



**Environmental Management Commission  
Meeting Minutes – March 8, 2017**

Meeting Location: MARC, Westview Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, 600 Broadway, KCMO

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

Commissioners Absent: Bob Berkebile, Caroline (Molly) Davies, Gloria Ortiz Fisher, Kimberly Hill, Seft Hunter, Robin Martinez, DJ Pierre, Emily Truebner

Staff: Dennis Murphey, Jerry Shechter – OEQ; Matt Gigliotti – Law

Guests: Gentry Craig

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

- A. Welcome and Introductions – Co-chairs Carol Adams welcomed commissioners, staff, and guests who introduced themselves.
- B. Minutes – A motion was made by Jim Hansen, seconded by Nacente Seabury, to approve the minutes of the meetings of February 8, 2017 and February 22, 2017; the motion passed.
- C. The Climate Emergency – continued discussion
  1. Chicago has experienced, for the first time in 146 years, no snow in January and February.
  2. Too many people still do not accept climate change impact
  3. If we have a dry Spring and a hot Summer, that will cause problems including increased pollen count and allergies, increase in insect populations.
  4. The GKC Chamber of Commerce has noted possible elimination of the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EE/RE) division of the US Department of Energy. The White House Office of Management & Budget (OMB) has recommended a 20% decrease in EPA staff with a 25% decrease in programs including Brownfields, ENERGY STAR, Environmental Justice, Climate Change institutions and support for Alaskan villages. There could be a roll-back of CAFÉ standards for automobile gasoline mileage. The White House wants to keep California standards from being more stringent than federal standards. There is also a proposal to eliminate the Clean Power Plan.
  5. It is imperative that better ways to inform the general public about regional resiliency planning be found; KC should focus on neighborhoods with the possibility of a series of pilot projects. The City participated in the Stimulus program grant called the Better Buildings Neighborhood Program of the DOE and, as a result, the DOE online “Solutions Center” may have a range of such projects already implemented across the USA.
  6. There still remains the question of how to convey the sense of urgency given that climate change is a slow moving impending tragedy. How do we better tell the stories that can catalyze positive action?
- D. Retreat Priorities
  1. Education – Jensen Adams
    - a. The education work group did not meet this month
    - b. KC Native Plant Initiative has identified schools as a priority focus. A training session is being planned for April on native planting strategies.
    - c. KC Public Schools will have a representative speaking at the National Green Schools conference.
- E. Liaison Reports
  1. Air Quality – The forum meets next week ... No report
  2. LEED – No report
  3. Solid Waste Planning – No report

4. Climate Protection Steering Committee – Dennis Murphey – The primary presentation on the agenda was the STAR Rating System and results. Other items were deferred to the next meeting. Dennis will propose combining resiliency with the Climate Protection Plan. Dennis reported that the City’s budget is too tight for any new initiatives. There was general discussion about budget elements.
  5. Vacant Lots – No report
  6. Health Commission – No report
  7. Water Cost of Service Task Force – Carol Adams – The task force met yesterday and reviewed a range of recommendations. It was agreed that “growth should pay for growth” – which came out of the 2008 task force meetings. There remain questions about impact on low income households. It was noted that proceeds from late fee collection, of about \$1 million per year, do not carry the same restrictions as water rates and should be continued to be used to assist low income households with bills and for greater water access. There is a possible link to improving the efficiency of water service. There could be a special fee for customers only needing irrigation. However, this is difficult to account for and gets into demand management issues. The Water Services Department needs to update their systems.
- F. Office of Environmental Quality - Dennis Murphey, OEQ
1. City Council has, once again, approved participation by the City in the ShowMe Green Sales Tax Holiday with the State of Missouri the week surrounding Earth Day.
  2. Last Friday was the technical end of the City Energy Project (CEP). The contract for services of Jennifer Gunby has been extended through the end of March for a smoother transition. Jesse Fields has been hired by the City replacing JC Martel.
  3. On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Dennis made a presentation in St. Joseph to the Ecumenical Eco-justice group who are looking to start an EMC-type advisory group there.
  4. Next week, KCStat will meet on Tuesday and will discuss transportation and infrastructure; they will discuss new elements in the 5-Year Business Plan regarding resilience.
  5. Regional Climate Action Champions has drafted a resiliency strategy that Tom Jacobs hopes will be adopted by the MARC Board. Dennis will likely attend the National Adaptation Forum in Minnesota in May.
  6. Dennis, along with a representative of Denver, will jointly present on regional collaboration to achieve sustainability at the St. Louis Sustainability Summit April 5<sup>th</sup>.
  7. Aaron Shroyer is leaving Kansas City to join the staff of the Urban Institute in Washington, DC. STAR activities will be assigned to one of the new Cookingham-Noll Fellows to plan for the future.
  8. There will be a field trip next week with an urban ecology class from Pittsburgh State coming to Kansas City.
  9. A reminder that general bond elections are April 4<sup>th</sup>.
- G. Legal Brief – Matt Gigliotti – Not much activity to report ... The Presidential Executive Order regarding Waters of the State is to be revised based on the Scalia test. This is interesting in that the Scalia test was a dissent position of the Supreme Court.
- H. Old Business – Environmental Achievement Awards – Dennis Murphey
1. An agreement was reached with the photographer for the awards so the process is back on track. Staff was asked to secure use of the auditorium for the awards as was done in 2016.
  2. New Business - Following a brief discussion regarding potential new meeting space, Commissioners authorized staff to secure meeting space at the Health Department at 2400 Troost.
- I. Visitor Remarks – Gentry Craig – Many businesses have to disclose sustainability practices. How can we convince local businesses to take action? A suggestion was made that the EMC might collaborate, in some way, with the Green Business Network of Bridging The Gap.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 pm

**The next EMC meeting is:           April 12, 2017  
  4:00 pm to 6:00 pm  
  MARC - 600 Broadway, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor - Westview Meeting Room**