



**Environmental Management Commission
Meeting Minutes – September 11, 2013**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jensen Adams, Tom Brink, Elizabeth Fischer, Jim Hansen, Marty Kraft, Ken Kramme, Robin Martinez, Tom Wyrsh

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Andy Savastino and Jerry Shechter – OEQ, Matt Gigliotti – Law Dept., Terry Leeds, John Pruss and Padmavalhi Iyengou – Water Services

Guests: John Fish Kurmann and Stephen Flanery, ReEnergize KC

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm; a quorum was present

- A. Welcome and Introductions - The Chair welcomed commissioners and guests;
- B. Minutes – Jensen Adams made a motion, seconded by Robin Martinez, to approve the minutes of the meeting of July, 2013, amending the minutes to include Jim Horlacher as a guest attending and the minutes of August, 2013 as presented. The motion was approved.
- C. Overflow Control Plan Update – Terry Leeds, John Pruss and Padmavalhi Iyengou
 1. John Pruss provided a general background regarding the Overflow Control Plan (OCP) and implementation and evaluation of green solutions. He characterized the implementation of the plan as adaptive and flexible.
 2. Goal is to reduce overflows by over 60% in the central water basins and reduce inflows, in the separate sewer system areas, by up to 45%
 3. Department using green solutions to reduce overall costs
 4. Total cost expected to be \$4.5 billion
 5. Kansas City, MO is the first city to implement green infrastructure solutions at this level
 6. Community benefits include, among others: improved water quality, expanded and enhanced green space, sewer rehabilitations, new street trees, neighborhood beautification.
 7. Green solutions are continuously in design to include best practices and lessons learned for implementation in the remaining 644 acres of the Middle Blue River Basin (100 acres are in the pilot area). Notice to proceed for design has gone out and consultants have been chosen. They are CDM Smith for the 85th Street area and Burns and McDonnell for the 79th & Prospect area.
 8. Upcoming projects include the Northeast Industrial District and the Central Industrial District
 9. Program evaluation elements are being drafted while others are still being reviewed. Work has been done by the Water Services Department and is being done by UMKC.
 10. Water Services has hired a green solutions engineer and crews to do maintenance which is the key to success.
 11. Water Services, Public Works and Parks & Recreation are beginning to include green solutions in roadway and park design and renovations.
- D. Vacant Lots – Robin Martinez

The first organizational meeting, which was held September 5, 2013, was well attended and went very well. Dave Park and Mark McHenry attended the meeting. The work group intends to address different elements of issues a piece at a time. A critical issue for urban agriculture, as an example, is access to water. The next scheduled meeting is October 7, 2013.
- E. Fossil Free Divestment Campaign – Carol Adams

As a follow up to the letter the EMC sent to the Mayor on July 15, 2013, Stephen Flanery and Jim Horlacher met with various City staff including Tammy Queen, City Treasurer, Rick Boersma, Director of the City Employee and

Fire Department Employees Pension Funds, Dennis Murphey, Matt Gigliotti and Jerry Shechter on August 29, 2013. Dennis Murphey and Stephen Flanery both noted there was a good presentation and good conversation. Tammy Queen stated that City investments are in bonds and not in fossil fuel manufacturing companies. City investments are approximately the same dollar amount (\$1 billion) as the combined amount of the pension funds. Therefore, City investments are, at a minimum, 50% invested on non-fossil fuel manufacturing companies. The pension plans, however, for both direct and indirect investments, do have some amounts in fossil fuel companies. Carol Adams noted that ReEnergize KC had made a presentation to the Climate Protection Steering Committee on August 16, 2013. The question for Commissioners now is - what is the next step?

If the EMC were to ask for a hearing before the City Council at a Business Session, there is the need for a Council person to sponsor the request and put it on the agenda. Carol noted she had contacted the Council Aides for Mayor Pro Tem Circo and Councilman Ford. She asked if there was any action the EMC should take to request such consideration? There was general discussion on the issue and various possibilities for action. Subsequently, Marty Kraft made a motion, seconded by Elizabeth Fischer, authorizing the Co-Chairs to develop and forward a letter to the Mayor, City Council and City Manager recommending the City take action to encourage the boards of the various pension plans to consider planned divestment in fossil fuel manufacturing companies noting that this action would be consistent with provisions of the Climate Protection Plan to move the City toward reliance on clean energy. The motion passed.

F. Environmental Achievement Awards (EA) – Elizabeth Fischer

1. Elizabeth proposed the EMC give consideration to expanding the awards to include recognition of City employees not in lieu of but in addition to the EA Awards. Elizabeth will send an e-mail to all commissioners to determine interest in making this expansion in some fashion and will convene a meeting. Dennis Murphey asked Andy Savastino to consult.
2. City Council Business Session – There are two potential dates that appear to be good for presenting the 2013 award winners to the Mayor and City Council. They are October 3rd and October 10th. Carol Adams will not be available for the 3rd but will be available for the 10th. The next potential option would be October 24th. Matt Gigliotti noted that the EMC has a charter obligation to report annually to the Mayor and City Council. It was noted that this might be a good opportunity to do both at the same time.

G. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey

1. The City has submitted a proposal to the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) and the Institute for Market Transformation (IMT) for the City Energy Project. There were 17 proposals submitted. Notice is expected by mid-October with formal, public award in January, 2014. The focus of the project is on improving energy efficiency in commercial buildings beginning with large buildings. The proposal includes collaboration with the Greater KC Chamber of Commerce and KCP&L, and with companies such as DST/MC Realty Group, Hallmark and Burns & McDonnell.
2. OEQ has submitted an ordinance request to City Council to extend the EWKC contract with the MEC re-allocating funds in support of the new program of the Clinton Foundation/Clinton Climate Initiative called Home Energy Affordability Loan (HEAL). HEAL is a private market program encouraging companies to provide a path, for their respective employees, to improved energy efficiency of their homes as an employee benefit.
3. The KC Green Fair is scheduled for September 19, 2013 and will focus on local food and healthy lifestyles. There will be a ceremony to provide awards to the first four selected green neighborhoods.

H. Liaison Updates –

1. Air Quality – No report
2. LEED – No report

I. Legal Briefing – Matt Gigliotti

Matt Gigliotti gave a brief overview of the Governor's veto activities and the Legislative veto override session.

J. Old Business - None

K. New Business

1. There is a Bayer Pollenator Patch at Swope Park. Bayer CropScience has entered into a partnership with KCMO Parks & Recreation and Bridging The Gap to help rebuild local bee populations. It was suggested that Parks & Recreation be invited to a meeting of the EMC to discuss this project. Staff was asked to invite P&R to the next meeting.

2. Marty Kraft noted that the Heartland Renewable Energy Society has been planning a “Concert for the Climate” to be held in Kansas City on Saturday, September 28, 2013 at Kaw Point Park (at the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers). The event will include education and training activities on energy efficiency, alternative fuel vehicles and others. The feature speakers are Joseph Kennedy, Jr. and Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org. Jerry Shechter noted that EnergyWorks KC is a sponsor of the event.

L. Visitor Remarks – None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for

October 9, 2013
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Mid-America Regional Council
600 Broadway – 2 nd Floor