



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

**RCC and Staff Members Present:** Steve Arnold, Kia Stearn, Diane Streck, Chris Jimieson, Jan Kucher, Tony Hartmann (arrived at 6:45pm), Rick Eilertson, Erika Kluetmeier

**Others Present:** Mayor Shawn Pfaff (until 7:00pm), Cory Horton (Director of Public Works/City Engineer)

Absent: Samuel Cooke (excused)

**1. Call to Order**

- Diane called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

**2. Appointment of Timekeeper**

Steve volunteered to be timekeeper until Tony arrived.

**3. Public Appearances on Non-Agenda Items – Mayor Shawn Pfaff**

- Mayor Pfaff provided update on 2015 budget and renewed his support for the mission and role of the RCC.

**4. Approval of Minutes from September 15, 2014, RCC Meeting**

- *Steve moved to approve the Minutes. Kia seconded.* Diane suggested two minor changes. *The Minutes were approved as amended.*

**5. New Business**

**5.a. Meet Cory Horton, Fitchburg's New DPW/City Engineer**

- Mayor Pfaff introduced Cory Horton, highlighting his experience in McHenry County, Illinois as a Stormwater Engineer and Water Resources Manager.
- RCC members introduced themselves.
- Upon request, Diane provided a brief history of the RCC and noted the improved communication channels with city government leaders.
- Cory highlighted his innovative work in conservation and road salt reduction in McHenry County. He thanked RCC members for their contributions and service to Fitchburg and noted their significant expertise and passion in the areas RCC covers.

**5.b. Review Draft 2014 RCC Annual Report and 2015 RCC Calendar of Events**

- Diane thanked staff for drafting the 2014 Annual Report and 2015 Calendar/Workplan.
- Samuel Cooke is working with Kevin Richmond, Facilities Supervisor, regarding the uncompleted recommendations in the Retro-Commissioning Report. Diane noted that Kevin has been very responsive.
- Tony suggested indicating deadlines on the calendar for task completion. Steve suggested indicating estimates for completion.

- Members and staff would like to continue developing a long-term plan for the Business Sustainability Pledge which will provide a framework for supporting businesses, tracking results and recognizing businesses successes.
- Projects added to the focus include: Continuing the Sustainability Business Program development, Salt Reduction and Plastic Bag Reduction. This list may be revised after January's meeting focusing on Sustainability.
- Diane asked if members would be interested in using January's meeting for an education session on Sustainability. Rick mentioned the possibility of circulating a dvd on The Natural Step prepared by the City of Madison. Members suggested watching the dvd during the meeting along with a host speaker familiar with The Natural Step.
- **Action items:**
  - **“Calendar” will be renamed to “Calendar/Work Plan.”**
  - **Erika will update the Calendar and Annual Report.**
  - **Rick or Erika will contact Sherrie Gruder and arrange for a speaker to introduce the dvd.**

#### **5.c. Discuss 2015 RCC Event**

- Green Complete Streets will be focus of RCC Annual Event on Thurs., April 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Steve explained that "Green" is the bioswales/stormwater treatment, and "Complete" is for bikes, pedestrian and transit portion of streets.
- COS will promote county-wide to engineers, developers, road builders and sustainability professionals.
- **Action items:**
  - **Steve will arrange for a speaker from La Crosse, possibly Bernie Lenz.**
  - **Erika will promote the event on Dane County Sustainability Network.**

### **6. Unfinished Business**

#### **6.a. Green Thursday Event(s)**

- The Community Outreach Subcommittee is planning an Urban Garden presentation for the February 5th Green Thursday.
- **Action item: Erika and Chris will work with Rebecca Swanson (library) to confirm scheduling and promotion of upcoming Green Thursday Events.**

#### **6.b. Continue Discussing 2015 Projects**

- Steve mentioned that he is not running for reelection as an Alder and therefore will be stepping down from RCC in April 2015. Kia expressed interest in taking over on some of Steve's projects.
- **Action item: Steve and Kia will meet to review assignments and strategies to complete them.**

#### **6.c. Fall/Winter 2014-2015 Fitchburg Star Article(s)**

- Discussion occurred on the following article topics and authors:
  - Dec. 2014 - Holiday Recycling, Part 2 article (Erika)
  - Dec. 2014/Jan. 2015 – Battery Recycling (Tony)
  - Jan. 2015 – What's new for 2015 (Erika)
  - Jan./Feb. 2015 – Road Salt Reduction (Jan)
  - March 2015 – Waterway Cleanup, teaser on Clean & Green (Erika/Rick)
  - April 2015 – Clean & Green or Small Engine Pollution (Diane)
  - May 2015 – Water Softeners (Salt Reduction and Water Conservation) - (Tony/Kia)

- June 2015 – Water Conservation (Sam)
- July 2015 - Sustainable Materials Management – Placement of Recycling Receptacles (Chris)
- As needed – Anaerobic Digesters (Jan)

## **7. Council Update**

- Diane provided an update of City / Common Council activities.

## **8. Staff Update**

### **8.a Solid Waste Update** – Rick provided updates:

- Purple Cow Organics transitioned to new site (3395 Meier Road). They will develop an alternate pricing structure since there is no scale at this site.
- Members agreed to the changes in the revised 2015 Solid Waste Calendar.
- Bulk plastic recycling at the Recycling Drop Off Site and alkaline battery recycling in the City Hall lobby will begin in January. Staff is considering providing one bin in the lobby to collect recyclable batteries, alkaline batteries, cell phones and printer cartridges and sort them before sending them for recycling. Staff is working on new signage for the lobby and the Recycling Drop Off Site.
- DATCP should notify us in late November with their decision on the Clean Sweep grant application.

### **8.b. Stormwater Update** – Rick provided an update on the construction of the Dunn’s Marsh/Renaissance Stormwater Treatment Structure by the City of Madison.

### **8.c. Sustainability Update** – Erika provided updates on the Dunn’s Marsh Community-based Social Marketing project, Green Tier Legacy Community Annual Report, and Municipal energy use tracking. She also mentioned she’s working on the Sustainability Business Pledge, Signage upgrades for Recycling Drop Off Site, and Recycling Guide updates.

## **9. Announcements** – No discussion

### **9.a. Next Meeting**

- **Action item: Erika will send out a Doodle poll to possibly reschedule January’s meeting which currently is scheduled for January 19, 2015, Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.**

## **10. Adjournment – 8:59 pm**