

---

**Environmental Advisory Council**  
**Tuesday, February 24, 2015**

The regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council was held on the above date for the transaction of general business in the Public Works conference room.

EAC members present –D. Beane, A. Molteni, C. Curran-Myers, C. White

Others present – S. Katzenmoyer, D. Hoag, B. Kelly, F. Denbowski

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Curran-Myers called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was one member of the public in attendance. He did not wish to make comment.

**MINUTES**

**Motion was made by Mr. Beane, seconded by Ms. White, to approve the January 27, 2015 minutes as written. Motion carried unanimously.**

**ORDINANCES**

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that she, Ms. Hoag, and Ms. Katzenmoyer attended the January meeting of the Planning Commission. She stated that the Planning Commission members had many questions and there was good discussion. She stated that based on the questions and discussion, the ordinances need further revisions. She stated that the subcommittee continues to meet and the ordinances will be delayed for introduction to Council.

Mr. Molteni questioned why County regulations were not used to draft the ordinances. Ms. Katzenmoyer explained that the PA Municipalities Planning Code requires the County Planning Commission review all municipality's zoning regulations. They provide comment as needed. She explained that the County does not have municipality specific zoning.

The committee will meet on Friday, February 27 at 2:30 to continue their work.

Mr. Beane and Ms. White will also attend the committee work session.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that the City Planning Commission requested maps to accompany the steep slope and riparian buffer overlays. She stated that she is concerned with this request as maps may cause more legal battles and would be difficult to keep updated. She stated that she is working on language that will address their concern without maps.

Ms. Hoag suggested a reference to maps as is used by FEMA for floodplains.

### **STAR INIATIVES**

Mr. Kelly stated that the City's work to date will be submitted on Friday with an estimated 235 points which should achieve three stars. He noted the need to focus on innovative processes.

### **ZERO WASTE RESOLUTION**

The amended resolution was reviewed. Ms. Curran-Myers expressed the belief that the subcommittee did a great job.

Mr. Denbowski stated that he has been elected to the Executive Board of Municipal Waste Management, a committee through the Conference of Mayors. He stated that there are hundreds of participants nationwide. He stated that the topic of the first meeting was zero waste.

Mr. Denbowski stated that the new language preferred by US EPA is "sustainable materials management" rather than "zero waste". He stated that zero waste remains a goal but that the new terminology better captures the entire process and is a systematic approach. He recommended that the language of the resolution be amended.

Mr. Denbowski stated that he will share additional information with the subcommittee after the executive board's next meeting. He stated that when the resolution is adopted, Reading will receive national attention.

Mr. Molteni expressed the belief that in a capitalist society there will never be zero waste.

Ms. Curran-Myers thanked Mr. Denbowski for his report. She stated that it is

typical for State and Federal agencies to change terminology. She stated that the public understands the zero waste concept and that the key will be marrying zero waste with the new terminology in the resolution.

Ms. Hoag stated that upon quick review, the resolution will require only minimal changes. Mr. Denbowski agreed.

Mr. Kelly suggested that the subcommittee meet again after Mr. Denbowski submits the additional information.

Mr. Beane stated that the initial recommendation was that this resolution be before Council by May. He questioned if this would still be possible. Ms. Katzenmoyer expressed the belief that it would be as resolutions do not require a layover period.

Mr. Kelly left the meeting at this time.

Ms. Hoag suggested tying the adoption of the resolution with the Earth Day celebration. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that this would be Council's April 27 meeting and recommended that Ms. Curran-Myers attend the Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss the resolution with Council.

### **RAIN BARREL EDUCATION**

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that an updated flyer has been prepared. She stated that the partnership with RACC is a good next step in this process.

Ms. Hoag stated that the flyer indicates that captured water can be used for pet consumption. Mr. Beane suggested that this reference be removed from the flyer. All members present agreed to the removal of this reference. Ms. Katzenmoyer will ensure that it is removed before submission to RAWA.

### **STORM WATER ISSUES**

Ms. Hoag stated that she recently attended a DEP seminar. She stated that an update was provided on the lawsuit with US EPA. She stated that municipalities were also informed that if a permit has not been received to date, they will not be received until at least 2018. She stated that the City's last permit is dated 2003. She stated that the Total Maximum Daily Load permit specs will focus on nutrients and sediment.

Mr. Molteni expressed the belief that polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) only becomes problematic when it is disturbed. He suggested that these areas not be disturbed.

