

# ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

## February 21, 2007 - Meeting Minutes

4:30 p.m. - City Hall – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor – Community Room

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**Members Present:** Casey Gershon; Travis Meier, Jim Jeakle, Colleen Prichard, Michele Richards, Ted Lupina, and Bill Steinmann

**Approved Absence:** Bill Hughes and Tom Hohm

**Staff:** Richard Beardslee (Water Reclamation Plant Superintendent), Barry Boekeloo (Water Supply Supervisor), and Carolyn Rutland (City Staff Liaison)

**Others:** David Anderson (City Commissioner), Zach Groening, Kay Chase, Connie Ferguson and Jessica Jane French-Cossey

**APPROVAL OF [January 17, 2007](#) MEETING MINUTES:** It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved as submitted; the motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** It was moved and seconded that the Agenda be approved; the motion carried.

**COMMENTS BY OTHERS:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Steve Harlow can no longer serve on the ECC because of conflicts with his course schedule; he is planning to graduate from WMU in April and is looking for a job. The City has submitted seven applications for City Livability Awards from the US Council of Mayors. One application is about the recycling program and one is about the ECC.

**OLD BUSINESS: Fluoride:** Rich Beardslee explained that the recent fluoride incident requiring public notice of an exceedance (November 2006) was the result of sampling too close to where fluoride is injected. The resulting sample was therefore not a representative sample. This circumstance was discovered in the lab less than two hours after the sample was collected. The sampling location has been changed to farther downstream of the fluoride injection. No change in the fluoride dosing rate at the station is necessary. The incident emphasized the City's need for a good on-site testing method, which staff now believes we have. A sample can be collected and tested in the field and any necessary changes can be made immediately. When a sample is taken to the lab, it becomes an official sample and analytical results are reportable to the regulatory agencies. Field testing obviates at least some reporting requirements. (A fluoride exceedance earlier in 2006 occurred when an unused water supply station was put online and the protocol for that activity was not followed. The MDEQ and US EPA regulations require public notice in such a circumstance; however, there was no public health concern.) The ECC was invited to tour the Water Reclamation Plant and the Central Wellfield facility; arrangements will be made if enough interest is shown. **Bronco Biodiesel:** The agreement between the City and WMU has been signed and returned to the City and will be on a future City Commission agenda. **Rave Theater Bike Racks:** Rob Bauckham (Assistant City Planner) will contact the theater owner to request bike racks, although none are required.

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**OLD BUSINESS (continued): Pet Waste:** Carolyn Rutland reviewed reasons to encourage the City Commission to adopt a “pooper-scooper” ordinance. Zach Groening presented information about his efforts to encourage adoption of such an ordinance. David Anderson reported that the City Attorney’s office has written a pet waste ordinance, which is being circulated internally. The ECC expressed the consensus that any concern about enforcing such an ordinance be responded to by acknowledgment of the understanding that pet waste violations would be a lower priority than other violations. How do other cities enforce their pet waste ordinances?

**NEW BUSINESS: US Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement:** Anderson presented Mayor Hannah McKinney’s request that the ECC evaluate the US Mayors’ Climate Protection Agreement with respect to three questions: What is the City of Kalamazoo doing today that fits into the Agreement? Are there reasonable steps the City of Kalamazoo could take in the future? Does the ECC recommend that the Mayor sign the Agreement? A reply is requested within two months (April). Several guests present offered assistance to the ECC and asked that the ECC also consider recommending adoption of the Urban Environmental Accords (UEA). The ECC explained that it considered the UEA in 2006 and did not recommend their adoption because of the specific and measurable commitments required. The guests agreed that the Mayors’ Agreement could be a good first step. Jim Jeakle remarked that there were a number of parallels among the Mayors’ Agreement, the UEA, and the Sustainable Cities goals. Anderson commented that any steps the City takes toward any environmental objective do not need to be predicated on climate change; most are just good, old-fashioned common sense. As of February 14, the mayors of eight Michigan cities have signed the Agreement. It was moved and seconded that Michelle Richards, using the ECC’s previous work and discussions, would create a first draft of a simple response to the Mayor, that the draft response be circulated by e-mail, and that the draft response be attached to the draft February meeting minutes if consensus be reached by e-mail. The motion carried.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:** Postponed to March meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Transcribed and respectfully submitted,



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