

Sustainable Marshfield Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2008

The monthly meeting of the Sustainable Marshfield Committee was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Marty Anderson in the Executive Conference Room, City Hall Plaza

Members Present: Carl Scott, Dan Umhoefer, Sue Meyer, Chris Meyer, Marty Anderson, Alderman Hansen

Others Present: Steve Koran, Leadership Marshfield; Randy Lueth, citizen; Ron Dickrell, Wastewater Utility

Discussion about changes to the minutes, specifically:

Change the sentence "presentation regarding our poor water supply" (4th to last paragraph) to "presentation regarding a potential pollution threat to the city's water supply".

Motion to approve the minutes by Dan Umhoefer, second by Alderman Hansen, All Ayes

Citizens Comments

Sue discussed a meeting being held in Madison on April 18th for Eco-Municipalities

Sue Also discussed the need for the committee to put more momentum behind a requirement that the new power plant's costs include funding for energy conservation efforts. We are not focusing enough on reducing demand, only on meeting constantly rising demand

Sue Introduced Randy Lueth. Randy is new to Marshfield. He is a landscape architect specializing in sustainable practices. He recently attended a professional development event regarding sustainability in municipalities. This event included discussions on incorporating sustainable ideas in to TIF creation as well as presentations on how Madison has accomplished some of their sustainable initiatives.

Steve Koran introduced himself to the group. Steve is a representative of a Leadership Marshfield project team that is working on a monthly column in the Marshfield News-Herald to discuss sustainable topics.

Item F was moved up in the Agenda as Mr. Koran needed to leave.

Koran discussed that his group is working with the Newspaper Editor to create a monthly, 400 word, column focused on sustainability. HE offered to start the process by writing the first few articles, then the committee would need to setup a schedule of members and community advocates to write future articles.

There was a consensus that this is a great idea and one the committee has discussed at our strategic planning meeting.

Koran's group will move forward and continue this project.

Ron Dickrell discussed the Mercury Green Tier, a charter that Marshfield is participating in with the Wisconsin DNR. This charter will help identify points in which mercury can enter our wastewater system.

Our current facility does not remove mercury...most facilities nationwide do not.

Currently, the accepted discharge of mercury is 1.3 parts per trillion. We are around 3 times that. A single broken mercury thermometer can spike mercury concentration to 100 times the acceptable limit

Major sources of mercury are Dentists' offices. Most larger facilities in Marshfield have separators to remove mercury from their wastewater prior to it entering our system. Some of the older dental offices may not. This is one of the many tasks Ron is working on as part of this charter agreement.

Mercury has often been used in products to make their color more vibrant. In most cases this has been eliminated or greatly reduced. Examples given included Zest soap and Kool-aid!

With Ron on hand, many questions were asked of him, including the likelihood that the State would pass a ban on phosphorous next year. Ron thought this was likely, and noted that there is an Assembly Bill regarding this already drafted.

The decision was made to holdover the ordinance until the next meeting so everyone could evaluate the ordinance.

There was specific mention made to the fact that run off impacts storm water discharge, which is untreated and released directly into Mill Creek. Phosphorus in wastewater (generally from humans) is treated indirectly. Currently the water coming in to the plant has about 10 parts phosphorus per million; upon leaving it is down to about 1 part per million.

Set date for Mid-Year Retreat.

Date set for August 23rd @ the MPL

Pollution Controls for Power Plant

Energy Conservation Plan needed

We need to verify that flexible fuel can be used in the proposed facility, specifically methane

No state or Federal mandates on CO2 emissions, we need to be proactive in requiring scrubbers, etc...

There are discrepancies on the amount of run time this facility will see. One report says no more than 5 hours, another says as much as 8200 hours annually (8200 hours = 341 days)

May 15th there will be a public hearing on the proposed plant, we need to answer these questions before then.

A special meeting was planned for April 22nd at 5:00pm at the MPL to discuss these issues and formulate a response for the public hearing. Joe Pacovsky is requested to attend that meeting.

Call to Adjourn at 6:45 by Carl Scott and seconded by Josh Hansen

Respectfully submitted

Chris Meyer