



**Environmental Management Commission  
Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2015**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council, Westview Room

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jensen Adams, Tom Brink, Jim Hansen, Marty Kraft, Robin Martinez, Jack Schrimsher

Commissioners Absent: Bob Berkebile, Julie Davis, Caroline Davies, Rachel Guthrie, Julie Koppen

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Jerry Shechter – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Matt Gigliotti – Law Department

Guests: Emily Gilbert; Seft Hunter – Historic Manheim Park

The meeting was called to order at 4:105 pm; a quorum was present

- A. Welcome and Introductions - The Chair welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests who introduced themselves.
- B. Minutes – Jensen Adams made a motion, seconded by Jim Hansen, to approve minutes of the meeting of January 2015 as presented. The motion passed.
- C. Legal Brief – Matt Gigliotti – Commissioners and elections  
Matt Gigliotti briefly summarized the legal requirements, rules and regulations regarding election campaign activities, quoting directly as appropriate. He stressed the requirement that each Commissioner, in public settings when in meetings and representing the EMC, must refrain from any campaign activities. This includes any place the EMC holds its meetings because each meeting place is essentially construed as an extension of City Hall. However, Commissioners are free to participate in election campaigns on their own personal time (e.g. wearing campaign buttons) and can post campaign signs in their yards. Carol Adams stated she thought it is important each Commissioner know who the candidates are and their respective positions on relevant issues. Commissioners may seek out the information but it is not to be discussed at EMC or other meetings in the context of campaigning.
- D. 2013 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Update and Roadmap – Dennis Murphey  
Some of the data that had been presented at the last EMC meeting had to be revised. Dennis discussed our original use of default grid data for emissions factors based on the ICLEI software. In the process of updating the inventory, using data obtained from KCP&L, it was discovered that actual emissions factors used for 2000 and 2005 were higher than the default numbers used. This means the 2000 and 2005 inventory numbers are actually higher than reported in 2008.

Based on the newly obtained data, the GHG reduction percentages for the 2013 inventory update were revised. The revision process resulted in a conclusion that greater reductions in emissions were actually achieved. The goal established in the Climate Protection Plan of 2008 was 30% reduction in GHG emissions, based on a baseline from 2000. The original, uncorrected numbers for municipal operations indicated a reduction of about 10% by 2013; the revised data indicate the City's emission from municipal operations have been reduced by about 25%. This means we are ahead of the pace to achieve our 2020 goal. It is recognized that the next 5% will be harder to achieve. However, the impact of the installation of over 55 solar arrays, potentially generating about 1.4 MW of power, will be captured in the next assessment. In addition, the revised numbers indicate a 3.8% reduction in community-wide emissions as well. City municipal operations have reduced electrical use by 21%.

In addition, KCP&L (1) is now using a cleaner fuel mix; (2) KCP&L has announced that it will close or switch fuels for three of its oldest and dirtiest coal fired power plants totaling 700 MW of power. This represents a decrease in coal use of about 19% by KCP&L; (3) will construct an additional 400 MW capability of wind power generation; and (4) has announced it will install 1,001 electric vehicle (EV) charging stations in the region capable of charging 6,000-10,000 vehicles. Nissan is paying for 16 fast charge stations that can re-charge a car battery pack to 80% full in about 30 minutes.

We expect the revised 2013 GHG Inventory Update within 2 weeks at which time a revised copy will be provided to the Climate Protection Steering Committee and to the EMC.

The draft of the Climate Action Roadmap has just been received for review. That document should also be completed within 2 weeks and will be shared at a later date. There was general discussion about using the Roadmap as a starting point for prioritizing future actions.

E. Climate Action Champions – Tom Jacobs, MARC

A consortium (team) of MARC, City of KCMO, Johnson County, and Bridging The Gap submitted an application to the US Department of Energy for designation as a Climate Action Champion. Our application was one of 16 which garnered the designation. The designation brings with it a variety of potential benefits.

In the application, the consortium indicated plans to

1. Form a regional working group to address adaptation and resilience;
2. Make plans to respond to the identified needs for adaptation and resilience;
3. Create a regional GHG inventory to be built upon the base of KCMO and Johnson County inventory updates.
4. Become organized, at a regional scale, to build capacity to address adaptation and resilience;
5. Develop the regional capability to include adaptation and resilience in future applications.

The DOE has challenged us to identify three top priorities. Tom noted several that have been discussed and has asked for input of additional ideas. The current ideas include:

- a. Securing funding for a full time person for three years to work on this project;
- b. Obtaining technical support to help us build consensus re how to incorporate resilience in infrastructure design;
- c. Interagency federal coordination to look at relationships among green infrastructure, heat island abatement, energy conservation, and ozone formation.

Several suggestions/ideas were provided to Mr. Jacobs.

