

Minneapolis Community Environmental Advisory Commission Meeting

Thursday April 14, 2016 4:00-6:00
Minneapolis City Hall Room 132

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Anna Abruzzese, Allan Campbell, Alejandro Ojeda Saint-Martin, Darrell Gerber, Dylan Bradford Kesti, Jenna Grove, Lisa Daniels, Michelle Stockness, Ricardo McCurley, Tony Hainault

Absent: Adam Arvidson, Andrew Murray, James Nash, Jen Kader, Meleah Houseknecht, Roxxanne O'Brien

Staff: Gayle Prest, Kelly Muellman, Patrick Hanlon, Siri Simons, Jenni Lansing

Guests: Greg Pratt (MPCA), Ned Brooks (MPCA), Katie Sheetz, Alyssa Johnson, Erin Niehoff, Ben Knutson (Hennepin County), Karen Soderberg (PHAC), Ahmed Hash, Mike Luke

4:05 Meeting called to order.

No quorum initially. Approval of April agenda and March minutes was postponed until later in the meeting. All attendees quickly went around and introduced themselves.

4:10 MnRiskS Presentation (Greg Pratt, PhD)

Gregory Pratt, PhD, from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency presented on the MPCA's Minnesota Risk Screening tool (MnRiskS). MnRiskS is a model that uses monitored data inputs to demonstrate human health risk to air pollutants across the state of Minnesota. Greg described the different inputs (point, area, on-road mobile, non-road mobile) and outputs (cancer risks and non-cancer risks health risks) and discussed the benefits and disadvantages of using monitored versus modeled data. MnRiskS can be evaluated by geographic region, source of emission, pollutant, exposure pathway or receptor scenario. Greg discussed the equity issues related to air pollution exposure, health risk and demographics. The MPCA Life and Breath report describes this in more detail for the Twin Cities [<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/life-and-breath>].

Overall, there is a downward trend in air pollution in MN. Combustion is the biggest concern for air pollution (fossil fuels & biomass). Permitted sources of emissions are only one quarter of total emissions and remaining sources are not directly regulated by MPCA. These non-point sources are significant contributors to air pollution. Comparing congestion versus free-flow traffic, Greg said generally it is worse to have congestion because vehicles are sitting idle in one place; however, vehicles moving at high speeds emit more pollutants. Approximately 300 meters downwind from roadway is considered the highest risk area for exposure, but it depends on the direction of the wind. NW winds generally come in winter; and SE winds in summer. Over the course of the year, there will be pollutants on all sides of roadways. Comparing the mass, chemistry, size of particles and number of particles determine risk to health, generally exposure to more, smaller particles is worse than exposure to fewer large ones.

Air monitoring sites are available on MPCA website [<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/minnesota-air-monitoring-sites>]. MPCA runs the Air Quality Index – indication if one or more of 6 criteria pollutants is at or above standard [<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/current-air-quality-index>]. MPCA also is measuring polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) concentrations for 20 PAHs in the Minneapolis Phillips neighborhood using both passive monitors and two active monitors [<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air/pah-study-results>]. The study is looking at relative mixtures at each site to see what's driving PAH levels and then identifying potential sources. MPCA chooses monitoring sites based on a number of pollution factors, including EPA requirements, source activities, models, accessibility and availability of power, and sometimes based on complaints or problems identified in the past.

Regarding solutions, Greg recommended moving away from automobile use by investing in public transit and alternate technology for vehicles (EV). Additionally, he supports restricting backyard fires.

As a follow-up, Patrick Hanlon from Environmental Services will come back to CEAC in summer/fall to talk about the air monitoring project by the Minneapolis Health Department.

5:08 Voting on Agenda and March Meeting Minutes.

Moved Darrel, Michelle seconded the approval of the April agenda and March meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

5:10 MPCA Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, Ned Brooks (MPCA)

Ned Brooks reminded CEAC of the recently adopted MPCA Environmental Justice Framework. MPCA is looking for 12 people around the state with experience in community engagement and/or who live or work in areas of concern for environmental justice to be on the new Environmental Justice Advisory Committee. The Committee will meet as often as people want to, at locations and time determined by EJ Advisory Committee. MPCA is looking for participants with diverse backgrounds. Ned said he is also looking for volunteers to be on the selection committee. Travel expenses will be covered for committee members. The EJ Advisory Committee will provide advice to the MPCA Commissioner on agency-wide decision processes. Members will be appointed to 2-year, staggered terms. The first convening of the Committee will happen in June/July 2016 at the earliest.

Interested persons should submit an application by May 16 to Minnesota Pollution Control Agency: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/about-mpca/mpca-and-environmental-justice>

5:20 CEAC Representative to Comprehensive Plan Environmental Systems Research Team

The Environmental Systems Research Team meets the first Tuesday of every month, through the duration of the Comp Plan development process (due December 31, 2018). Their first task is to identify key themes (fall 2016). The Comp Plan Subcommittee spoke with Lois Eberhart (Comp Plan Committee co-chair) about having a regular and alternate CEAC representative. Andrew Murray, Jen Kader, Michelle Stockness and Darrell Gerber are interested, but noted the difficulty committing to the time commitment. Darrell will plan on attending the next meeting on May 3rd. CEAC will discuss designating one or more official representatives again at next CEAC meeting.

Comp Plan website: <http://www.minneapolis2040.com/>

5:35 Update on 2016 CEAC Activities

- Minneapolis Comprehensive Plan Task Force – Michelle was appointed by Anna as Chair of Task Force.
- Zero Waste Working Group – News: Bring Your Own Bag ordinance was passed by City Council! There was a short discussion on some of the concerns, the amendment and the timeline for implementation. CEAC would like to stay involved in an advisory role during implementation (e.g., education and awareness).
- Climate Action Planning Working Group – Have a good workplan and need to coordinate vacation schedules to sit down as a team and get back to the workplan.
- Overburdened Communities (Twilight Zone) Working Group – no updates.
- Pool Party (Storm water) Working Group – Trying to set up a meeting with Lois Eberhart.
- Bylaws Revision Task Force – Need to meet. Working on an attendance policy.

5:50 City Staff and Member Announcements

- Green Zones: Kelly Muellman announced that the first meeting is scheduled for Wed April 27 from 11am-1pm, location TBD. More information will be posted online: <http://minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/approach/policies/WCMSP-173926>
- Gayle Prest announced that on Monday, April 18 at 1:30pm Siemens will present their *80% by 2050 GHG modeling results* at HECE (City Council Chambers), which will be followed by public conversation in City Hall Room 319.
- Darrell Gerber passed around reports on groundwater management and noted that the MOOS Family Lecture Series on wastewater “Evolution to Cleaner Water and Greener Water

Companies” from April 13 will be available online shortly [<http://freshwater.org/moos-family-lecture-series/>].

- Tony Hainault passed around Hennepin County Root and Branch grant applications and informational meetings. Funding supports projects that empower residents to reduce waste, recycle, reduce household hazardous waste, conserve energy, protect natural resources and improve air and water quality. See www.hennepin.us/greenpartners for more information.

5:59 Next meeting: May 12 possible items

- Humphrey Students presentation on Minneapolis Climate Vulnerability Assessment
- Comp Plan Environmental Systems Research Team
- Break out times for working groups
- Other items? Please contact Chair at least two weeks before next meeting

6:05 Tony moved and Darrel seconded a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.