Ms. Hoag stated that much good information was shared at the seminar.

### **MAYOR'S SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE/SOLID WASTE AND RECYCLING SUBCOMMITTEE**

No report.

### **BCTV**

Mr. Beane stated that he and Ms. Keppen taped a show covering the MS4 and stormwater regulations. He stated that the Berks County Conservation District is focusing on rain gardens.

Mr. Beane suggested that the March program include a youth panel arranged by Mr. Molteni. He stated that he will facilitate the program.

Mr. Molteni stated that he will arrange for 3 – 4 people to participate.

The show will air on Thursday, March 26 at 6:30 pm.

Ms. Curran-Myers suggested that members think about possible topics for the May program.

### **CITY OWNED DAMS**

No report.

### **CLEAN POWER PLAN**

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that the PA Municipal League is encouraging municipalities to pass this legislation in support of Clean Power.

Mr. Denbowski left the meeting at this time.

The draft resolution was reviewed.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that, to her knowledge, the language is accurate. She stated that it is helpful to both agencies (DEP and US EPA) to hear from

municipalities. She stated that this resolution will not necessarily mean additional regulation.

Ms. Hoag suggested adding the year to several statistical references. Ms. White agreed and stated that it will set a better framework for the references.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that some climate issues are difficult to prove as a consequence of climate change. She stated that the first “whereas” clause should either be removed or corrected.

Mr. Beane agreed and stated that the phrase climate change is like a lightning rod.

Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she will revise the resolution and distribute it via email for further review.

### **EMERALD ASH BORER**

Ms. Katzenmoyer reviewed the meeting summary and information provided at the Shade Tree Commission meeting on February 2.

Mr. Molteni voiced opposition to the removal of trees. He questioned if a representative of DEP was present at the meeting. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that there was not.

Ms. White stated that she is willing to volunteer to complete the tree inventory on City-owned property.

There was a discussion on the replacement plan.

Ms. Curran-Myers thanked Ms. Katzenmoyer for attending the meeting and for sharing the information. She noted the need for the EAC to have additional information before comment is made or a position taken. She requested the power point shown at the Shade Tree Commission meeting for additional details. Ms. Katzenmoyer stated that she will make the request and share the information if it is received.

## **2015 PRIORITIES**

Ms. Curran-Myers suggested that the EAC continue to work on rain barrel education. She stated that the ordinances are in the final stages and other projects are needed.

Ms. Hoag stated that any initiative relating to storm water should be documented for the City's storm water education requirements.

Ms. Curran-Myers suggested that discussions begin on green infrastructure. She stated that Reading is very progressive in environmental issues but that this has not yet been addressed. She stated that the City contains many abandoned, concreted areas.

Ms. Hoag suggested a project where impervious surfaces are removed to create a rain garden. She stated that private funding would be needed. She suggested that if a site within the City cannot be obtained, one within the Wyomissing Creek watershed should be considered as it will help reduce sediment in the Creek. She stated that this would benefit the City.

Mr. Molteni stated that green issues must be addressed by the City for better livability by residents. He stated that when he discusses these issues with City officials the lack of funding and liability issues are always cited.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that small rain gardens are achievable by property owners. She stated that traffic islands are also perfect locations.

Ms. Hoag stated that there are areas of the City without public collection systems and that these areas should be targeted.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that there are many grants available for these installations. She stated that many of the grants require an educational outreach component.

Mr. Molteni stated that this could be integrated into the rain barrel workshops to meet the educational component.

Ms. Hoag stated that during the research phase for the rain barrel regulations, many municipalities were found to have rain harvesting regulations. She

suggested that this be a topic to address industrial sites since rain barrels are more residential.

Ms. Curran-Myers stated that she has a power point presentation on this subject which she will present at the next meeting.

Mr. Beane stated that this would be a great way to jump start the discussion.

Ms. Hoag suggested an outreach to properties that will fall within the riparian buffer to encourage them to install rain gardens. Ms. Curran-Myers liked this idea and suggested a "riparian buffer makeover."

Ms. Hoag stated that she has a property in mind. Ms. Curran-Myers suggested working on the project jointly with the property owner to make improvements.

Mr. Molteni stated that education must continue. All agreed.

The next regular meeting of the Environmental Advisory Council will be held on Tuesday, March 24 at noon at the Public Works building.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by  
*Shelly Katzenmoyer, CMC*  
Deputy City Clerk