



## **Environmental Management Commission**

### **Meeting Minutes – March 11, 2015**

Meeting Location: Mid-America Regional Council, Westview Room

Commissioners present: Carol Adams, Jensen Adams, Rachel Guthrie, Jim Hansen, Julie Koppen Marty Kraft, Jack Schrimsher

Commissioners Absent: Bob Berkebile, Tom Brink, Julie Davis, Caroline Davies, Robin Martinez

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Jerry Shechter – Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ); Matt Gigliotti – Law Department; Marleen Leonce – Public Works; Scott Cahail – Water Services

Guests: None

The meeting was called to order at 4:20 pm; a quorum was present

- A. Welcome and Introductions - The Chair welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests who introduced themselves.
- B. Minutes – Rachel Guthrie made a motion, seconded by Jim Hansen, to approve minutes of the meeting of January 2015 as presented. The motion passed.

There was general discussion about the upcoming Urban Neighborhood Initiative (UNI) conference on vacant properties and that there is a law firm providing pro bono services in the Marlborough Neighborhood along with services by Legal Aid of Western Missouri. A question arose as to what should be the role of the EMC in any of these activities? Marleen Leonce suggested consideration of a role in solid waste and achievement of the goal of 80% diversion of waste from landfills, relative to the baseline year of 2000, by 2020.

- C. Legal Brief – Matt Gigliotti – No Report

- D. Climate Action Roadmap – Jerry Shechter

Jerry Shechter presented an overview of the Climate Action Roadmap prepared for the City by the consultants – The Brendle Group. The Roadmap is a set of consultants recommendations for how we might best be able to achieve our goals established in the Climate Protection Plan (CPP). Part of the CPP was a set of 55 recommendations for action that were adopted by the Mayor and City Council. We have been working to implement that set of recommendations since 2008. While the GHG Inventory Update indicates we have achieved 25% reduction in GHG emissions related to municipal operations since 2000, we still have a long way to go to achieve our goal of 30% reduction by 2020. With regard to community-wide achievement, the update indicates we have, as a community, achieved only 4% reduction, since 2000, toward a goal of 30% reduction by 2020.

For both municipal operations and community-wide activities, we need to do more than current business as usual to achieve our goals. It appears we can achieve our municipal operations goal, but it will be more difficult community-wide.

- E. Office of Environmental Quality – Dennis Murphey

1. Ryan Robertson, Energy Manager, General Services, and Dennis Murphey were presenters at a webinar of the International City Managers Association (ICMA) on energy efficiency in Kansas City.
2. Dennis is the featured speaker at the annual meeting of the USGBC tomorrow
3. It is close to the end of the input process for the State Energy Plan. Dennis sent comments to the Mayor and City Council that key elements of the draft plan should include energy efficiency improvements, benefits for all across the state, and encouragement, possibly in the form of incentives, statewide. A handout was distributed.
4. There is a new initiative sponsored by NRDC called “Energy Efficiency for All” which was kicked off in KC with a grant to Blue Hills Community Services (BHCS) focused on low income, multifamily housing. Participants in a first meeting included a wide range of local agencies as well as Elevate Energy from Chicago. Elevate Energy has been involved in improving energy efficiency in multifamily developments representing over 20,000 apartments.
5. PACE Activity – Three new projects are pending; One will potentially be made public in the next 2-3 weeks with PACE financing at about \$2-\$2.5 million for EE. A second project may mature in the next 60 days for about \$5-\$6 million and a third, for \$1 million, after that.

6. Climate Action Champions – As presented at the last EMC meeting by Tom Jacobs, MARC, and a consortium of partners, was 1 of 16 chosen to participate. A group of people, including Dennis Murphey, Tom Jacobs, Kristin Riott, KCMO Councilman Scott Wagner, Jasmin Moore, and Curt Skoog (member of the Overland Park City Council and Chair of MARC's Board of Directors) will attend a meeting in Boston the week of March 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss climate and economic resilience.
7. Dennis is now involved in the KC Stat process which includes the Envision process as an adopted policy of the City.

F. Liaison Updates

1. Air Quality – Carol Adams  
MARC is sending a letter on ozone standards and health impacts. There is pushback regarding expected costs of compliance with new, reduced threshold standards. The letter emphasizes the region has done a lot and, as a result of a lot of pollutants coming in on the wind, there must be a regional approach into the future. This is an issue that must be recognized. In addition, more could be done with regard to control rural wells with regard to pipelines, valves, seals, etc.
2. LEED – Jim Hansen – No report
3. City Energy Project – Dennis Murphey for Tom Brink  
A public listening session was held March 4, 2015 regarding the working draft of a benchmarking and reporting ordinance. 31 people attended from the general public; 12 actually spoke. Of the 12 who spoke, 3 were in favor of mandatory benchmarking, 8 were in favor of voluntary benchmarking, and 1 took no position. A summary and overview was sent to the City Energy Project Advisory Committee (CEPAC). People who spoke were asked to submit their comments in writing but only a few have done so. The Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) is generally opposed to mandates. Some members, however, such as JLL, spoke in favor for a variety of reasons. JLL said that when you look at all those who have spoken, they represent the owners and, as a result, we are not hearing the tenants who pay the utility bills. Comments were received from Joanne Collins, Chair, Climate Protection Steering Committee and CEPAC member who likened reporting to the “mpg” sticker on a vehicle which informs the market. Public comments are being received through the end of March. Staff is preparing to go to the Law Department to assemble an ordinance.

The EMC was asked if they were interested in submitting a letter of support. Matt Gigliotti noted that, with any such letter, there needs to be an adequate public record and that it needs to be general enough that program changes do not affect the substance of the letter. The Chair asked if there was interest in putting together a letter. Rachel Guthrie made a motion, seconded by Julie Koppen, directing the Chairs to draft a letter of support. The motion passed. It was noted that EMC Commissioner Jensen Adams is also a CEPAC member.

- G. Preparation of Environmental Briefing for New Councilmembers – Impact of EMC for next four years – Carol Adams
  1. Marleen Leonce noted that the solid waste management recommendation in the Climate Protection Plan is to reduce solid waste contributions to landfills by 80%, relative to 2000, by 2020. Toward that end, KCMO developed and implemented a Solid Waste Management Plan. A significant driver is that we are now at about 38% diversion and to go beyond that level will require different policies. A staff team has begun considering the potential of a mandatory recycling policy. Rachel Guthrie volunteered to represent the EMC; Jensen Adams indicated a willingness to participate; The Chair will find out if Julie Davis is also interested.
  2. EMC should consider a “night sky” approach to night pollution and should push for adoption of LED lamps community-wide.
  3. EMC should consider becoming involved in a range of water consumption/conservation issues.
  4. There was a brief discussion of the Twin Creeks development process as a focus for the EMC.

H. Old Business

1. Membership – The Mayor's Office is vetting applicants and making appointments..
2. Rachel Guthrie suggested the EMC webpages be updated.
3. Rachel Guthrie asked about any movement toward banning plastic bags in KCMO. She noted the process had been engaged in Prairie Village, KS.

I. New Business - None

J. Visitors' Remarks - None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm

The next regular monthly meeting is:

April 8, 2015 at 4:00 pm  
Mid-America Regional Council  
600 Broadway, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor - Westview Room  
Kansas City, MO