

**Jefferson County**  
**Solid Waste and Air Quality Committee (SWAQ)**  
**Air Quality Diagnostics Workshop and**  
**Committee Guidance Plan**

**November 16, December 16, 2005 and January 20, 2006**  
**UW-Extension, Jefferson County Office**

**Participants**

**SWAQ Committee Members**

Bob Rupnow (Chair),  
Don Reese (Vice-Chair)  
Sheri Walz (Secretary)  
Paul Babcock  
Greg David

**Zoning Staff Members**

Bruce Haukom  
Bob Mueller  
Sharon Ehrhardt

**Resource Advisors**

Steve Brachman, UW-Extension Solid & Hazardous Waste Education Center  
David Liebl, UW-Extension Solid & Hazardous Waste Education Center  
Ed Jepsen, WDNR

**Facilitated by:**

Steve Grabow, Professor and  
Community Development Educator  
University of Wisconsin-Extension  
Jefferson County Office

January 24, 2006

**Jefferson County Solid Waste and Air Quality (SWAQ) Committee  
Air Quality Diagnostics Session  
November 17, 2005, 9:30 a.m.  
UW-Extension, Jefferson County Office, Room 12**

**AGENDA**

- Educational Overview – David Liebl, UW-Extension Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center and Ed Jepsen, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Possible Purpose/Role of S.W.A.Q. Committee in Air Quality Matters
- Possible People/Organizations to Involve and Their Roles

**Jefferson County Solid Waste and Air Quality (SWAQ) Committee  
Air Quality Diagnostics and Committee Guidance Session  
December 16, 2005, 9:30 a.m.  
UW-Extension, Jefferson County Office, Room 12**

**AGENDA**

- ❖ Possible Intended Outcomes/Visions/Hopes
- ❖ Concerns and Limitations of S.W.A.Q. Committee and Staff
- ❖ Possible Practical Initiatives for S.W.A.Q.
- ❖ Follow-Up

**Jefferson County Solid Waste and Air Quality (SWAQ) Committee  
Air Quality Diagnostics and Committee Guidance Session  
January 20, 2006, 8:30 a.m.  
UW-Extension, Jefferson County Office, Room 12**

**AGENDA**

- ❖ Review and update SWAQ Committee

## Section 1 EDUCATIONAL OVERVIEW

***David Liebl, UW-Extension Solid and Hazardous Waste Education Center and Ed Jepsen, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provided this contextual educational overview to orient the Solid Waste and Air Quality Committee.***

- ▶ Air quality: impacts on public health
- ▶ Air pollution threats to County (Local and Regional)
- ▶ Air pollution situation:
  - Jefferson County is a “collar county” to non-attainment
  - Efforts are aimed at ground level ozone
  - Efforts are aimed at trying to get a voluntary reduction in ozone
  - When attacking ozone, efforts also help out the benzene situation
  - Fine particles will become even more of an issue than ozone
  - The existing “65” standard has been proposed by the EPA to be reduced to 35 for fine particles (Monitors in Waukesha, Dane, Dodge are now running about 34 micrograms per cubic meter of fine particles)
  - Jefferson County is not a large source (but it is a victim of downwind effects; however the County is a contributor)
  - Fine particles can be a problem any time of the year. Last year it was in February. It normally blankets more of a mega-scale. Some things are now better (i.e. power plants with coal now have pollution prevention devices)
- ▶ Think about the difference between large scale vs. smaller scale problems
- ▶ Jefferson County has some sources of air pollution from factories that are permitted.
- ▶ The Committee could encourage companies to review their current emissions (50-100 companies - Metal Containers has lots of VOCs)
- ▶ Individual considerations: wood smoke, commuting patterns, transportation planning
- ▶ Jefferson County government itself has its contributions (i.e. from heating, road maintenance, quarry, etc.)
- ▶ Discussion should also include County Health Department
- ▶ County possibly will have the largest ethanol plant in Wisconsin (Cargill)
  - Ask them to quantify emissions
  - Condition – no decrease in ambient air quality
- ▶ Jefferson County Solid Waste and Air Quality Committee can be a source for dialogue on air quality and can measure the effectiveness of various initiatives.
- ▶ County can also monitor greenhouse gases which are generated at landfills. This is a logical interface between the “solid waste” and “air quality” roles of the Committee.

