

# DRAFT MINUTES

Resource Conservation Commission  
Monday, January 21, 2015

**RCC and Staff Members Present:** Kia Stearn, Diane Streck, Chris Jimieson, Jan Kucher, Tony Hartmann, Samuel Cooke, Rick Eilertson, Erika Kluetmeier

**Others Present:** DPW/City Engineer Cory Hart and Dane County Clean Sweep Hazardous Waste Coordinator Dave Radisewitz

**Absent:** Steve Arnold, excused

## 1. Call to Order

- Diane called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.

## 2. Appointment of Timekeeper

- Samuel Cooke was appointed timekeeper.

## 3. Public Appearances on Non-Agenda Items

- Cory Hart, Fitchburg Director of Public Works/City Engineer

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

- *Diane moved to approve the minutes, Jan seconded. The minutes were approved.*

## 5. New Business

### 5.a. Discuss 2015 Clean Sweep Grant Acceptance and Clean & Green Event

- Dave Radisewitz provided an overview of the process for working with Dane County on a local Clean Sweep collection event. Residents will need to pay \$10 fee for the service, but they will have the convenience of a dropping off materials closer to home. One volunteer is typically needed to count cars and direct traffic.
- There is an extra cost to Fitchburg for collection of latex paint. If latex paint is collected, 3-4 volunteers are ideal since a separate staging area is needed. If latex paint is not collected at the event, Dane County would also accept a voucher (indicating proof of payment of the \$10 fee at the Fitchburg event), so Fitchburg residents could drop off latex paint at the Dane County Clean Sweep site at no additional fee. Dave mentioned a company that will take latex paint at no charge for reuse.
- Cory suggested evaluating some different models that are less staff intensive; e.g., full or partial reimbursement to Fitchburg residents who drop off materials at the Dane County Clean Sweep site. Dane County would be open to a formal arrangement to allow a voucher reimbursement system and would bill Fitchburg. This option would require a budget amendment for 2015.
- RCC members discussed pros and cons of the event. The convenience of an event in Fitchburg could boost participation, prevent illegal dumping/landfilling of hazardous waste, and provide an opportunity for awareness and educational of proper disposal. Additional volunteers could offset cost of staff time.
- Ideal to combine event with electronics and paper shredding events.
- Diane recommended RCC member reserve time to volunteer at the event to offset cost of staff time. Fitchburg's grant cost-share is roughly \$1250 and volunteer time can be count toward the cost-share requirement.

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- ***Tony motioned to vote on accepting the grant for one event and Chris seconded. Chris, Tony, Sam and Jan voted to accept the grant. Diane and Kia abstained. Motion passed.***

## **5.b. Recap of “1 Thing” meeting with Todd Kunze, Entercom Communications**

Rick and Diane provided a brief summary of the Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> meeting with Entercom Communications, which owns three radio stations in the South Central Wisconsin region. They are recruiting 1-2 sponsors to fund green community service events and associated education on their airwaves and via e-mail/social media over a seven-month period. Fitchburg could support the effort through providing ideas (e.g., idling reduction behavior change) or service project opportunities, and participating in the post-project roundtable.

## **5.c. Discuss goals for February's strategic planning meeting**

- Sherrie Gruder, UWEX Sustainable Design Specialist and Fitchburg resident, is confirmed to facilitate a discussion on The Natural Step planning process at RCC's February meeting.
- Meeting objectives would be to learn about The Natural Step process, associated case studies, and how to tailor it for Fitchburg.
- Rick passed out flash drives with a copy of a video produced from a 2007 City of Madison meeting for RCC members to view. The first segment on employee transportation options is 13 minutes long and a very thorough example of The Natural Step process.
- **Action item: Sherrie, Diane and Erika will meet on Monday to set the agenda for the February meeting.**

## **6. Unfinished Business**

### **6.a. Finalize 2015 RCC Calendar and Workplan**

- Diane finalized the calendar and workplan and will share with the Council.

