

**Environmental Management Commission  
Meeting Minutes – September 10, 2008**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Board Room

Attendance

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jimmy Adegoke, Linda Clark, Taylor Haynes, Dustin Jensen, Marty Kraft, Richard Rocha, Jack Schrimsher, Rachel Treanor, and John Ware

Staff: Jerry Shechter, Andy Savastino, Matt McKinley – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Bruce Wiggins – Aviation Development; Matt Gigliotti – Law Department; Karen Wang – General Services Department; Casey Muhm, Zach Walker – City Manager's Office

Guests: Caroline Davies - UMKC

Carol Adams, Co-Chair, opened the meeting at 4:10 pm; a quorum was present

- A. Carol Adams welcomed all Commissioners, staff and guests; Everyone introduced themselves
- B. Approval of the minutes – Jack Schrimsher made a motion, seconded by Linda Clark, to approve the minutes of the meeting of July 9, 2008. The motion passed.

C. August Sustainability Workshop – Report and Follow up

1. Shadowcliff Education Workshop Report – Carol Adams

Interesting education process; everyone got to know the other attendees; different points of view were expressed with regard to the transformation of KC to a green region. Carol reviewed the various themes quickly. The emphasis is on a comprehensive approach to sustainability: to address energy conservation and savings, life cycles, transportation, human relations, etc, as part of a holistic package.

Dustin Jensen noted that people drew analogies to their own situations and were aware that this is an important national issue affecting people in ways not addressable from separated and disconnected silos.

Marty Kraft stated we need a holistic/systems approach and need to change our thinking patterns to do so.

Carol noted there was brainstorming about activities in the region. She solicited EMC participation in regionally based projects and asked that Commissioners contact her about their interests.

D. Commission Project Updates

1. Gap Analysis – Jimmy Adegoke

Dr. Adegoke distributed copies of a PowerPoint about his research on Midwest climate change. He has been studying the impact of sea surface temperature changes on the Midwest climate. He distributed copies of his oral testimony before the House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming - providing a sense of where we are, how vulnerable we are and how we should, as a city, respond and how we should get our local society prepared. Dr. Adegoke requested consideration that the Commission partner with UMKC and MARC in a gap analysis – a comprehensive study of current and future vulnerabilities and opportunities to mitigate those impacts. This is to be a detailed multi-sectoral study.

He proposed a UMKC-MARC-EMC partnership to be part of a planning committee and to host a major meeting in the spring of 2009 which would be of high impact with national invitations and ramifications. It was suggested the EMC needs to take a position that we need to do a regional scale gap analysis and he asked the EMC authorize UMKC, as part of the EMC project commitment, to do such a study for the EMC. There are outstanding issues of cost and funding although UMKC already has a grant that can absorb initial costs.

Matt Gigliotti indicated there may be some potential for an appearance of conflict of interest and asked the EMC to defer a decision allowing him time to provide an opinion. A meeting of the project proponents will be scheduled to determine next steps. Matt will be included in the meeting to advise about any legal concerns.

2. John Ware asked the EMC to re-combine project commitments 4-a and 4-b. There was no opposition.

#### E. Liaison Updates

1. Transportation – Linda Clark
  - a. General – MoDOT has just received notice that the Highway Trust Fund is out of money. Missouri could lose \$330 million in federal transportation funds some of which might go to CMAQ, etc. And, there is a long list of projects that will not get done. Stop gap funding may be forthcoming, but there is probably no real fix potential until 2011.
  - b. Light Rail – MoDOT is conducting environmental reviews of alignment proposals. There are several issues of concern.
  - c. I-70 Study – There is an urban study and a state-wide study. Public meetings are in process and the first tier impact statement for the urban study is being worked on looking at current conditions and projecting needs, etc, to 2030. The state-wide study has been reopened to consider truck only lanes: physical configuration, relation to urban centers and to inter-modal facilities, etc.
2. Air Quality Forum – Carol Adams
  - a. We are currently in compliance with the old AQ standards. However, four of the monitors had readings in violation of the new standard.
  - b. MARC, is just beginning an 18 month process to update the regional long range transportation plan. They will be placing more emphasis on environmental and land use issues. EMC commissioners who wish to be on the MARC transportation mailing list should contact Carol or MARC with their email address.
3. Wet Weather Panel – Carol Adams
  - a. The Funding Task Force is moving the target date for completion of their deliberations forward due to the OCP extension and getting more detailed.
  - b. A Panel committee has reviewed the consultant's recommended stormwater project priorities and found them to be consistent the Panel's direction. They are continuing to work to be sure PIAC and others making funding recommendations know the impact of their choices on stormwater priorities.
  - c. A Green Collaborative Team has been hired to come up with the best ways to put green first and to measure the benefits. A potential pilot project is the Marlborough area (roughly 85<sup>th</sup> and Paseo) where the proposal would be to replace two underground storage tanks (\$50 million) with \$30 million in surface drainage improvements. TetraTech has been hired to monitor performance.

4. Local Food – Marty Kraft
  - a. The Washington Wheatley Neighborhood (roughly the large area around 23<sup>rd</sup> and Benton Blvd) is proposing a green block on the 2400 block of Prospect. They would like make a presentation at the October EMC meeting.
  - b. Marty proposed assisting City Council in development of a position on local foods. Jerry Shechter noted that there is a movement of an array of organizations and individuals to develop a local food policy council.

F. OEQ Update – Jerry Shechter

1. On July 24, 2008, City Council unanimously adopted the Climate Protection Plan.
2. On June 12, 2008, City Council passed an ordinance directing the City Manager to require Energy Star for New Homes in all City assisted housing programs. The guidelines to be applied to all new and gut rehab residential construction projects, and to apply Energy Star as much as feasible to home repairs.
3. The Electric Vehicle (EV) proposal has been submitted by our partner, the University of Missouri - Rolla. Under the proposal the City would receive funds to make up the cost differential to replace 6-7 sedans and 2 shuttles with electric vehicles and to install solar panels on the City garage to offset electricity pulled from the grid.
4. The EV project is complementary with the Sustainable Skylines Initiative (SSI) in which the City will receive funds for solar applications. Jerry briefly detailed the six SSI projects.
5. The General Services Department undertook, and is completing, a study of potential wind power generation and the various equipment potentials.
6. The City is part of the planning group for the national Affordable Comfort Conference to be held in Kansas City in late April, 2009. He noted the planning committee is working with the planning group for Conversations on the Environment to bring someone here for both venues at the same time.

G. Old Business - None

- H. New Business – Membership – Carol Adams raised concern about attendance at the meetings and asked those present to reach out to Commissioners who have not been attending.

I. Calendar Items and Announcements

1. The KC – United Nations Association’s 2008 Mayor’s Dinner will emphasize climate change. Dr. John Stone of the IPCC will speak. The dinner is September 24, 2008 and is \$40 per plate. Tables are available for 8 persons.
2. Rachel Treanor noted the EEBN Environmental Excellence Awards are coming soon and submissions are being taken for awards.

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for

Date: Wednesday, October 8, 2008

Time: 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Place: MARC – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Board Room

Primary Topic: Resource Recovery (Waste Management) Planning for Kansas City

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 pm.