

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the  
Energy and Environment Commission  
Edina City Hall Community Room  
Wednesday, November 19, 2008.**

**Members In Attendance and Roll Call:**

Raymond O'Connell, M. Germana Paterlini, Bill Sierks, Surya Iyer, Julie Risser, Dianne Plunkett Latham, Paul Thompson, Hailey Lee, John Owens

**Absent:**

**Visitors: Steve Christianson, 5224 Duncraig Rd.; Kevin Bigalke, 9 Mile Creek Watershed; Bob Kojetin, 9 Mile Creek Watershed; Geoff Nash, 9 Mile Creek Watershed; Richard Griffith, resident.**

**Staff Present:**

Heather Worthington  
Solvei Wilmot

**1. Welcome & Roll Call**

**2. Approval of September, 2008, Meeting Minutes**

Approved, with changes as directed to staff.

**4. Public Comment**

None

**5. Three Rivers Trail Project**

Kevin Bigalke, the Watershed District Administrator, reported on the project to date, and the process that the WD uses to move such projects forward. He told the Commission that the WD uses a petition process with cities, and the Board of Directors determines whether to accept the petition. Typically, they will accept the petition because they have already been working with the City in question. They will then begin to identify easements, which the City will negotiate and pay for. After 75 to 90% of the engineers report is complete, they will conduct public hearings on the project. The project will then go through a soil and water review at the State, and then hold a final public hearing to order the improvements. Mr. Bigalke pointed out that stream bank erosion, turbidity of the water, and chlorides in the water are some of the water quality issues addressed in the stream bank improvements.

**Commissioner O'Connell made a motion to support the petition, and recommend it to the City Council for passage, seconded by Latham. Unanimous approval.**

**6. Working group reports**

Commissioner Risser reported that a Water Quality Working Group has been formed. Risser will chair the WQWG. **Motion by Sierks to establish Water Quality Working Group, seconded by Latham. Unanimous approval.**

Recycling and Solid Waste Working Group:

Commissioner Latham reported on the SSO Ordinance. The revisions will be sent to the RSWG for review, and forwarded back to the City Council in 2009. The RSWG has a work session with the City Council on December 2<sup>nd</sup> to review the executive summary of the draft RFP for recycling services. She then reviewed the RFP talking points with the Commission. Chair Iyer reported on a town in Massachusetts that recycles everything—with virtually no solid waste stream. They have increased their recycling participation rate tenfold. Commissioner Latham referenced the Recycle Bank program (which is apparently similar to the program that they instituted in MA), and said that it required single-stream recycling. In Edina, the pilot program for single-stream did not produce a significant increase in recycling participation. There were also questions about residual rates of waste in the recycling stream.

Climate Change Working Group

Commissioner Paterlini reported. The CDP submittal is completed. They now want to review sprinkler systems, the energy code, water volume and usage for 2008, tiered water rates, and “no idling” restrictions.

Education and Outreach Work Group

Commissioner Thompson reported. The Green Holiday Event will be tabled for the time being, and reviewed prior to the 2009 holiday season to determine how best to implement that project. They are working on some additional education material to be sent out to residents in the near future. He also reported on the Youth Environmental Activists—15 schools that Edina hosted recently. They discussed individual school projects, and wrote letters to President-Elect Barack Obama asking him to engage in policy changes around environmental issues.

They will plan several Spring workshops around lawn care, tool sharing and “greening” equipment used in home care/lawn care.

Commissioner O’Connell shared information related to the installation of major electric transmission lines throughout Wisconsin.

**6. Commission Business**

Motion by Sierks, second by Latham, to recommend that the City Council sign the Blueprint. Unanimous approval.

Commission asked that Worthington draft a resolution for the December 2<sup>nd</sup> City Council meeting declaring the week of 12/8/08 “Local Climate Action Week”.

CDP Submission:

Motion by Commissioner Owens to submit the CDP paperwork, seconded by Sierks. Unanimous approval.

Metro CERTS Membership:

Motion by Paterlini to approve the Metro CERTS affiliate Group Survey, seconded by Owens. Unanimous approval.

Commissioner Risser updated the Commission on variances for wetland setbacks. The language in the ordinance is adequate, but needs more language regarding compliance, buffer-zone requirements, and other issues as recommended by Planning staff. The City Attorney did not recommend environmental impact fees due to statutory difficulties in enforcing those fees. The Commission referred the issue to the Water Quality WG and Planning Commission for ordinance amendments. Commissioner Risser is also researching driveway ordinances.

Commissioner Paterlini requested more information on MHFA/Dept. of Commerce programs on weatherization of homes. Commissioner Sierks will send information he may have, and Worthington will review e-mails to see if she has any information.

For the next meeting, Commissioners asked Worthington to bring back a recommendation for a facilitator to work with the Commission to draft the ICLEI work plan, and a full accounting of budget year to date and applicable costs related to the MPCA grant.

For the January meeting, it was suggested that the Commission try to meet with State legislators.

**8. Staff Report**

**9. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Worthington, Secretary