### **6.b. 2015 *Fitchburg Star* Article(s)**

- Authors need to send final versions of *Fitchburg Star* articles to Diane by the first Wednesday of each month.
- Jan's article on road salt reduction is on the docket for February.
- Cory recommended including the following messages based on frequent questions he receives: 1) the efficacy of salt in cold temps, so people know why we are not applying salt on colder days, 2) policies and expectations for treating and clearing different types of road and the need to slow down based on conditions, 3) environmental impacts of salt/chlorides, and 4) what Fitchburg is doing to reduce road salt (pre-treating, pre-wetting, organics).
- **Action item: Erika will check Lisa Sanford to see if there is space in the Fitchburg one-page ad and report back to Cory and Jan.**
- **Action item: Tony will send updated battery article to Diane**

### **6.c. Green Thursdays - Chris**

#### **i. February 5<sup>th</sup> Green Thursday event – Urban Gardening**

- The COS last met on Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> to discuss two green Thursday events. The Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> urban and community gardening awareness event will feature Shelly Strom from Community GroundWorks/Troy Gardens and Amanda Hall from Fitchburg Fields. Other invitations have been extended to Growing Power and school garden organizers.

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- The Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> program will cover the benefits of urban and community gardening and local organic food source.
- **Action item: COS will meet to finalize the focus of the event and start promotion next week.**
- **Action item: Erika will check with Wade Thompson to see if he has a map of community gardens in Fitchburg.**
- **Action item: Erika will check with FactTV to record gardening event.**

## ii. Continue planning April 9th Green Complete Streets event

- Bernie Lenz from City of La Crosse is the confirmed speaker for the event. Additional marketing is planned for the Madison Area Sustainability Network and other municipal and professional staff in addition to residents. Invite East Fitchburg Neighborhood Association since timing of Lacy Rd. project may allow for incorporating some elements of Complete Streets into design.
- **Action items: COS will coordinate and market the event, and communicate progress with RCC via email.**

## 6.d. Discuss next steps for Business Sustainability Pledge – Erika, Chris

- Erika and Rick met with Joyce Frey and Mike Zimmerman from the Economic Development Department to get input on the Business Sustainability Pledge. Erika will meet with chambers of commerce in Monona and Fitchburg and research models from other communities to evaluate how best to encourage and recognize businesses who are incorporating sustainability into their operations.
- **Action item: Erika will meet with Chris and Diane in late April to evaluate next steps.**

## 6.e. Update on Municipal Construction Guidelines – Samuel

- The draft municipal construction checklist is based on LEED 2009 version; LEED Version 4 is now available.
- The goal is to have guidelines incorporated into all Fitchburg construction – new and remodeled buildings. Some items, such as certified wood, are listed as a preference to provide flexibility.
- **Action item: Diane and Samuel will meet with Cory to discuss next steps.**

## 7. Council Update

- Diane provided elections update – three alders are not running for re-election.

## 8. Staff Update

### 8.a Solid Waste Update

- Rick provided updates on: 1) Purple Cow contract 2) Updated signage at the Recycling Drop Off Site 3) Combined recycling bin in the City Hall Lobby, and 4) Agreement with Pellitteri to pick up excess recyclables in labeled, reusable containers to reduce use of plastic bags.

### 8.b. Stormwater Update –

- Rick provided updates on 2015 stormwater facility improvement projects, including a grant application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for native vegetation and habitat improvement at the Northwest Pond.
- ***Tony motioned to support the NFWF grant and Sam seconded the motion. Motion to support the NFWF grant passed.***

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- Rick is working with a UW class on a stormwater design project to evaluate new designs that will meet DNR permit requirements. He is also evaluating potential for DNR nonpoint grants.

**8.c. Sustainability Update** – Rick provided an update on the Green Tier Legacy Community 2014 annual report. Any comments can be emailed to Rick and Erika. Erika provided updates on a project to partner with Dunn’s Marsh Neighborhood Council and UW Community Environmental Scholars Program to engage residents in the neighborhood association and protection of Dunn’s Marsh. She is also working with Cory Horton and Kevin Richmond, Facilities Supervisor, to reduce use of space heaters among City Hall employees.

## **9. Announcements**

9.a. Steve Arnold has two bat houses to donate to parks, which should be installed before April.

**Action item: Cory will check with Johren Frydenlund, Parks/Forestry Maintenance Supervisor, to confirm that Parks Dept. can install them.**

9.b. Steve Arnold will lead a discussion at a future RCC meeting on providing barrels of sand for resident use to reduce salt use.

## **9.c. Next Meeting**

- Monday, February 16, 2015 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. in The Meeting Room.

## **10. Adjournment – 9:07 pm**