



MINUTES
for the
City of Fitchburg
Resource Conservation Commission
March 17, 2014 Meeting

RCC and Staff Members Present: Diane Streck, Steve Arnold, Kris Wetzel, Jan Kucher, Tony Hartmann, Rick Eilertson, Kristofer Canto

Others Present: Dennis Iverson, Brian Driscoll (7:45pm)

Absent: Samuel Cooke (excused), Kay Schindel

1. Call to Order

- Diane called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm.

2. Appointment of Timekeeper

- Jan Kucher was appointed timekeeper.

3. Public Appearances on Non-Agenda Items – none

4. Approval of Minutes from February 17, 2013, RCC Meeting

- *Steve moved to approve the Minutes; Kris seconded. The motion was approved.*

5. Unfinished Business

5.a. Municipal Construction Guidelines

- Staff has reviewed RCC's suggested requirements and had a few questions
- **Action Items:**
 - Diane will address staff questions
 - Kristofer will follow up with staff regarding recommendations they might have for the Municipal Construction Guidelines.

5.b. RCC Annual Event - Water Conservation

- Kristofer provided an update on the Water Conservation Event to be held at 6:30 on April 3 at the Library

5.c. Finish planning for Spring Waterway

- The event will be held Saturday April 19th at 9:00am – 12:00pm.
- Dunn's Marsh North Complex will be the primary site, with volunteers starting at Apache Pond (4491 Crescent Rd). If there are enough volunteers, a few will go to and cleanup along Yarmouth Greenway Drive.
- Waterproof footwear is recommended. Gloves will be available for those who don't bring them.. Restrooms will not be available.

- Bags will be provided as well as thank you gifts (e.g. T-shirts or tote bags).
- Kristofer will have a supply of extra bags in the truck.
- A separate waterway cleanup is being planned with All Saints Lutheran Church along the Schumann Greenway in McKee Farms Park on Sunday, April 27, from 1:00 to 3:00pm, starting near the Splash Pad.

6. New Business

6.a. Ordinance 2014-O-06 - An Ordinance Amending Chapter 24 – Land Division, Chapter 30, Article II – Erosion Control and Stormwater Management and Chapter 40, Article V - Stormwater Utility

- Rick explained current discrepancies between DNR and Dane County stormwater performance standards and noted that they are expected to be resolved within the next year or so and will likely necessitate another update of Chapter 30 at that time. He also noted that Plan Commission is reviewing the Ordinance at its March 18th meeting. Based on a meeting Rick had with Tom Hovel and Carol Poole, Plan Commission will likely recommend minor changes to chapter 24, striking some duplicative language describing “green infrastructure” since that language is already provided in the definition.
- Jan asked what the current permit fee is and whether doubling of the fee as a penalty if construction started before permit approval was consequential enough.
- Steve asked why stormwater credit policy changes are reviewed by the Board of Public Works. Steve also asked if precipitation data can be changed to represent more recent data.
- Rick explained using different standards would be difficult due to DNR and Dane County performance standards. A formal study would be needed to address changing data if the City is interested in changing infiltration standards.
- **Steve moved to request that staff investigate where in the budget a study should be to update stormwater performance standards to take into account recent precipitation trends. Furthermore, if the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is the appropriate budget, then request that the study be included in the CIP for 2015. Tony seconded. The motion was approved.**
- Rick recommended that any updates be made in conjunction with Madison and Dane County to maintain consistency.
- Rick referred to information learned during the Stormwater Working Group of the Wisconsin Initiative on Climate Change Impacts (WICCI), that total annual precipitation amounts have not changed dramatically, however individual events have decreased while intensity has increased.
- **Steve moved that references to the “Zoning Board of Appeals” in Section 24-16 be changed to “Common Council.” Kris seconded. The motion was approved.**
- **Steve moved that references to the “Board of Public Works” be changed to “Resource Conservation Commission” throughout Chapter 40. Tony seconded. The motion was approved.**
- Regarding Section 40-896, Diane asked if annual inspections of stormwater facilities by professional engineers (P.E.’s) on private property are necessary and

if so, could the City do the inspection. Rick indicated inspections on at least an annual basis are critical in ensuring appropriate function. He indicated he didn't feel that staff currently had sufficient time allocated to inspect the ~30-60 privately-owned stormwater facilities on an annual basis.

