

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

July 19, 2006 - Meeting Minutes

4:30 p.m. - City Hall – 2nd Floor – Community Room

Members Present: James Jeakle, Bill Hughes, Tom Hohm, Bill Steinmann, Colleen Prichard, Travis Meier, and Ted Lupina

Approved Absence: Bev DeVries and Casey Gershon

Staff: Mike Wetzel (Environmental Services Superintendent), Rich Beardslee (Public Services General Superintendent), Carolyn Rutland (Staff Liaison, Environmental Engineer)

Others: David Anderson (City Commission Liaison)

APPROVAL OF June 21, 2006 Meeting Minutes: Under Staff present, change Mark Hatton to Marc Hatton. Under New Business, change Travis Meier to Colleen Prichard. Under Comments by Others, page 2, change Superfund to CERCLA. A motion was made to approve the minutes as corrected; the motion was seconded and approved.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: A motion was made to approve the agenda; the motion was seconded and approved.

OLD BUSINESS: City Drinking Water Fluoridation – Rich Beardslee fielded various questions about fluoridation and heavy metals in drinking water. He offered to provide written information about the occurrence of arsenic in City wells.

Bronco Biodiesel – Mike Wetzel explained the memo he provided in the agenda packet which is a summary of the City's work with WMU's Bronco Biodiesel project. The City has just received a new revised proposal from WMU. The City is doing its due diligence in terms of education and information gathering. The City is still evaluating issues regarding use of biodiesel and siting production at the Water Reclamation Plant. The City Fleet Manager is researching biodiesel use by other municipalities. The City is enthusiastic about the project. The concerns at the WRP are the regulatory status of transportation of the feedstock, exactly what will happen to the finished biodiesel and glycerin (which hopefully will be recycled), and quality control. The Pilot Plant is contained, but the Bronco Biodiesel team would construct new containment as well. Methanol, one of the feedstocks, is flammable and a meeting is to take place with the City Fire Marshal. The ECC expressed an interest in a tour of the WRP. The ECC agreed to table its draft recommendation to the City Commission until Wetzel brings the final WMU proposal to the ECC prior to making a recommendation to the City Commission.

OLD BUSINESS (continued):

Urban Environmental Accords – postponed to August meeting.

Sustainable Building Standards – Staff will invite Corky Overmeyer (Grand Rapids Director of Sustainability) to a future ECC meeting. The ECC would like to see a copy of Grand Rapids' sustainable building policy.

Pet Waste Ordinance – The City Attorney will be invited to a future ECC meeting to discuss.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: Asylum Lake – Bill Steinmann will provide the promised handouts by the August ECC meeting.

Planning Commission – Tom Hohm reported that the recommendation to destroy the Park Building has been sent to the City Commission.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Transcribed and respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dana Wisdom-Moedert". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Environmental Services Accounts Coordinator/Secretary
Department of Public Services
Environmental Services Division
Harrison Street Facility