

MUSKEGON COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATING COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes – February 8, 2022 Virtual Meeting

In attendance: Amy Haack, Vicki Luthy, Jill Koebbe, Rose Spickler, Erica Johnson, Janet Vail, Fallon Chabala, Bill Wood, Carly Hysell, Amanda St. Amour

- 1) Call to Order by Haack followed by Introductions
- 2) Additions/Changes to Agenda: None
- 3) Acceptance of Minutes from August 10, 2021. Motion to accept by Wood, Support by Hysell. Motion Carried.
- 4) Approval of Treasurer’s Report: Balance as of August 10, 2021, \$969.27. Expenditures: Website Domain Renewal \$25; Nonprofit 501c3 status renewal \$20. Income: \$100 Donation from the Butts Foundation through the Muskegon Community Foundation. Balance as of February 2022, \$1024.27. Motion to approve by Koebbe, Support by Luthy. Motion Carried.
- 5) Old Business – None.
- 6) New Business - Donation (\$100) from the Butts Foundation.
Darling Cetaceans are no longer organizing Muskegon Earth Day activities. Muskegon needs an organizer for Sustainability Awards and Earth Day activity programming.
- 7) Presentation by Rose Spickler, West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum: The Lakeshore Sustainability Forum is a regional program of Michigan Sustainable Business Forum which continues to elevate sustainability interest and success stories in the region. Discussion on the many programs they are collaborating on in West Michigan and across the state to expand the Circular Economy (use of locally recycled goods in locally manufactured goods) as well as Equity Programming (many air quality concerns are being investigated and addressed). The forum has expanded into a statewide programming role using virtual options for members. The organization is working on bringing composting services to Muskegon as well as the region. The forum is following through on the membership’s (business communities) request for a ‘green’ certification. It is forming up into a pledge or certification for local businesses to showcase their efforts in regards to sustainability – social equity and environmental justice.
- 8) Round Table – Updates on projects occurring county wide by membership.
Wood (WMEAC) – Collaborative with Tanya Caballa working on Septic System issue in White Lake.
Hysell (Muskegon County DPW) – Household Hazard Waste Collection Events are scheduled for April 23 and October 15 at the Keating Street facility (City of Muskegon DPW yard). Flyer and additional info will be forwarded to MCECC soon.
Johnson (MAISD) – The Youth Project Showcase will be at the Farmer’s Market on May 25th in the afternoon – come and see what our up and coming scientists have been working on.
Vail (GVSU): Looking forward to the summer research vessel season. Needs captain and crew – contact Janet for more information. We have been invited to collaborate with the Lakeshore Earth Day Celebration in Grand Haven (April 23). Also – John Ball Zoo has special displays and activities to celebrate earth day beginning in April.
Luthy: The City of Muskegon has a new grant award for Lead Hazard Control county wide – to prevent lead exposure and poisoning in area children.
St. Amour: MS4 programming is working on getting municipalities storm water permits in compliance and issued. Tom Berdinski has retired, and new staff is on board at EGLE. Stay tuned for an introduction.

Haack: County is designated as in marginal nonattainment for ozone based on national standard. Because of the current air quality levels it is expected that the level will be bumped up to moderate. WMSRDC is planning to work on information programing reach out to business and stakeholders about what this means. EGLE will be invited to an MCECC meeting to present on the situation.

Reminder: Organization working on social justice and particulate/air quality concerns in Grand Rapids is looking for funding to work on issues in Muskegon County. Visit their website: justair.co to see their work.

Adjourned

Stay Tuned for Meeting Methods and Venues

Next Meeting May 10,2022