

**MEETING OF THE ELK RIVER
ENERGY CITY COMMISSION
HELD AT ELK RIVER MUNICIPAL UTILITIES
ELK RIVER, MN
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2008**

Members Present: Todd Berreman, Denny Chuba, Vance Zehringer, John Setala, Mayor Stephanie Klinzing, Bruce Sayler, Maureen Griffiths for Deb Walters

Members Absent: Bryan Adams, Arne Engstrom, Stephen Rohlf, Susie Overholser

Others Present: Martin Gagliardi, Resource Recovery Technologies
Maggie Mattacola, Recycling Association of MN (RAM), Recycle MORE campaign
Ralph Jacobson, Innovative Power Systems
Annie Deckert, Elk River Economic Development Department

Staff Present: Jeff Gongoll, Community Development Director
Rebecca Haug, Environmental Administrator
Nicola (Nicki) Blake-Bradley, Environmental Technician

The regular meeting of the Energy City Commission was called to order by Chair Zehringer at 1:32 p.m. Martin (Marty) Gagliardi was welcomed and introduced as a person interested in becoming a member representing Resource Recovery Technologies. Once he has been approved by the City Council, Marty will be the newest member of the Commission. The commissioners present introduced themselves.

1. **Consider November 19, 2008 ECC Agenda**

Environmental Administrator Haug added two updates to "Other" for Commissioner Overholser on "Little People, Big World and an update. Chair Zehringer added one item to "Other" as well... an update on photovoltaics and finished by giving a brief Energy House III update.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SAYLER AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SETALA TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

2. **Consider October , 2008 ECC Minutes**

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SAYLER AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SETALA TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED WITH NO CHANGES. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

3. **Presentation by Maggie Mattacola, RAM, Recycle MORE Campaign**

Ms. Mattacola presented the concept of the Recycle MORE campaign, what has been done and what will be forthcoming from the campaign yet. She stated the goal is to have residential recycling participation for the State at 50% within five years (by 2012). The average for the State was at 41% at the beginning and is currently at 43 – 44%.

Two focus groups were held. The results of surveys showed that people are motivated to recycle or NOT to recycle because of the following reasons:

- It's the right thing to do
- There is confusion about what's recyclable – label confusion
- Being able to recycle at home, but not at work or away from home
- How, why, where to recycle
- It needs to be simple and convenient or waste gets tossed
- Environment and Legacy ethics are important

A toolkit was developed with posters, postcards, media messages, press releases, etc. for use by anyone wanting to promote recycling. The toolkit is available at www.recyclemoreminnesota.org

Ms. Mattacola discussed the event recycling that was organized by RAM and Recycle MORE campaigns as well as the Message in a Bottle program. She stated that bins are available for check out for events. She will send information on the contact person to Rebecca or Nicki. Bins are also available for purchase. RAM is the distributor.

Commissioner Chuba questioned whether there are any plans to expand the program to construction and demolition debris. Discussion followed regarding items such as treated lumber and asphalt shingles. Ms. Mattacola stated that the campaign is looking for stakeholders and invited anyone interested to get involved.

4. **Presentation by Ralph Jacobson, Innovative Power Systems**

Mr. Jacobson was present to discuss solar photovoltaics (PV) systems. He began by discussing solar thermal versus photovoltaics. With solar thermal systems, water is heated by the panels. With PV systems, extra power can be sold back to the utility. The biggest demand for hot water is during the summer months (more laundry and showers), which coincidentally is the best time for heating water with solar systems.

Solar is the demand side efficiency goal of CIP carve out dollars. Commissioner Berreman agreed that CenterPoint Energy is viewing solar as a more viable source of energy. Mr. Jacobson stated that photovoltaics are attractive because it "hits the point of pain first". A 50 – 60% reduction in gas consumption is possible with solar water heat.

Mr. Jacobson discussed bulk purchasing systems. He stated that photovoltaics have an 80/20 ratio... meaning 80% of the cost is in the materials and 20% is in labor. A lot more PV systems have to be sold to create green jobs. He was able to offer a \$1,500 discount if 20 systems were purchased in an area. He stated that inflation has not been kind to his business. Systems that cost \$7,500 now cost \$10,000. He added that he has a structural engineer look at roofs to make sure that wind load is accounted for (snow load is not a problem). Each panel weighs approximately 150 lbs. and the steel bases are considerably heavier (steel construction).

Mr. Jacobson can be reached at 612-623-3246 or through the website at www.ips-solar.com

5. **Project Conserve Update**

Environmental Administrator Haug stated that several kick off meetings have been held. There are 36 participating households. An overwhelming level of e-mail interaction has been going on with good results so a blog is being developed for the website. The Star News has also expressed a lot of interest and wants to follow a family's experience through the process. They are also looking for three families that would be interested in blogging on the Star News' website. Joni Astrup will also be placing a weekly tip in the paper with the Energy City logo for the year.

Center Point Energy has taken the lead for the blower door tests (with financial assistance from ERMU). Blower door tests will be conducted in December or January. Follow up meetings will be held at the end of

January (26th and 27th). The Building Official or building inspectors will come to the January meetings to discuss building codes and safety, permits, etc. to ensure no participants do something without necessary approvals. In the May meeting, the kids of the families will be involved.

Chair Zehringer stated his opinion that this is an excellent project for Energy City, but added that the subcommittee may need to call upon the other commissioners for assistance as time goes on due to limited staff time or availability.

Ms. Mattacola suggested contacting other larger media organizations with the message and results. Mayor Klinzing added that she hopes that at least one family will want to “push the envelope” with this program and do a “major” project.

Discussion of adding a “technology corner” (with internet links) to the newsletter or website followed. There was general agreement from the commissioners.

6. 2009 Energy Expo

Environmental Administrator Haug stated that the planning committee has met twice. She has put in a request for Twin Lakes Elementary with the High School as a back up. Chair Zehringer is looking into getting a keynote speaker (hoping for Bill Hudson or Don Shelby from WCCO). She added that budgets are really tight this year and so sponsors and exhibitors will be heavily relied upon.

7. Other

Commissioner Overholser was not present to show her “Little People, Big World” program or to give her update.

Chair Zehringer passed out a photocopy of the first three pages of an article from *Public Power* which discussed some photovoltaic innovations by three California based companies which may reduce the cost from \$10/watt to \$1/watt. If this happens, photovoltaic systems will be much more affordable to implement. He expressed that he was very excited to hear of these innovations. Mr. Jacobson stated that he feels \$1/watt is likely a bit optimistic due to the 80/20 ratio. He added that \$2 - \$3/watt is a more reasonable expectation since “electricians don’t come cheap”.

Mayor Klinzing stated that she would like to form a strategic plan with the utilities to show that energy alternatives *can be* implemented and integrated into a community.

Chair Zehringer stated that Commissioner Adams will no longer be part of the Energy City Commission. He has asked Bryan to write a letter resigning his position.

8. Schedule next meeting

The December meeting would be held on December 17th, but only two items are on the agenda at this time. Chair Zehringer stated that if the commission is okay with the Energy Expo subcommittee continuing to plan for the event, then the meeting could be cancelled and planned for January. The next regularly scheduled meeting for the Energy Expo will be on December 10th at 10:30 a.m. in the Uppertown Conference Room. The next energy city commission meeting will be on January 21, 2009.

9. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.