

**MEETING OF THE ELK RIVER  
ENERGY CITY COMMISSION  
HELD AT ELK RIVER CITY HALL  
ELK RIVER, MN  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2007**

Members Present: Rachel Leonard, Stephanie Klinzing, Todd Berreman, Bryan Adams, Maureen Griffiths, Ed Stoutenburg IV, Brian Burandt, Jeff Gongoll, Dennis Chuba, Stephen Rohlf,

Members Absent: Vance Zehringer, Sharon Kampa, Susie Overholser, Deb Walters, Alternate Arne Engstrom, Greg Padden

Staff Present: Rebecca Haug, Nicki Blake-Bradley

Others Present: John Exner, Sherburne County Solid Waste Department  
Ellen Telander, Recycling Association of MN (RAM)

Meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m. by Vice Chair Ed Stoutenburg IV

**1. Consider, August 15, 2007 ECC Agenda**

Ms. Haug requested the addition of one item regarding a meeting that Senator Jungbauer will host under "Other".

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

**2. Consider June 20, 2007 ECC Minutes**

Minutes were approved as presented.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER ADAMS AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER LEONARD TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED. COMMISSIONERS ROHLF AND GONGOLL ABSTAINED. ALL OTHERS VOTED AYE. MOTION CARRIED.

**3. Presentation by Ellen Telander, Recycling Association of MN (RAM)**

Ellen Telander was present to discuss the ways that recycling can affect global warming in a positive way by reducing green house gas emissions. She gave a Power Point presentation on the "Recycle MORE Minnesota" campaign designed to increase recycling state wide to 50% by 2011. Currently the City of Elk River's recycling participation rate (city wide) is an average of 50% which is up from an overall average of 48.4% in 2006 (Ms. Blake-Bradley did not have the exact recycling numbers of each product recycled to share).

Ms. Telander also discussed the "Message in a Bottle" recycling pilot project in McCloud County, which focuses on recycling away from home (main focus is at gas stations) and puts people with disabilities to work for more than minimum wage jobs.

The commissioners questioned Ms. Telander on logistics of the Message in a Bottle campaign. She stated that RAM will set up and manage the program if sponsor counties or cities are willing to supply the initial start up fees. Once the program is under way, it generates revenue to pay for itself. The costs vary depending upon what equipment the vocational centers already have or need to purchase. A

baler, forklift, bins and liners are the main expenditures initially. Gasoline and sorting costs are potential additional start up costs that would need to be covered initially.

The pilot project has shown that there is very little contamination in the message bottles due to the shape of the hole and the coverings within the hole which must have a hard surface to penetrate. People have driven up and deposited recyclables, then driven off without getting gasoline, and “unlikely looking people have participated” per Ms. Telander. She has already obtained the cooperation and support of Corporate Super America, although she must obtain regional contract agreements.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER GONGOLL AND SECOND BY COMMISSIONER KLINZING TO HAVE THE ENERGY CITY COMMISSION RECOMMEND TO THE CITY COUNCIL TO STRONGLY SUPPORT THE PROGRAM. MOTION CARRIED.

4. **Status of Energy City Designation**

Under the omnibus bill, Elk River was referred to as “an” Energy City, not “the” Energy City for the State. Chances are that no other cities will pursue the process of being named “Energy City” as well, but if they do, Elk River will have the option of contesting the use since the word marks “Energy City” have been registered to Elk River. Commissioner Rohlf stated this gives Elk River the opportunity to *make* itself the State’s Energy City.

5. **Three Year Plan Discussion**

Ms. Haug stated that Commissioners Zehringer, Rohlf, and Stoutenburg met with herself and the Community Development Director, Scott Clark to discuss the three year plan that she drafted. She discussed changes to the plan including altering the focus of the Energy Expo periodically to keep it “fresh”. Commissioner Rohlf added that the overriding theme of the plan is to make the entire city a demonstration site.

Discussion of CIP programs followed. Commissioner Adams commented that the CIP program is changing at the state level. He added that they (ERMU) are having trouble finding meaningful projects to fund with the amount of CIP dollars they need to spend. There is an opportunity for the Energy City Commission to be involved in advocating for meaningful projects.

Ms. Haug commented that she will give the City Council an update on the Energy Expo with the three year plan on Monday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

A comment was made regarding the potential for a no interest loan program using CIP funds for initial start up capital. A suggestion was made to add an item to the 2008 portion of the plan... to make visits to companies to entice them to settle in Elk River.

A subcommittee to conduct site visits was formed consisting of Commissioners Rohlf, Gongoll, Stoutenburg, Burandt, and Klinzing. Anyone else interested in being on the committee should contact Ms. Haug.

A hydro-electric pilot project is being considered by utilities. Discussion followed regarding hydro power versus methane and regulations. Discussion also followed regarding the GRE microturbine, methanol, and biodiesel.

6. **Other**

Senator Mike Jungbauer will be hosting a meeting this evening at 7:00 p.m. in Ramsey concerning the “Hot Air” surrounding Global Warming and his feelings on the topic. City Councilman Motin will be attending and would like an Energy City Commissioner (or more) to attend as well. All commissioners present felt the notice was too short or had other commitments and could not attend.

Vice Chair Stoutenburg stated that the Resource Recovery Technologies (RRT) Facility will be hosting a Hauler Brat Feed on Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. He invited everyone to attend (and take a tour if interested). He mentioned a “new” aluminum separator that has been added to the process which might be of interest.

John Exner gave a brief update to the commission regarding the amount of participation in the County’s HHW (household hazardous waste) collection events. Four collection events (six days total) were held throughout the county with the final event being a three day event in the city of Elk River on August 7 – 9<sup>th</sup>. A total of 1,346 households were served during the four events with 651 being served during the Elk River event alone. Veolia Environmental Services worked the Elk River event.

**7. Schedule next ECC Meeting and Identify Agenda Items**

The next ECC meeting will be held **September 19, 2007 in the Uppertown Conference Room at City Hall**. A speaker will be scheduled on E-85 – Clean Air Choice. The tour of the Andover Landfill Sterling Engine site has been postponed until the PCA can determine a time. Commissioner Klinzing will not be able to attend.

One item for the agenda will be an update on the Federal Trademark process. If anyone has additional agenda items for the next meeting, please let Ms. Haug know.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Nicki Blake-Bradley  
Environmental Technician