



**Environmental Management Commission  
Meeting Minutes – July 10, 2013**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jensen Adams, Tom Brink, Molly Davies, Elizabeth Fischer, Marty Kraft, Ken Kramme, Sal Madge, Robin Martinez, Jason Parson, Jack Schrimsher

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Andy Savastino and Jerry Shechter – OEQ, Matt Gigliotti – Law Dept., Scott Cahail – Water Services

Guests: Carole Mehl, Richard McBroom, Rita Norton, Valerie Tachtins, John Fish Kurmann, Stephen Flanery, Jim Horlacher, David Mitchell

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm; a quorum was present

- A. Welcome and Introductions - The Chair welcomed commissioners and guests. Jerry Shechter noted that Julie Coon was not able to attend as she had gotten married over the last weekend.
- B. Minutes – Jason Parson made a motion, seconded by Robin Martinez, to approve the minutes of the meeting of May, 2013. The motion was approved.
- C. Fossil Free Campaign of 350.org - John Fish Kurmann, Coordinator, ReEnergize Kansas City  
ReEnergize Missouri began to focus on fossil fuel supplies issues, such as peak oil, about 2006. It is now understood that it is just as important to talk about the consequences of use of fossil fuels as well as supply. The presentation to the EMC is about going forward beyond what is already being done. Of concern is that we are still investing in the old ways of doing things.

Stephen Flanery made the general presentation on impacts of climate change. The focus of the presentation and the suggestion made is to divest investments in fossil fuel companies. Per Bill McKibben, 350.org, If wrecking the earth is wrong, then investment in doing so must be wrong. It was presented that 16 cities, and over 200 universities and colleges, have committed to some kind of divestment. ReEnergize Missouri is asking the EMC to take this position to the KC City Council and to commit to divest from the 200 largest, publicly traded companies.

Jim Horlacher, Investment Broker with 20 years investment experience including socially responsible investments (SRI), made a presentation focused on the investment issues and impacts. He acknowledged that divestment must not put at risk the City's fiduciary responsibilities. He noted that divestment is not breaking new ground as the City divested due to apartheid in South Africa, due to discrimination at Dillard's, and is currently considering divestment from gun manufacturers ... both for the greater good. With divestment from the fossil fuels industry, the investor:

**Gains**

Not invest in something considered negative  
Direct investment to local communities  
Advocacy  
Tracking performance (see handouts)

**Gives Up**

Pollution  
Violence  
Health damage

Mr. Horlacher stated that fossil fuels investments are typically no more than 5% of any particular portfolio elimination of which could have a negligible impact. He suggested that Green Century Fund (USA) and Portfolio 21 (international) have performed well free of fossil fuels. He asked why the City should invest in a way that will result in serious negative impact on many sectors.

Dennis Murphey – Obtained general information from Randy Landes, Finance Department Director and Tammy Queen, City Treasurer – There are four pension plans with two at the discretion of the State of Missouri and not the City. City Council has previously divested as a result of apartheid and corporate discrimination, and will be considering divesting from gun manufacturers. None of the previous actions were as broad as the fossil fuels issue. The City's fiduciary responsibility is a critical consideration about which the Finance Department has concerns. He also noted that Mr. Landes stated that addressing direct investment is not as difficult as with mutual funds. The action requires customized investment.

Mr. Horlacher noted the focus of Re-energize Kansas City is on the largest 200 fossil fuel corporations – about 100 of which are oil and gas and about 100 of which are coal. They are asking that the City first make no new investments in these corporations and, over time, phase in sell-off of existing holdings.

Bob Berkebile asked (1) who made the decision about the particular 200 corporations, (2) How long since the 16 cities began signing on and making commitments, (3) What has been the outcome(s) of their commitments.

John Kurmann noted that it is too early since commitments are mostly less than one year old and he does not know if divestments have actually begun. Carbon Tracker is developing a list now.

Carol Adams asked for opinions as to options on how to proceed. Options include:

- EMC reconvene this issue in September with the Finance Department; Robin Martinez agreed that he would like to have a discussion with the Finance Department
- EMC communicate with the Mayor regarding his and City Council's participation in a presentation about divestment from fossil fuels
- Bob Berkebile suggested the EMC write a letter to the Mayor and Mr. Landes asking they take considered action; Previous to taking action, Mr. Landes would be asked to meet with the presenters – including a representative of the EMC
- Carol Adams suggested a letter to the Mayor indicating this is an idea with merit to be explored, asking engagement of City staff, and convening again at the EMC September meeting. The result of which would be recommendations from the EMC.

Jensen Adams asked about engagement with other metro area cities. Answer – None others yet – beginning with KCMO

Mr. Horlacher noted there is also a student movement on 200 plus campuses called Responsible Endowments Coalition.

Carol Adams asked staff to obtain copies of commitments/agreements with other cities

Bob Berkebile stated he thought that the EMC should also engage MARC.

Marty Kraft made a motion, seconded by Jensen Adams, authorizing the Co-Chairs to draft a letter to the Mayor, with copies to the City Manager, and Randall Landes, Director of the Finance Department, indicating the substance of the EMC meeting with representatives of "Fossil Free" as represented by Renew Missouri with regard to divestment actions being taken by cities and universities around the USA, interested in divestment of City investment funds from the 200 largest fossil fuel corporations, recognizing the City has divested its investments with regard to the issue of apartheid and is considering such action with regard to gun manufacturers, and encouraging the City to investigate and take considered action regarding investment in socially responsible investment opportunities. The letter is to include a request that the Director of Finance meet with Renew Missouri regarding divestment and, subsequently, the EMC at its meeting of September 11, 2013. The motion passed.

#### D. Vacant Lots – Robin Martinez

It appears the log jam is starting to break with Legal Aid participation in several meetings. The work group has mapped out a process for making recommendations. Per Councilman John Sharp, it is important to solicit input from a lot of stakeholders. The work group is considering development of a steering committee and planning to hold an initial organizational meeting of key stakeholders by September and to host a series of informational meetings with presentations on best practices. The work group intends to create a report that could be sent to City Council. Robin will set up an online Dropbox for sharing information and will get the link to Jerry for distribution. The EMC expressed its thanks to Legal Aid for their work and support. Robin has conceived of a continuing work group consisting of 16-19 people. Bob Berkebile indicated his interest in participating and asked to be kept connected.

E. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey

- a. Environmental Achievement Awards – Andy Savastino, Elizabeth Fischer and Molly Davies – The awards celebration is scheduled for the next EMC meeting as follows:

Date: Wednesday, August 14, 2013

Time: 4:00 pm

Place: Ewing M. Kauffman Foundation  
4801 Rockhill Rd

Andy will send out hold the date notices

The meeting was interrupted at 5:15 pm by a request to evacuate the building.

F. Liaison Updates –

1. Air Quality – No report due to building evacuation

G. Legal Briefing – Matt Gigliotti – No report due to building evacuation

H. Old Business

No report due to building evacuation

I. New Business

1. No report due to building evacuation

J. Visitor Remarks – None due to building evacuation

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm due to building evacuation

The next monthly meeting is scheduled for        August 14, 2013  
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm  
Mid-America Regional Council  
600 Broadway – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor