

**BLUE EARTH COUNTY
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 15, 2011**

The Environmental Services Advisory Committee met on Thursday, September 15, 2011 in the 3rd Floor Conference room of the Environmental Services Department in the Gov't Center at 3:45 pm. Present were: Dan Sargent, Joe Kubicek, Kip Bruender and Charlie Hurd; Scott Fichtner, Dave Kronlokken and Vickie Finnegan of the Environmental Services Department. Not present were: Brooke McGuire and Patty Woodruff.

Dan Sargent, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Joe Kubicek moved and Kip Bruender seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried.

Kip Bruender moved and Joe Kubicek seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the meetings of March 17th, May 19th and July 21, 2011. The motion carried.

Scott Fichtner and Dave Kronlokken, Environmental Services, introduced Larry Biederman, President of LJP Waste & Recycle, LLC. Larry introduced his Office Manager, Vickie Michels. Larry presented a brief history of his company and the facilities associated with his business. The committee was shown a DVD of the different aspects of his company. Larry also talked about his new facility being built in North Mankato. This facility will be used for industrial recycling and for his company offices. The building is 40,000 square feet, will have 25 loading docks, two balers and one shredder. The committee is scheduled to have a tour of this facility for their November 17th meeting.

There was no Recycling Education Committee report.

Kip Bruender, County Commissioner, presented the following update: County Board tour of the different solid waste facilities for Blue Earth County, County Board set the preliminary levy at 3% with the hopes of getting it down to 0% increase for 2012, Bob is making great progress in his new job as County Administrator, the County is in good financial shape and can use reserves if necessary, the County Board appreciates all the furloughs and early retirements taken by staff to help preserve finances for the County.

Charlie Hurd, City of Mankato Council member, presented the following update: the City has set their preliminary levy for 2012 at 5% for which the City will have to make up \$1.4 million, Annual Night to Unite parties, downtown seal coat projects, water station in the new Riverfront Park, sewer replacement project on Riverfront Drive, crime up in the City for burglaries & thefts, LEC asbestos removal, public housing at 3% vacancy rate compared to 1% vacancy rate for the County, Riverfront Park usage very successful, transformation of Cherry & Warren streets to two-way should be completed in about two weeks.

Scott Fichtner, Environmental Services Department, presented the following: **Commissioner Tour of Solid Waste Facilities, Dan Linehan, Free Press reporter, was also present; Ponderosa Landfill:** Re-permitting, Stormwater control/road construction project, French drain installation, Leachate collection ponds, Gas collection system and flair repairs, Climate Action Reserve application, Proposed building, Bulky waste pricing, Industrial Solid Waste Management Plan, Wilmarth new cell and cap construction; **Solid Waste and Recycling:** Prairieland Compost Facility, Waste Management changes, Pharmaceuticals disposal planning; **Household Hazardous Waste:** New fence, Parking lot improvements, Season will end on October 25th; **Miscellaneous:** Credit card for both the Department and Ponderosa, Zoning ordinance being updated, Well Delegation Program meeting, Julie Roisen, Taxpayer Services is leaving, Strategic Planning Process. **The next scheduled meeting is November 17th which will be a tour of LJP Enterprises.**

The following informational articles were distributed: **Free Press:** "Trash Tour Puts Garbage Under Spotlight", "New Building May Be Coming to Landfill", "Praireland Plan: More Wilmarth Fuel", "Compost at Home", "E-Waste Needs National Strategy", "River Study: Little Improvement in 20 Years", "Innovative Plan Uses Natural Materials to Prevent Erosion, Save Homes", "County OKs Refuge Expansion", "Energy-Efficient Couple's Goal is to be Living in Neutral", "Green is a Go", "Going Green Saves Money for City", "U of M Plant Going Greener", "LED Light Bulbs Gaining Traction", "Shedding Some Light on Energy-Saving Bulbs", "Scientists Digging Into Climates Past", "Panel: U.S. Must Act to Curb Global Warming", "Warming Ocean Could Melt Ice Faster Than Thought", "Climate Change Harms Great Lakes Parks", "Americans

Rely on EPA Experts", "State Shutdown Impacts County, Services"; **NACo County News:** "Waters of the US' Guidance: Impact on Counties, tips on Responding", "Farmers Use Clean Diesel, Save Money, Reduce Pollution"; **Duluth News Tribune:** "Walker, GOP Propose Changing Environmental Laws", "Wetland Protection Vital to Sustain Healthy Wildlife Population"; **Star Tribune:** "Hennepin Seeks to Pick Up Pace of Recycling", "Minneapolis Makes Recycling Mandatory for All", "New Way to Recycle that Ubiquitous Plastic", "MPCA Fines Firm Over Waste Hazards", "Plastic Powers a Lake Cleanup", "Counterpoint: Industry Misleads on Tile Drainage", "Counterpoint: Tile Drainage Does Good, Not Harm", "Its Almost Time to Change the Bulb", "Bulb Naysayers Should See the Light", "Our Climate is Warmer, Wetter Than Before", "Warmer is the New Normal", "Arctic Ice Cover is Close to a Record Low", "Republicans Shift on Climate Change", "Pine Trees Found Threatened by Climate Change", "Attacks on the EPA", "Obama Abandons EPA Plan to Tighten Smog Standards", "Environmentalists in Shock Over Obama's Policy Switch", "A Bad But Realistic Decision on EPA", "Sand Mining Boom Spurs County Debate"; **Waste & Recycling News:** "Collection Days May be History", "E-Waste Exports in the Crosshairs", "Illinois Strengthens Its E-Waste Law", "Opinion Cartoon".

There was no Old Business.

There was no New Business.

The next advisory committee meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2011 which will be a tour of LJP Enterprises. Information and a map will be sent out as to the time of the tour and how to get to LJP Enterprises.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:15 pm.