
    - 5. Review of EMC By-Laws, etc. Carol asked that this be put on the agenda for next month.
- I. Liaison Updates - None
- J. Old Business – None

K. New Business – None

L. Visitor Remarks - None

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for

May 8, 2013  
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm  
Mid-America Regional Council  
600 Broadway – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor