

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY COMMITTEE
September 25, 2012
Summary

Chair Blues called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM. Stinnett, Gorton, Farmer, McChord, Henson and Lane were also present. Ellinger was recognized as part of the quorum. Kay and Beard were also in attendance.

1. 5-Year Solid Waste Plan

Steve Feese presented the 5 year plan. He discussed action plans for collection, disposal, reduction & recycling, littering and enforcement. He stated that zero waste was a goal. He discussed plans to regulate private waste companies in the County. He discussed the need for a construction demolition & debris diversion program.

Feese discussed plans for a new Materials Recovery Facility (MRF), e-waste recovery, a zero waste neighborhood pilot program and recycling of materials such as mattresses.

Gorton asked about the plans for the zero waste neighborhood pilot program.

Stinnett asked why this information wasn't presented to the Solid Waste Committee. In response Feese stated that the plan was bluesheeted and on the docket for 1st reading at the next Council meeting, but that it could be delayed and presented to the Committee if that's what Council preferred.

Stinnett also asked about the procedures to opt out of the residential program and why new development was included in the solid waste tax district. Feese said inclusion of new development is a long-standing policy, which could be changed by Council

Blues asked if the zero waste goals would require mandatory recycling. Feese said not necessarily.

Lane asked about the construction demolition debris facility.

Gorton asked about the disposal of Emerald Ash Borer trees.

2. Bluegrass Airport Water Quality Management Fee

Ellinger introduced the topic, stating he was concerned that the Airport would be burdened with the stormwater management fee. He called on Eric Frankel, Executive Director of the Bluegrass Airport who started the presentation. Mr. Frankel introduced Mark Day, Chief Engineer with the Airport.

Mr. Day stated that 16-403 provided for several exemptions to the water management fee, including undeveloped parcels, railroad tracks, state and federal roads, and urban county streets and roads. He said the Airport would like the Committee to consider amending the ordinance to include “urban county airport board runways, taxiways and public ramp areas into the exemption.”

Mr. Day stated that several airports have been exempted from their respective stormwater management fees.

Lane asked about the discharge collection areas at the Airport.

Blues expressed opposition to the proposal, saying we need to be committed to the consent decree and this precedent might compromise that effort.

McChord asked about the stormwater management system at the Airport.

Gorton stated that she thought the Airport should utilize the waiver process in the ordinance. She was concerned about the precedent this would set.

Farmer it would set a bad precedent, that stormwater management was a community issue and the Airport is part of the community.

Stinnett asked about the streets being part of the stormwater system. In response, Charlie Martin described the conveyance system.

Ellinger made a motion, second by Lane that 16-403(d) be amended to insert “and urban county airport board runways, taxiways, and public ramp areas.”

After discussion Lane amended the motion to amend 16-403(b) to insert “and urban county airport board runways, taxiways, and public ramp areas.” Ellinger seconded the amended motion.

The motion failed 2-6 (Ellinger, Lane-Yes); (Blues, Gorton, Farmer, Henson, Stinnett, McChord- No).

3. Littering

Henson introduced this issue. She introduced Patricia Knight with the Keep Lexington Beautiful Commission.

Ms. Knight said State government permits local governments to treat litter violations as either a civil or criminal offense. She requested that the Committee recommend amending the current ordinance to prosecute litter violations as a civil offense.

Blues asked if the violation needed to be witnessed by an enforcement officer. Ms. Knight said no.

Gorton asked about the 7 day response time.

Stinnett asked if this would be a burden to enforce. He also asked if Lexington could revert back to criminal offenses in the future. Henson responded that the hearing board was contacted and it should not be a burden for the board.

Henson spoke in favor of the civil offense option, that it would free the criminal court system.

On a motion by Henson, second Ellinger, the amendment to 14-105 was recommended for approval unanimously.

On a motion by Gorton, second Henson the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 PM.

10.15.2012 PAS