

Environmental Quality Advisory Board

Regular Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2015

A. Call to Order: The regular meeting of the Environmental Quality Advisory Board (EQAB) was held at the Municipal Training Room. The meeting convened at 7:00 PM with Steve Kenworthy, chairman, presiding.

1. Members in attendance: Bruce Applegate (Staff Liaison), Gray Dean, Rhonda Bogard, Joe Wood, Robert Kennedy, Donna Kridelbaugh, and Emma Milloway. Mark Watson also attended this meeting.

Members Absent: Marisol Bonnet, Pat Imperato, Paige Russell

Non-member guest: Marion Burger, LWV

2. Approval of Agenda: The agenda was modified by a motion to add discussion of EQAB's role to the Agenda from Ms. Kridelbaugh and seconded by Mr. Wood, and passed by the committee unanimously.
3. Approval of minutes from the June 4th meeting. The following changes were made to those minutes: (1) Corrected spelling of Donna Kridelbaugh in the Members in Attendance section. (2) Inserted the word "minutes" on A.3 after the date of May 7, 2015. (3) Under C. last paragraph, the third sentence was deleted and the following was inserted in its place: "Members were selected for a working group to develop a new CAP Progress Report. It was decided that the current greenhouse gas emissions model is sufficient." (4) Under D.1 Replaced 6.019 with 6,019. (5) Under D3. Replaced Three Rivers Bend with Three River Bend Area. (6) Under E.1 Replaced the first sentence with "There was a discussion about a letter to the editor (in the Knoxville News Sentinel) regarding a sign that was hidden in shore line brush at Melton Lake warning people of possible raw sewage". (7) Under E.1 Replaced the 2nd sentence ("Mr. Watson answered that it was probably an old sign and that the current fish were not contaminated") with "Mr. Watson published a response in the News Sentinel Letters to the Editor indicating that the sign was leftover from an old outfall location that was no longer in use, and the sign had been inaccessible by land." (8) Under E.3 Replaced the word recycling with the word "garbage".

B. High School Representatives Report- Students at ORHS are doing research on Wetlands. They will be participating in a workday this summer for students and will work on the rain garden.

C. Role of EQAB- Concern was expressed that EQAB's mission and its operations were not clearly defined. There was a desire for more City/City Council input and interaction. There were questions as to whether it was acceptable practice for EQAB members to bring up their own issues or to only address issues raised by City Council. Mr. Watson mentioned that City Council is focused on whatever issues are currently in the public's eye. The current environmental issue is the proposed DOE Landfill and EQAB could provide a citizen's look or interpretation on that. A

discussion of a work session on EQAB's role and its processes was placed under New Business topics.

D. Unfinished Business-

1. Climate Action Plan, working group report (Applegate, Bonnet, Kennedy, and Kridelbaugh):
 - Data compilation- addressed questions as to categorization of data (example was that schools are in the commercial category, and whether that should be separated out). Noted that Recycling is not incorporated into the Report.
 - Update on new CAP progress report- 2015 is a milestone year so there should be a community report card in graph form. For 2013 and 2014 and update of the data has been made and general report should be revised. Using the current reporting criteria and methodology, the GHS reduction Goals for the community sector for 2015 will not be met.
 - Input for City of Oak Ridge sustainability webpage updates- Discussed whether EQAB should be involved in the updates, as the CAP is a tool they provided to the City. Mr. Applegate indicated he was taking responsibility for keeping the report up to date, and we could provide reviews. EQAB could also be involved in the milestone updates for the public.
2. Three Bend Recommendation for Manhattan Project National Historic Park- There has been a delay in getting the Recommendation into the hands of City Council as other reviews and comments were being integrated. This has now caused concerns on the part of some board members. Mr. Kennedy made a motion to establish a work session to strengthen the Recommendation and allow it to be submitted to Council without further delay. Mr. Wood seconded. Motion passed with one 'Nay' and all other "Yay" votes. Motion later withdrawn (see item F.1. of these minutes).

E. Reports and Other Communications-

1. City Staff Report- Costs of City Recycling program- The Recycling program has a fixed cost to customers of \$7 per month. This compares to \$25 per month that Knoxville charges. The current contract with Waste Connections is in force until 2021. There is 82% participation in recycling, and there is about 1/3 as much recycling tonnage as waste. The overall tonnage of recycling is down from 2010 to 2015. Currently no businesses (including apartments) are included in the recycling contract. This might be an issue to be looked into. EQAB in the past has done a review of recycling practices and might periodically verify that correct practices continue to be in place. Bruce will draft a one page "Summary of Recycling Trends" and the Board will review it at our next meeting. A request was made that Mr. Applegate send Board Members a reminder email prior to each City Council meeting. Mr. Watson mentioned that these meetings will now be available via streaming, so in addition to the real-time programming on TV, they can be watched at any time on the computer. Two new members (one is a student representative) will join the board in August to fill our openings.
2. KACB- No Report

3. DOE, SSAB, ORRCA- Review of Recent Activities- The *Advocate* covers current SSAB activity and can be received electronically. A paper copy can also be provided at EQAB meetings if desired.

F. New Business-

1. Work Session- Mr. Wood made a motion to update the Three Bend recommendation over email and change our next work session to focus on EQAB's mission, rather than on the Three Bend Recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kennedy. The motion carried with one Nay vote. Mr. Kennedy will schedule the work session.
2. There was a discussion of public records law and open meeting policy governing when we communicate about issues. We are not approved for electronic discussions. It was requested to Mr. Watson that Boards be informed as to how they can legally communicate.
3. EQAB Input- Mr. Watson suggested that EQAB be provided a presentation on a proposal for the City wastewater treatment plant to accept treated wastewater from a radiological laundry facility. The City would interested in our review of this proposal.

G. Adjournment- A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Kennedy and seconded by Mr. Gray. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by R.S. Bogard for Pat Imperato

Stephen Kennedy, Chair