- Members discussed how to alleviate potential burden on private landowners. Rick noted the appeals and variance process.
- Members agreed the City should provide a list of P.E.'s who would be able and willing to do these inspections.
- ***Steve moved that Ordinance 2014-O-06 be approved as amended. Jan seconded. The motion was approved.***

6.b. Resolution R-30-14 Supporting the Grant Application by the UW-Madison Arboretum to Dane County PARC Grant for Land Management Improvements on Arboretum Property

- ***Steve moved to recommend approval of Resolution R-30-14. Tony seconded. The motion was approved.***

6.c. Resolution R-31-14 Approving Submission of Grant Applications for Stormwater Improvements

- ***Tony moved to recommend approval of Resolution R-31-14. Kris seconded. The motion was approved.***

6.d. Discuss 2015-2019 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Budget requests

- Members confirmed that solar panels on the library should remain in the CIP with the solar study occurring in 2015 and the installation occurring in 2016.
- Steve reiterated that a study of the stormwater performance standards should be included in the CIP requests if that is the appropriate place for the study.
- Diane asked about the status of a stormwater treatment structure downstream of Home Depot. Rick indicated he's had positive discussions with City of Madison and is working on an intergovernmental agreements for both the Renaissance Pond stormwater treatment structure as well as the Traceway Drive storm sewer reroute to the Nine Springs Golf Course pond.

6.e. Plan Fitchburg Star Articles

- Water Softener Article for May
- **Action items:**
 - Rick will follow up with Fitchburg Star staff to see if Steve's "Healthy Lawns" article will be included in the April edition.
 - Kristofer will scale down the Water Softener article to The Star's 400 word limit and send to the The Star by the May deadline.

6.f. Begin Planning Summer Green Thursday Event

- Ideas discussed included: working with Nancy Sheehan to do a family-friendly water event; partnering with Monona on one of their summer events; or a family-friendly event to build birdhouses or bat houses. Steve mentioned that a key to the latter is to find a volunteer to cut wooden kits.

6.g. WECC Presentation

- Brian Driscoll provided background on WECC and his proposal, which provides funding for residential energy efficiency efforts.
- The program is structured as a Loan Loss Reserve fund which takes public funds and places them into a private financial institution, where for every 1 dollar placed in, the financial institution would lend out 20 dollars. Administration and loan applications are handled by the private institution. This structure is the basis for the previous grant application submitted for Fitchburg, Monona, Middleton and Dane County to the State Energy Office in December 2013. This program would create a \$250,000 loan fund for each participating unit of government. This could be a continuing program or the government unit could withdraw the "seed" funds once the related loans are repaid.
- How does this compare to a home equity line of credit? Loans through the Loan Loss Reserve are not secured by the property. Programs can also be tailored to specific criteria determined by the unit of government. Program interest rates are generally lower and can have an extended term. Depending on the projects undertaken, savings in utility bills nearly "pay" for the loan itself.
- WECC can provide product development; locate the financial institution, auditor and construction companies, marketing materials, and develop campaigns to raise awareness.
- Each unit of government would have their own account.
- What are the next steps?
 - Tonight: education and background
 - Consideration for 2015 budget
 - If approved, WECC would begin to develop further contract details
 - Roll out the program by the end of first quarter 2015.
- This program is not intended for individuals who already qualify for home heating assistance programs. The Loan Loss Reserve program would be directed towards individuals just above that income level.
- WECC explained the program was originally developed for single family homes, not multi-family units of housing.
- Homeowners would be eligible for Focus On Energy rebates and possibly a tax credit.
- Diane mentioned there is a lot of potential for renters to benefit if landlords can be convinced to participate.
- Steve encouraged discussion with Community and Economic Development Authority (CEDA) staff. Steve thought pursuing this as a senior initiative is an excellent idea.
- Tony recommended that a return on investment (ROI) calculation be made. Brian clarified that homeowners can select their own level of investment.

7. Staff Update

7.a. Department of Public Works 2013 Annual Report – No discussion

7.b. Solid Waste Update

- Discussion occurred on the RFP for the waste hauling contract:
 - Diane suggested clarifying that residents are able to put out an unlimited amount of recyclables.
 - Diane requested clarification from Rick that the current carts will continue to be used.
 - Members discussed including organics collection as a contract amendment in the future.
 - Diane suggested asking responders to include information regarding vehicles fueled with alternative fuels that would be used for Fitchburg's collections.
- Changes made to the RFP include:
 - Households do not get refuse tags in Fitchburg updates,
 - Include recyclables currently accepted by Pellitteri,
 - Remove curbside collection of block polystyrene curbside,
 - Add pricing request for brush collections/year to 14/year.
- Rick mentioned that condo units may have the option to be included under the City's waste hauling contract.

7.c. Stormwater Update – No discussion

7.d. Sustainability Update – No discussion

8. Announcements

8.a. Next Meeting – May 19, 2014 at 6:30 pm in the Meeting Room

9. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm.