



**Environmental Management Commission  
Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2014**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council, Westview Room

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jensen Adams, Bob Berkebile, Molly Davies, Rachel Guthrie, Jim Hansen, Marty Kraft, and Jack Schrimsher

Commissioners Absent: Tom Brink, Julie Davis, Lance Conley, Maria Coppock, Julie Koppen, Ken Kramme, Sal Madge, Robin Martinez, Tom Wyrsh

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Jerry Shechter – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Matt Gigliotti – Law Department

Guests: Ron McLinden

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

- A. Welcome and Introductions - The Chair welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests.
- B. Minutes – Rachel Guthrie made a motion, seconded by Jim Hansen, to approve minutes of the meeting of November 2014 as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- C. Vacant Lots Task Force – “Best + Most Sustainable Uses of Vacant Properties” – Dennis Murphey in lieu of Robin Martinez who is ill
  1. The final version of the Task Force report is complete, with graphics, and is ready for distribution on behalf of the EMC.
  2. Presentation of the report is scheduled to be made to the Mayor and City Council at the Business Session of December 18, 2014 at 1:30 in the 10<sup>th</sup> Floor Meeting Room in City Hall.
  3. The Task Force viewed the issue through multiple lenses, including social equity and budgets, and contains some potentially controversial concepts. The question remains – “what now?”; what actions are the EMC asking City Council to consider?
  4. Bob Berkebile said he thought the work was good and that EMC should endorse the report and encourage the City Manager to be informed by the report. He noted there were questions about some of the presentations in the report but that he would talk to Robin about them. He suggested, assuming his questions are answered, the EMC draft and send a letter to the Mayor, with copies to City Council and the City Manager, endorsing the report as a whole with priority action steps.

Marty Kraft made a motion, seconded by Molly Davies, authorizing the Co-Chairs to draft a letter of endorsement of the Task Force report, on behalf of the EMC, to be sent to the Mayor, City Council and City Manager. The motion passed.
- D. 2013 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Update – Dennis Murphey – Discussion deferred to the February 2015 meeting
- E. Legal Brief – Matt Gigliotti
  1. The new, proposed 8-hour ozone standard is out for public review and comment. An alternative hourly standard has been proposed based on 2014-2017 to gauge attainment. A third alternative is no change from the current 75 ppm standard.
  2. There is also talk about re-doing the color warning structure.

F. Liaison Updates

1. Air Quality – The ozone season is being lengthened into March along with the addition of another Kansas County (possibly Douglas). This will result in greater overlap with the time during which farmers burn their fields causing additional air quality problems in the KC region.
2. Water Services Inflow Policies – Carol Adams – There is a proposal that would make it illegal to attach storm drainage lines to sanitary lines in the separated sewer/storm water areas of the city. The proposal also provides for making improvements on private property, at public expense, because it delivers a public benefit. An ordinance will be introduced clarifying that it is illegal to attach storm drainage lines to sanitary lines in the separated sewer/storm water areas of the city. In order to meet compliance requirements and deadlines, the Water Department will make improvements to the public sanitary sewer lines and proposes to offer cost effective improvements on private property at public expense in areas where rainwater is compromising the public sanitary sewer system. Affected property owners will be asked to participate in this voluntary program by allowing inspections and improvements on their property.

G. Energy Reporting and Benchmarking Ordinance – Dennis Murphey

A copy of the working draft ordinance and summary were distributed for background information. The City Energy Project staff person, Jennifer Gunby, is taking comments now. Per the draft, there would be a requirement for annual benchmarking of large commercial buildings but there would be no requirements that building owners make improvements. Each building owner/manager would be required to benchmark using the online EPA Portfolio Manager software and then to report a year later. There is a staggered reporting calendar for both private and public buildings. Each entity would report their ENERGY STAR® ratings, as applicable, energy use intensity (EUI) water consumption, etc. The requirements would be phased in by building size, type, ownership, etc over a period of three years. No data would be required for non-public buildings until 2018. For the first year, and every three years thereafter, verification of data quality by a licensed engineer, architect, certified building operator, etc, would be required. The person licensed to verify energy use data could be on staff. Intent is to include commercial, institutional, multifamily residential, and, potentially, industrial buildings.

Although an inventory of KC buildings is in process, it appears that a threshold of 40,000 square feet (sf) would represent about 50% of the floor space of all buildings in KCMO. There could, at some point, be disincentives (penalties) imposed, but most cities try not to do that.

The draft ordinance concept has been provided as a means to begin the discussion; comments can be submitted to Jennifer Gunby in the Office of Environmental Quality.

OEQ will provide an updated presentation sometime after the next City Energy Project Advisory Committee (CEPAC) meeting.

H. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey

1. There have been no anti-Agenda 21 bills pre-filed as of this date.

I. Old Business – Membership – The EMC is potentially losing five members – Lance Conley, Maria Coppock, Ken Kramme, Sal Madge, and Tom Wyrsh. The Mayor's Office is beginning to look at filling these positions.

J. New Business – None

K. Remarks

1. Marty Kraft noted he had visited "The Farm" in Summertown, Tennessee which was founded by Stephen Gaskin as an intentional community of family and friends, in 1971, dedicated to having a positive effect on the world. He noted there had been a dramatic shift to eco-village focus.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm

The next monthly meeting is

January 14, 2015 at 4:00 pm  
Mid-America Regional Council  
600 Broadway – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Kansas City, MO