

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ELK RIVER  
ENERGY CITY COMMISSION  
HELD AT CONNEXUS ENERGY  
RAMSEY, MN  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2007**

Members Present: Ed Stoutenburg IV, Commissioner Rachel Leonard, Sharon Kampa, Dennis Chuba, Mayor Stephanie Klinzing, Todd Berreman, Chair Vance Zehringer, Brian Burandt, Bryan Adams,

Members Absent: Susie Overholser, Maureen Griffiths, Deb Walters, Greg Padden, Stephen Rohlf, Jeff Gongoll, and Alternate Arne Engstrom

Staff Present: Rebecca Haug, Environmental Administrator  
Nicola (Nicki) Blake-Bradley, Environmental Technician

Others Present: Tom Newman, MPCA Site Remediation

The special meeting of the Energy City Commission (ECC) was called to order at 1:34 p.m. by Chair Vance Zehringer.

**1. Consider November 21, 2007 ECC Agenda**

The agenda was approved as presented since no items could be added (a condition of a special meeting).

**2. Consider October 17, 2007 ECC Minutes**

MOTION BY MAYOR KLINZING AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER LEONARD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

**3. Energy Expo Update**

Environmental Administrator, Rebecca Haug gave an update (which was reflected in the staff memo in the packet). There will be no keynote speaker due to availability and cost of bringing in people with name recognition. The only commissioner present that disliked not having a keynote was Chair Zehringer. The other commissioners all agreed that this year was cost prohibitive for a keynote. The focus will be on Spectrum High School students with the 11<sup>th</sup> grade students participating in an "Energy Innovations" Science Fair. 15 submissions will be judged by the ECC commissioners. The ninth and tenth grade students will participate in a short film competition concerning what energy conservation means to them. Out of 90 submissions, the top 10 will be presented at the awards with the top three receiving awards. We plan to call it the "Energy Ennies". The Lion's Club will cater for the event.

Mayor Klinzing commented on her hope that the car dealers will participate with hybrids. Environmental Administrator Haug stated that Elk River Ford will be present as well as the MN Corn Growers Association. Commissioner Leonard questioned whether Amy Klobuchar would be a good choice for a keynote. Concerns were raised regarding whether a politician should be the keynote. This may be discussed in more detail at the December 11<sup>th</sup> subcommittee meeting.

The only speaker presentation will be from Utilities. Commissioners Burandt, Zehringer, and Berreman will be presenting the public with ideas for conservation and what the utilities can do for them. Discussion followed regarding whether time should be allocated for the politicians since it is an

election year. A suggestion was made to have an Energy Forum in the Fall before elections for the politicians to weigh in on their stance toward conservation. Mayor Klinzing volunteered to moderate the event.

4. **Commissioner Reappointments**

Several commissioners have missed a lot of meetings and some have their commitments ending. Environmental Administrator Haug stated that three unexcused absences in a row will be cause for removal from the commission. Discussion regarding various positions occurred. Mayor Klinzing felt it is important to have the school board member. Commissioner Leonard requested that Commissioner Engstrom be placed as the regular commissioner and that she take the alternate role. She stated that she feels it would be fair to him since he enjoys the commission as well. Commissioners Berreman and Kampa are nearing the end of their commitments. Commissioner Berreman will stay on, but Commissioner Kampa will be leaving. She will be sure to recommend someone for her position. Questions were raised concerning the status of Commissioners Rohlfs and Padden.

A comment was made that the time of the meeting and date (3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 1:30) may be a bad time for the commissioners who have had a lot of absences. Environmental Administrator Haug stated that she had no complaints regarding the date and time when she questioned the commission prior to going to the City Council for approval to set it at the current date and time.

5. **Andover Landfill Presentation**

Tom Newman, from the MPCA Closed Landfill program (Site Remediation) gave a presentation on the State's closed landfill program. He also discussed the installation of Sterling engines at the Andover Landfill.

There are 112 permitted landfills in the State of MN. There are currently 21 MSW (municipal solid waste) landfills. Mr. Newman's work involves post-closure care, construction activities, groundwater pump and treat systems, erosion control, and landfill gas extraction. He stated the Landfill Cleanup Act was enacted in 1994, but the active gas extraction was a result of (or reaction to) the Kyoto Protocol in 1997. Demolition debris landfills are not in the closed landfill program.

Active gas extraction works to control landfill gas migration, reduce greenhouse gas emission, reduce explosion potential, and remove VOC's to reduce groundwater contamination. The EPA states that 75% of landfill gas is captured.

Methane is approximately 40% of the landfill gases emitted. It is of special concern because it has 21 – 40 times the heat retention capability of carbon dioxide. Methane emissions in the US are the equivalent of 260 million barrels of oil.

In 2006, 18 closed landfills with active gas extraction removed more than 28 million pounds of methane. Production peaks at landfill closure and then steadily declines. Sterling engines work on poor quality landfill gas with low concentrations of methane (30 cubic feet per minute). They are quiet and have no fuel compression. They are also 80% efficient. Four engines were installed and started in April, 2007 at the Andover landfill.

6. **Schedule next ECC Meeting**

The next ECC meeting will be held on December 19, 2007 at Elk River City Hall. Anyone with additions to the agenda is asked to submit them to Rebecca as soon as possible.

7. **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m. to tour the Andover landfill engine room.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nicola Blake-Bradley  
Environmental Technician