COUNTY TO SEE THE SEE

WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKING SESSION

March 22, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sizemore at 6:31 p.m. in the Board Room, Administration Building, 220 North Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comms. Bergman, Gunn, Irwin, Ping Mills, Ouimet, Lovejoy Roe, and Sizemore.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comms. Grewal, Peterson, Schwartz, and Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: David Behen, Verna McDaniel, Deputy County Administrators; Janis Bobrin, Drain

Commissioner; Nancy Thelen, Bob Bricault, MSU Extension; Dick Fleece, Patricia Denig, Jeff Krcmarik, Michael Gebhard, Planning and Environment; Dale Vanderford,

Ken Schrader, Andy Brush, Information Technology; Charley Wolfe, Support Services; Kerry Sheldon, Administration; Jason Brooks, Clerk's Office; various

citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation

None

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizen Participation

None

Discussion Items

Dick Fleece and Janis Bobrin gave a presentation on Environmental Programs Update. (On file in County Clerk's Office.)

Wolfe discussed usability tests, and how they pertain to the project being undertaken through County Environmental programs. He stated that these tests allow users to provide feedback before the new site goes live. He stated that he was happy to find that people did like this setup.

Comm. Bergman asked if this is just near homes near rivers. Bobrin stated that storm drains are connected to rivers streams and creeks, and there is a connection there. Fleece stated that this was a collaborative effort with all.

Comm. Gunn thanked all involved for their involvement in interdepartmental cooperation. She stated that the community waste water ordinance is coming to the Board soon, and that a model ordinance is available for Townships. She added that MDEQ has denied permits when requested by the County, and that it is because of hard work. Comm. Gunn asked for elaboration on the WC Road Commission Environmental Policy. Bobrin stated that a recent meeting was productive, even though they may have lagged behind in the past. She stated that they will remain cautiously optimistic. She stated that she and the Road Commission signed a memorandum of understanding. She stated that this memo involved an agreement on storm water management.

Comm. Ouimet thanked participants in the presentation. He stated that the proposed website got strong reviews with an MSU group. Comm. Ouimet stated that over the last 2+ years the Road Commission has struggled with these issues. He stated that he was glad that a productive meeting took place between the groups. Comm. Ouimet commended the staff on the suburb job of Chelsea clean up day. He added that the program is wildly successful.

Comm. Bergman thanked participants in the presentation. She also thanked all involved for working on the beauty of the County. She asked if there are federal regulations about to be passed on solid waste being brought into Michigan. Jeff Krcmarik stated that control is being asked for at the federal government level, and that he would keep the Board posted. Comm. Bergman asked what would happen with tipping fees. Krcmarik stated that he did not know, but added that there has been talk of raising the fee to \$2.50/ton.

Comm. Ping Mills thanked all participants, and stated she was very impressed. She asked about the pharmacies involved. Krcmarik stated that the best environmental policy is to have people return medical waste to pharmacies, and from there be taken to incinerators. He stated that there are some independent pharmacies, many of which are willing to participate in the take back program. Krcmarik added that phase one which is a collection program is taking place now. Comm. Ping Mills asked if the Chelsea cleanup is similar to those on the Washtenaw Fair Grounds. Krcmarik responded that it was.

Comm. Irwin stated that there is a recurring theme is the pride in the work that is being done. He asked if the video's are up on the website. Krcmarik stated that they are on CTN. Comm. Irwin asked if there is anything more that can be done about illegal dumping. Krcmarik stated that the local ordinance officer is contact to determine their regulations. He added that it needs to be ensured that these sites are not crime scenes. Comm. Irwin stated that he would like to see ideas come to the Board. Krcmarik added that clean up dates are also used to pick up ditches often. Bobrin added that beyond solid waste, there is an environmental reporting line. Comm. Irwin stated that the Board wants to be very aggressive.

Comm. Irwin asked if there is any way to be more aggressive on herbicides. Bobrin stated that Ann Arbor City limits application of phosphorus without a demonstrated need. She added that education of public before purchasing lawn services is taking place in areas of the County. She stated that there are more issues that need to be ironed out. Bobrin communicated that another option may be an approach that will allow communities to join. She stated that this is mainly about commercial and residential landscapes. Bob Bricault stated that he is excited about getting this message out. He stated that one thing done in this county is a yearly soil testing initiative.

Comm. Irwin stated that he is cynical of what is likely to come out of Lansing, and taking control of these initiatives locally is the way to go. Comm. Irwin asked if Gelman will ever clean up their mess. Michael Gebhard stated that some recent developments are talks of expanding the prohibition area, because the plume is growing larger. He added that they are still trying to figure out where this material will end up. He added that they are still extracting water at the core area. He stated that they have implemented part of the corrective action as part of the court order. Comm. Irwin stated that it is a disgusting feeling.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe thanked all for the presentation. She stated that she loved the website, and suggested thinking about this for the County website. She asked if the Ann Arbor treatment plant is still the largest contaminator. Bobrin stated that they are because of size. She added that they have excellent performance, and are still looking for ways to change operations. Bobrin stated that no matter what is done upstream enough is still produced to cause problems.

Comm. Lovejoy Roe asked if the Road Commission is taking any action on the cross section of the roads. Bobrin stated that there was a minor reduction in road width standards. She stated that the battle has not been undertaken in a while. Bobrin stated that people tend to survive when parking is only on one side of the road. Comm. Lovejoy Roe asked if the pharmacy in the Ellsworth Road facility is participating in the program. Krcmarik responded that it would be great, and that his department would contact them.

Comm. Sizemore stated that everything the group is going is great, and that County employees do a great job.

Fleece distributed recycled bags to the Board of Commissioners.

County Administrator Report

McDaniel stated Joanna Bidlack will be joining the Administration staff on April 9, and that she was hired as an internal employee. Behen gave a space plan update. He stated that at the Public Safety and Justice Oversight Committee meeting last Friday, the Committee agreed to move forward with Clark construction for an Owners Representative contractor. This will be a not to exceed contract. He added that five architectural firms were selected to interview for the design of the jail expansion. Behen communicated that Jim Zwolensky will be meeting with Judge Simpson next week.

Items for Current/Future Discussion

Pending

April 5 Energy Update

April 19 Planning Process: Health Community of Interest

May 3 Planning Process: Emergency Preparedness and Public Safety & Justice

Communities of Interest

May 17 Planning Process: Support Services Community of Interest

June 21 Planning Process: Global Summarization

Citizen Participation

None

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

None

<u>Adjournment</u>

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Lovejoy Roe moved to adjourn until Wednesday April 5th, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Washtenaw County Administration Building. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.	
	Rolland Sizemore, Chair
Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register By: Jason Brooks, Deputy Clerk	
APPROVED:	