

Environment & Energy Commission

City of Columbia & Boone County

Daniel Boone Building, Third Floor Conference Room

Minutes of Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Present: Barbara Buffaloe, Jean Sax, Dan Goldstein, Alyce Turner, Dick Parker, Teresa Hunter, Bob Walters, Tom O'Connor, Kip Kendrick, David Brodsky

Absent: Dillon Wyatt

Guests: Kay Hunvald, League of Women Voters; Laura Latzko, Missourian

City Staff Liaison: Stephanie Brown

Ms. Buffaloe called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

The agenda was approved with changes.

MINUTES

The minutes for February 5, 2009 were approved without changes.

DEMAND SIDE MANAGEMENT

Mr. Parker said the Demand Side Management (DSM) programs suggested in the Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) will effectively work only if there is a high percentage of customer participation and drafted a letter to the City Council explaining this situation. Mr. O'Connor, who along with Mr. Parker served on the Power Supply Task Force, said that the City should have strong DSM programs to show its leadership in energy efficiency. Ms. Buffaloe felt that the City should be shovel-ready for the government stimulus packages in terms of DSM programs. Ms. Turner motioned to send the letter with the changes to the City Council and to have a commissioner read the letter at the City Council meeting. Mr. Goldstein seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Mr. Parker expressed concern regarding the costs of the Home Performance with Energy Star Energy (HPwES) audits. He suggested having Tina Worley and/or Terry Freeman of the Water and Light Department attend a meeting to discuss the progress of the program.

Mr. Kendrick said he had the HPwES energy audit performed on his home when the program first began and felt that it was not worth the cost and the rebates did not match in comparison unless several improvements were made on the home. Ms. Buffaloe would like to know if the utility is evaluating and comparing the costs in reflection to the rebates customers have received. Ms. Buffaloe will contact Ms. Worley and Mr. Freeman regarding attending a meeting.

RENEWABLE ENERGY REPORT

Mr. Parker said he would like the EEC to recommend that renewable energy credits not be used by the City. His concern is that as the minimum percentage increases and

renewable energy credits are banked, the minimum amount will not be achieved with energy produced in that year but mainly from the renewable energy credits. The commission recognized that without the credits the City did not meet the minimum percentage amount of renewable energy but that it was not the fault of the Water and Light Department. The commission praised the Water and Light Department on their efforts to comply with the renewable energy ordinance and fully expects that the Department will be able to achieve the minimum percentage in the next year.

Mr. Goldstein motioned to have Mr. Parker draft a letter with the comments of the EEC and with Ms. Buffaloe's approval and forward it to the City Council and copy staff. Ms. Sax made a second motion and the motion was approved.

Mr. O'Connor would like some clarification regarding the difference in the amount paid per kilowatt-hour for photovoltaic systems rebates for residential customers versus industrial customers. Ms. Buffaloe wondered if the corporate rate would apply to neighborhood associations with a certain amount of square footage for solar panels.

LETTERS UPDATE

Ms. Buffaloe said there are several letters that the commission is currently working on and wanted to provide updates on them. She said two land disturbance letters were submitted to the City Council. The first letter suggested testing the ordinance changes on actual cases that the City has dealt with and the other letter recommended inviting Tom Jacobs of the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) to a work session. Ms. Buffaloe said Council has directed staff on these initiatives.

Mr. Goldstein recommended that the EEC have more communication and interaction with the Planning and Zoning Commission on land disturbance issues. Mr. Brodsky suggested that Mr. Goldstein send a letter through City staff to give directive to the P&Z Commission. The EEC will copy the P&Z commission on letters sent to Council.

Ms. Turner drafted the Regional Travel Letter. She said the letter suggests that Boone County take leadership in the pilot program. She said she sent the letter to the Department of Natural Resources to receive feedback on statistics and surveyed amounts. Mr. Parker motioned to approve the letter with changes to be submitted to the City Council and Dan seconded the motion. The motion was approved. Ms. Turner would also like to have the letter read at the City Council meeting.

PROGRAM OF WORK

Ms. Buffaloe received a questionnaire for the commission from City staff. She said she will comment on it and send it to the commissioners for their comment and will discuss it at the next meeting. The questionnaire is due at the end of March.

DRINKING WATER

Mr. O'Connor said the United States Geological Survey (USGS) has been monitoring ground water wells and not the drinking supply well to check for the effect of the wetlands on the water supply. He said these tests are not getting to the root of the problem. Mr. O'Connor said the City has signed a new 5 year contract with USGS to perform the tests on the monitoring wells. He said the drinking water systems need to be tested as well. He believed the tests should also test for problem indicators. He would

like to have an open forum with the stakeholders and the public. Ms. Sax suggested that the League of Women Voters hold a public forum. Ms. Buffaloe suggested having the water forum during the April EEC meeting in a larger conference room. Mr. Goldstein suggested submitting a letter to the City Council to inform them of their actions. Mr. O'Connor will draft a letter. Ms. Buffaloe said it would be beneficial to have something at the Earth Day Booth.

VISIONING

Mr. Goldstein said he is on the Visioning Committee and they are finalizing the report. He said the committee would like other Boards and Commissions to weigh in on the report according to their expertise. He said he would like the EEC to review Chapter 3 of the Visioning Report on budget items and submit their comments. He said the comments are due March 27 and EEC will discuss and vote at the next meeting. Ms. Buffaloe asked that all comments be sent to her and she will compile them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/COMMENTS OF COMMISSIONER

Ms. Turner brought up the radon resistant measures included in the Building Codes and would like the EEC to support the continued inclusion of these measures in the Building Codes. Ms. Buffaloe said the EEC will make a recommendation during the Building Codes subcommittee meetings she and other Chairs will attend. This subject has been tabled until April.

Mr. Goldstein brought up the Ameren issue. Several commissioners did not think it was relevant to the EEC right now and it was tabled.

UPCOMING MEETING ITEMS

1. March – Home Performance with Energy Star Audit Funding
2. March – Land Disturbance
3. March – Earth Day
4. April – Water Forum
5. May – Building Codes/Radon

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Prepared by: Stephanie Brown, City Staff Liaison