



The City of Cortland
Environmental Advisory Committee
August 28, 2023
Wastewater Treatment Facility

The *Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC)* convened at 7 PM Monday August 28th at the *Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF)*. In attendance were Chairman John Busch and members Jeremy Jimenez, Steve Broyles, Donald and Diane Chu plus city liaison Bruce Adams.

1. Call to Order

There was a quorum, and minutes from the August 7th meeting were approved. The group discussed the minutes in more detail than usual since Steve and Jeremy had missed the meeting. Minutes from the July 3rd meeting remain to be approved since there was not a quorum on August 7th.

2. Reports

Vermicomposting Status

Bruce reported that Ram Shrivastava had filed his quarterly progress report for the Department of Environmental Conservation (*DEC*) vermicomposting grant. Ram applied for an additional *DEC* grant but was not sure it would be considered. Bruce is still waiting for Request for Proposal (*RFP*) verbiage.

No Mow May Memo Status

Diane reported that she'd sent City Clerk Andy Jewett the *No Mow May* memo and that he'd passed it to the Common Council.

3. Unfinished Business

Vermicomposting Next Steps

Bruce will contact Ram to find out why *RFP* verbiage has not been forthcoming. If possible, Bruce will write the *RFP*. If it is for more than the originally approved amount, it will have to be approved by the Common Council.

Water Works Forest Stewardship Plan

DEC forester Matt Swayze edited the draft memo to the Common Council asking that he complete his *Forest Stewardship Plan* for the Water Works. Diane moved to accept it, and Jeremy seconded the motion. With the addition of two question marks, the *EAC* approved the memo for submission.

4. New Business

Committee Membership

The group discussed asking for a new board member since there are now only six. As the current student member is away at school and has been unable to attend meetings, members wondered if she might wish to step down. Bruce offered to check with Andy about the rules for committee membership.

Steve proposed former Department of Public Works (*DPW*) deputy Al Ricottilli for his expertise, but Diane asked that any new member be a woman. Jeremy agreed and said there were potential women candidates in the *SUNY Sustainability Club*, and Steve suggested Sarah Rosenthal.

Glass Recycling

In the absence of a guest speaker, Donald presented what he had learned about glass recycling. The bottom line was that clean flint (uncolored) container glass cullet could be sold for up to \$120 per ton. Adding the \$90 county tipping fee, recycling flint glass cullet can be worth as much as \$210 per ton.

Using cullet rather than sand saves 30% of the energy to make new glass containers, but to be recycled, glass needs to be separated by color and “clean”, i.e. no metals, stones or ceramics. Small amounts of organic matter are not a problem except for attracting vermin.

Glass must also be crushed to between 1/2” and 3.2” in size and delivered to manufacturers such as Owens-International (*O-I*) in Auburn. The county recycling center already crushes the glass it collects but would have to check for size. There is unfortunately no commercial cullet preparer in Central NY.

There is also the cost of transportation to the manufacturer, e.g. Auburn. O-I typically receives cullet delivered in dump trucks. Steve and Jeremy offered to see if *SUNY* students and economics professor Kathleen Burke might produce a glass recycling business plan as a *Service-Learning* project.

Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (EICDA)

The committee agreed to invite retired *SUNY* Professor Larry Klotz and a representative of the Citizens Climate Lobby (*CCL*) to speak about the *EICDA* at the next meeting.

5. Action Item Review

Previous

- Update and share vermicomposting slides. (Ram Shrivastava)
- Prepare report on Cortland *FOG* ordinances. (Steve Broyles)
- Get approval of new vermicomposting grant application onto Council agenda. (Bruce Adams)
- ✓ Apply for additional vermicomposting grants. (Ram Shrivastava)
- ✓ Ask Dr. Shrivastava for vermicomposting RFP verbiage. (Bruce Adams)
- ✓ Check DEC on need for environmental permits to manage Water Works woods. (Matt Swayze)
- ✓ Draft memo asking Matt Swayze to write woods management plan. (Donald Chu)
- ✓ Update and submit No Mow May memo to the Common Council. (Diane Chu)

New

- Bring July 3rd minutes to October 2nd meeting for approval. (Donald Chu)
- Check with City Clerk Andy Jewett about rule for committee membership (Bruce Adams)
- Submit memo recommending Water Works Forest Stewardship Plan. (Donald Chu)

6. Adjourn

The meeting ended at 8:15 PM. The next meeting will be at 7 PM Monday October 2nd at the *WWTF*.