



MINUTES
for the
City of Fitchburg
Resource Conservation Commission
May 18, 2015 Meeting

RCC and Staff Members Present: Diane Streck, Chris Jimieson, Jan Kucher, Tony Hartmann, Kia Stearn (arrived at 6:40pm), Rick Eilertson, Erika Kluetmeier

Others Present: Ryan Fralish, Mayor Steve Arnold, Alder Dorothy Krause, Public Works Director Cory Horton

Absent and Excused: Samuel Cooke

1. Call to Order

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

2. Appointment of Timekeeper

- Chris Jimieson was appointed Timekeeper.

3. Public Appearances on Non-Agenda Items

- None

4. Approval of Minutes from November 17, 2014, RCC Meeting

- *Tony moved to approve the Minutes, Chris seconded.* Diane suggested a minor revision on page 3 to clarify that the pesticide inventory only covered municipal usage. *The Minutes were approved as amended.*

5. New Business

5.a. Introduction of new member

- Ryan Fralish introduced himself and indicated a willingness to join RCC's Community Outreach Subcommittee. He is a LEED certified professional mechanical engineer with an interest in sustainability. He has collaborated with RCC in the past to encourage reduction of plastic bag usage.

5.b. RCC Focus - Mayor

- Mayor Arnold mentioned that he would be appointing Kim Warkentin as the new RCC member at an upcoming Common Council meeting. Kim has been an officer in the Quarry Hill Neighborhood Association and works at the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association (Wisconsin Land + Water), among other things.
- Mayor Arnold asked RCC to evaluate the process for becoming a Wisconsin Eco-municipality, which could include adopting The Natural Step framework, to integrate sustainability initiatives, develop an action plan and a cost estimate for the 2016 Operating Budget. He suggested contacting Sherrie Gruder for suggestions.
- **Action item: RCC will define what becoming an Eco-Municipality means, develop an action plan and any cost estimates for the 2016 Operating Budget to cover**

implementation of Eco-Municipality Resolution and/or training for The Natural Step process.

5.c. Apartment Recycling

- Alder Dorothy Krause requested RCC initiate an educational campaign to boost recycling rates in apartments with five or more units.
- Diane explained that apartments with more than 4 units do not receive Fitchburg's Recycling Guide; they contract with waste haulers individually and consequently items recycled vary by property.
- Property owners of these apartments are legally required to comply with local ordinances and state law to facilitate recycling of items banned from landfills. Compliance is defined as providing recycling containers, collection of recyclables, and educational information to tenants.
- Members decided to start with an article in The Star and based on responses contact Property Managers. Another option discussed was to survey apt. owners. A baseline should be established to evaluate an increase in recycling rates post education campaign which could be via a visual look in dumpsters, waste sorting or review of hauler invoices.
- Kia offered to work with her Property Manager to pilot an educational campaign in her complex including a flyer that can be posted in common areas.
- **Action items:**
 - **Kia Stearn will write an article for The Fitchburg Star. Diane Streck will assist.**
 - **Rick will contact Pellitteri for suggestions on implementing improvements to apartment recycling.**

5.d. Fitchburg Star articles

- Diane had a conversation with *Fitchburg Star* Editor Jim Ferolie regarding the availability of space for RCC articles. Jim thinks RCC articles could run in their "Healthy Living" column or he may give RCC their own column. Targeted word count is 500-700 words. Jim suggested a personal angle for articles. He also suggested writers contact him early in the drafting process for his suggestions. He will discuss placement and byline options with his staff.
- The Apt. Recycling article will be targeted for the July issue, and the salt reduction article (not yet written) will be delayed for future issue.
- Since it is time sensitive, the Water Conservation article has been submitted to Lisa Sanford for inclusion in the City's page if space allows. If not, Diane will submit it to The Star.
- **Action items:**
 - **Kia will write an article on apartment recycling for July issue.**
 - **Diane will send Jim Ferolie's contact information to Kia.**
 - **Erika will notify Diane if there is insufficient space in the City's June page for the Water Conservation article.**

5.e. Watermain Flushing and Street Sweeping

- Diane recapped RCC discussion from 3 years ago regarding having street sweeping done before watermain flushing. Paul Woodard, PW Director at the time, said staff would work together on the timing of street sweeping and watermain flushing, but watermain flushing needed to be done in April to avoid complaints about water quality. Diane suggested that communication about this may have been lost in the subsequent staff changes.

