

MINUTES - ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEETING 3/26/09

The meeting was called to order @ 6:31 PM, Thursday, March 26, 2009, in the North Conference Room @ 21630 11th Avenue South, Des Moines with the following in attendance:

Council Members

Scott Thomasson – Chairman
Bob Sheckler
Dave Kaplan

City Staff

Lorri Ericson, Assistant City Manager
Grant Fredricks, Director PB&PW
Loren Reinhold - Asst. Dir. Envir. & Utilities
Ruth Famurewa - NPDES Permit Coordinator
Linda Wright – Administrative Assistant

Guests

None

Meeting Agenda:

1. Approve minutes from February 26, 2009, committee meeting
2. Cost-benefit analysis for a City vehicle washing facility.
3. NPDES permit DMMC changes
4. Interlocal Agreements w/Normandy Park for 1) decant and 2) maintenance of 1st Ave pond

1. Minutes from January 22, 2009, were unanimously approved.

2. Loren handed out cost-benefit analysis for City vehicle washing facility to prevent illicit dumping of rinse water into storm drains to be in compliance w/NPDES permit by August 15, 2009. Handout indicated breakdown between light vehicles and heavy vehicles, indicating annual cost, staff costs, costs per wash, etc. The document also indicated cost of installing/operating our own facility.

- Committee was surprised at cost for heavy vehicles. Committee was interested in using other's facilities. Staff reported that smaller jurisdictions don't have ability or are not willing to do other jurisdictions.
- Suggestion was made the Police Officers who take vehicles home be responsible for washing own vehicle.
- If installed City washing station, would be SE corner of Mtce. Service Facility on S.223rd.
- Several ideas were made about offering vehicle washing to school/community fund raisers but liability and logistics are negative factors; obtaining drivers for the vehicles to the facility, supervision, etc.
- Committee members questioned whether timing was appropriate for building the facility given the state of the City's budget.

➤ Committee agreed that the big issue is the heavy vehicles and staff was asked to check into some outside/private entities i.e. Mack Truck, Kenworth to perhaps contract with them on an off-peak hour. Due to the minimal cost for washing light vehicles at the local car wash and the desire to support local business, the Committee wanted to focus on dealing with heavy vehicles that can not be washed at the local car wash and has the highest cost to the City.

2. NPDES permit requiring changes in DMMC to prevent Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) by 8/15/09. Current code 18.86.340 meets requirement prohibits surface water contamination. The City is required to prohibit connections to storm system and specify non-stormwater discharges into our system. One of the biggest issues is car washing which is not

prohibited but rinse water is not allowed into storm system. **Dept. of Ecology is suggesting an education approach vs rigid enforcement - Committee agreed w/that approach.**

- Staff indicated there was a "dumping hot line" for citizens to report illicit dumping. Committee requested Ruth to have placed on Cable site for citizens to view and that be placed in City Currents Des Moines Directory page.
 - Councilmember Kaplan does not want to worry about residential people washing car in driveway at this time.
 - Concentrate on illegal/commercial dumping i.e. picture that was presented of rug/furniture cleaning dumping waste water into storm drain.
 - Chairman Thomasson wants to be proactive somewhere ahead of the minimum requirements but not to the maximum due to time, money, enforcement tools, etc. Believes City should work on education, low level enforcement and work with tools currently available i.e. DMMC, new developments, covenants, access to private retention sites to be sure they are maintained properly new after 2/17/09.
 - Committee agreed to amend DMMC 1.28.020 to include Title 11 (IDDE Ordinance); 1.28.070 right of entry for civil violations and 1.28.060 to cover city costs associated with cleanup, testing staff time, etc.
- Staff was asked about biodegradable soaps (expensive) or the use of car wash kits for condos. Each condominium/apartment complex would need to be reviewed to determine what treatment facilities are available on the site that can effectively treat wash water. Staff believes the property owner would only be in violation once untreated stormwater enters the City system.
 - O & M (Operation & Maintenance) of private facilities. City used to maintain several dozen private facilities (with agreements) until about 10 years ago. Aging systems probably haven't been looked at since and in some annexation areas were never maintained by the City. Committee agreed to amend DMMC to include O&M of all private facilities and not just those constructed after 2/17/09. Staff will need to determine where best to utilize staff time for inspecting and enforcing O&M of private facilities and focus on those likely to be the most problematic.

4. Interlocal Agreements with Normandy Park: Decant / Maintenance 1st Ave. Pond

- Right now there's only an informal verbal agreement that Des Moines can use their decant facility in exchange for our maintenance vactoring Normandy Park's catch basins.
- 1st Ave Pond needs to be expanded as mitigation for the City's North Hill trunkline (eliminated flooding from 4th Place)- 1st part of trunk line built 10 years ago; 2nd half needs to get done as the last 2 big storms properties were being flooded along 199th. Believe the sooner this is done the better. In the agreement with WSDOT, Normandy Park is responsible for maintaining the 1st Avenue Pond. Normandy Park has requested assistance from Des Moines as a significant amount of runoff is from Des Moines and not 1st Avenue.
- Committee would like staff to proceed in working on an interlocal agreement exchanging decant usage for maintenance to the 1st Avenue Pond.
- IILA regarding 1st Ave. Pond should be done as soon as possible due to liability issue.

Adjourned @ 7:25 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Linda Wright, Administrative Assistant