Dennis noted that the newly published document titled “Risky Business: The Economic Risks of Climate Change in the United States” – “Heat in the Heartland: Climate Change and Economic Risk in the Midwest” is available. [ Click [here](#) to download a copy ].

The team will attend The Institute for Sustainable Communities conference in Boston in March on economic resilience and the climate. Of concern is social capital and people helping people. The question is how can we anticipate the depth of the problems and help people get ready.

F. Liaison Updates

1. Air Quality – Carol Adams

Forum attendees are developing a letter to be sent to the US Environmental Protection Agency regarding potential ozone standards changes. The intent is to get EPA to understand that local actions will not be sufficient alone to achieve compliance with lower ozone standards.

2. LEED – Jim Hansen - The LEED Committee met in February 6, 2015.

- a. The committee will begin to talk about maintenance and operations issues;
- b. Aviation Department is reluctant to achieve LEED Gold certification for their projects;
- c. The committee will begin to clarify what are noxious weeds in neighborhoods in order to avoid confusion re landscaping with native plants;
- d. Projected new LEED Gold buildings include the streetcar maintenance facility and the East Patrol/Crime Lab facility
- e. The Water Services Department is redoing their facility on 63<sup>rd</sup> Street to include pervious pavement in their parking lot. They are working with UMKC in a “living lab”. It was suggested the EMC might want to tour the facility in the future.

3. City Energy Project – Dennis Murphey for Tom Brink

- a. The City Energy Project Advisory Committee (CEPAC) met January 30, 2015.
- b. There was a good discussion of the 2014 Mayor's Energy Challenge. Against a target of 200 participants in the Challenge, 175 buildings were submitted including 67 from the City of KCMO and 40 from the KC Public Schools. Of the 175 buildings, 45 have never been benchmarked. There will be a recognition event on April 20<sup>th</sup> which will also be used to kick off the 2015 Challenge.
- c. A working draft of the proposed benchmarking ordinance was discussed. There was push-back from the local chapter of the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA).
- d. Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL), the second largest management firm in the world has submitted a letter, provided to the CEPAC, strongly supporting benchmarking and disclosure ordinance as good business and good public policy.
- e. The CEPAC will schedule a listening session at which time members of the public can voice their opinions. Written comments will be collected for the record.

- f. We have just received a letter of support from the management firm CBRE, which manages 3 million square feet of space in the KC metro area.

G. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey

- 1. The Mayor and City Council, at a recent Council Legislative Session, recognized two neighborhoods as 2014 KC Green Neighborhoods for implementation of sustainable projects and activities. The two recognized were Historic Manheim Park and Westside Housing Organization.
- 2. The Show-Me Green Sales Tax Holiday is in April each year and each year the City must submit an ordinance from the City Council to participate. The resolution will be heard at the Finance, Governance and Ethics Committee next week. The action must be submitted to the State of Missouri 45 days in advance of a specific deadline which gives the State time to publicly notify all businesses selling ENERGY STAR® appliances of the list of cities and counties participating in the tax holiday.
- 3. There is a bill submitted in the Missouri General Assembly to revoke this and other similar tax abatement programs.
- 4. Dennis has contacted Doug Kluck, regional climate services director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) regarding working on climate resilience with cities. NOAA does a lot of weather forecasting for airports worldwide.
- 5. Missouri Clean Energy District (PACE Program) held an election to fill a vacancy on its board of directors. Shomari Benton, an attorney in Kansas City, was elected to the board.
- 6. Activities
  - a. A handout was circulated about the fossil fuel divestment workshop to be held March 13-14, 2015 at Village Church in Prairie Village, KS.
  - b. There will be fossil fuel divestment rally at KCMO City Hall on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>
  - c. Bridging The Gap is having a fund raising event on February 28<sup>th</sup> called Branching Out. Anyone interested can get information by going to the BTG website.

H. Old Business –

- 1. Membership – The EMC has lost five members. The Mayor's Office is looking at 4-5 applications for appointment to fill these positions. The Mayor's Office has a focus on maintaining and increasing diversity on several levels.
- 2. Marty Kraft asked if the City has a strategy for addressing Emerald Ash Borers. Dennis noted that City Council has appropriated funds to inoculate trees to slow down the spread of the insects.
- 3. Carol Adams suggested putting together a package of information about the EMC to educate the new City Council after elections. The package could be used to educate new EMC members as well. The Commission needs to figure out what to share, how to best share it and when. Most candidates are not speaking to environmental issues. The package needs to be an easy read with links to other information. There were several suggestions. Dennis Murphey suggested the OEQ could make a presentation on sustainability and include the EMC, as has been done before.

I. New Business

J. Visitors' Remarks - None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm

The next monthly meeting is

~~February~~ March 11, 2015 at 4:00 pm  
Mid-America Regional Council  
600 Broadway, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor - Westview Room  
Kansas City, MO