- Cory explained that Fitchburg has only one street sweeper and staff does try to time the sweeping to occur before the watermains are flushed. However, temperature and snow melt play a role. He agreed they should have a written policy about this timing.

6. Unfinished Business

6.a. Retrocommissioning Update

- The Maintenance staff is currently working on the Community Center air handlers and condensers project. The Community Center project is slated for completion this summer (2015). If there is funding available, the staff will then work on the FACTv cooling system. Otherwise, that recommendation will be completed in 2016.
- **Action items:**
 - **Erika will encourage Kevin Richmond to contact Samuel Cooke to obtain clarification on a couple remaining recommendations from SCS' Report including the MZU – variable volume upgrade item.**
 - **Cory will determine if remaining Retrocommissioning projects can be absorbed into the 2016 Operating Budget or should be included as a CIP Budget request.**

6b. 2016-2020 Capital Improvement Budget requests

- Discussion occurred on whether MG&E passes along energy savings to Fitchburg for installing LEDs in street lights.
- RCC had no additional requests beyond those already identified by staff.
- **Action Items:**
 - **Erika will check into grants for solar panels**
 - **Erika will check into the billing arrangement for electricity used by street lights with MG&E.**

6.c Community Outreach Subcommittee – Summer Event

- The 2015 Annual Forum RCC on Green Complete Streets was well received and well attended by ~30 professionals from area municipalities, elected officials and consultants.
- Chris suggested RCC consider offering events to professionals every other year to show Fitchburg's leadership on these initiatives.
- Tony suggested tapping into ag and rural community for future events.
- COS's summer event will be held at the Boys & Girls Club and focus on recycling. Details are still being worked out.
- Erika reported that the City is evaluating options for newsletter platforms. Diane reminded the group that the e-blast was not intended to be a newsletter but rather a short announcement of sustainability news/events.
- **Action items:**
 - **Erika will meet with Boys & Girls Club to set a date and format for the summer COS event.**
 - **Erika will adjust e-blast headlines to grab people's attention and shorten the Green E-blasts to highlight Fitchburg events.**
 - **Erika will contact the library and Monona about the possibility of moving Green Thursday events to the second Thursday of the month.**

7. Council Update

- Dan Carpenter was elected as Council President.
- Tony Hartmann was appointed to RCC, Public Safety and Ag & Rural Affairs committees.

8. Election of Chair

- Diane reminded members that the Chair sets the agenda for meetings and to send requests for agenda items to the Chair. She also reminded them to notify the Chair if they cannot attend a meeting and encouraged members to help with projects to lighten the load for the Chair.
- *Diane nominated Chris Jimieson to serve as RCC chair for the next term. Jan seconded. The Motion was approved unanimously.*

9. Staff Update

9.a. Solid Waste Update

- The May 9th Green Spring Cleaning events (e.g. E-cycle, Shred, MedDrop, & Clean Sweep) were discussed. Diane mentioned there was a lot of positive feedback on holding a local Clean Sweep event and holding all events on the same day. Diane thanked staff for a great job planning the events, and Tony and Chris for helping with the events.
- Diane thanked Chris for leading two waterway cleanups in the Swan Creek neighborhood and Tony, Steve, Rick, Erika and community members for helping with the Dunn's Marsh cleanup. Rick also organized a waterway cleanup/awareness event in Dunn's Marsh attended by 15 kids from the Boys & Girls Club.

9.b. Stormwater Update

- Rick provided an update on the Yahara WINS program, including that the pilot continue for one more year. MMSD is recommending that participating communities include the same budget for 2016 as they did for 2015. A formal intergovernmental agreement is expected to be circulated for partners to sign in 2016 and be in effect starting January 2017.

9.c. Sustainability Update

- The 2015 Commuter Challenge is underway and includes staff, elected official and appointed officials. This year walking and biking miles will be included in the community competition with Sun Prairie, Middleton and Monona.
- On June 9th Fitchburg and partners will host a bike pit stop at the bike roundabout for morning commuters in recognition of Wisconsin Bike Week.
- On June 6th, the Dawley Bike Hub ribbon-cutting and celebration will be held from 9-10:30 a.m. Rick will then lead a guided bike ride at 10:30 a.m. from Dawley to the Summer Trails Festival across from the Lussier Family Heritage Center on the Capital City Trail, highlighting stormwater features along the way.
- **Action item: Erika will email the National Bike Challenge link to RCC members.**

10. Next Meeting

- RCC will meet on Monday, June 15, 2015 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room, possibly instead of an August or September meeting

11. Adjournment – 9:13 p.m.