**Section 2**  
**PURPOSE AND ROLES OF THE**  
**SOLID WASTE AND AIR QUALITY (SWAQ) COMMITTEE**

- ❖ Provide education (in schools, County government, targeted/contacts with business, city and town government and the public)
  - Stay current on trends, air quality monitoring results and issues of air quality
  - Facilitate mutual issues with the Jefferson County Health Department
- ❖ Coordinate with and help enhance the efforts of State and Federal agencies (and other jurisdictions in Jefferson County)
- ❖ Encourage the modeling of sound practice in County government operations, i.e. build on efforts in the County Facilities Plan for Environmentally Preferable Purchasing and Energy Audit/Assessment of County facilities; Emergency Management

**Section 3**  
**POSSIBLE PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONAL**  
**INVOLVEMENT AND THEIR ROLES**

- a Zoning staff and consultants to allocate \$10,000 budgeted toward air quality (existing staff, materials, interns, consultants, etc.)
  - Bob Mueller and Sharon Ehrhardt as staff
  - Nancy as consultant (air quality education, newsletter, advertisements)
  
- b Department of Natural Resources to provide education for Nancy; ongoing resource to SWAQ; develop trust relationship with SWAQ; act as conduit to other key stakeholders (Governor's Office/"Cleaner Air Fast" Initiative)
  
- c UW-Extension to provide research, education, process facilitation
  
- d Solid Waste and Air Quality Committee to provide authority/legitimacy to DNR-sponsored initiatives
  
- e Periodically involve a broader network of stakeholders (1 to 3 times per year)
  - Jefferson County Economic Development Consortium
  - School District representatives (Safety/Buildings & Grounds/Buses & Fleet/Purchasing)
  - Jefferson County Health Department and City of Watertown Health Department
  - Be Smart
  - Media (occasionally)
  - County Highway Department and Committee
  - Agricultural representatives (Farm Bureau, farmers)
  - Businesses (Top 15 point sources or more)
  - Interagency Collaboration Committee (school superintendents, etc.)
  - Power plants
  - Environmental Protection Agency (Chicago Office: Emissions Inventory)
  - DNR/EPA Partnerships
  - DNR's Green Tier Program (corporate incentives for participation)
  - Other County initiatives (possible regional efforts)
  - Eco Municipality efforts

## Section 4

### POSSIBLE INTENDED OUTCOMES/VISIONS/HOPES FOR COMMITTEE GUIDANCE

#### I. Shorter Term Activities

- a. **To develop public relations materials. Inform County Board and others**
  - Put together a full report on the many “products” and the progress made by SWAQ initiatives
  - Summarize in “brochure format” the work of the SWAQ Committee
  - Have a program to “report out/quantify” energy savings from County facility energy audits and follow-up savings from implemented initiatives
    - Fully use “Green Pages”
    - For “Green Pages” - Get cost estimates for 50 to 100 extra for in-house promotion/ Buy overruns
- b. **To get educational materials, fact sheets, UWEX brochures and other resource materials for Nancy Davenport so that she can share with schools and other clients**
  - Involve Elaine Andrews (UW-Extension) to help develop or influence curriculum on SWAQ (encourage Nancy to contact Elaine)
  - Have fuller involvement of “Be-Smart” program resource people to implement some of these priority items (invite them out to Jefferson County SWAQ Committee meeting)
- c. **Update “Outdoor Wood Burning Furnace” brochure as new research on efficiency and particulate matter emissions is available**
- d. **Have a “workshop” to bring in experts on the topic of “bio-diesel”/electric fleet, and to explore the state-of-the-art on:**
  - Opportunities and costs
  - Warranty/manufacturer implications
  - Practical observations/needs from fleet managers
  - Seasonal limitations
  - Infrastructure needs (tanks, pumps, staff, facilities, etc.)
  - A “demonstration project” for burning bio-diesel

#### II. Other Possible Activities

- To have quantitative reports from Nancy that show the number of contacts
- To obtain donation to County from Menard’s/Focus on Energy/ ACE/ other company so that Nancy and others can give compact fluorescent light bulbs to every student
- To develop accompanying brochure handed out with light bulb to educate the whole family
- To contact “Focus on Energy” to flesh out this idea
- To consider other “tangible items” (coupons, gas cans, caps) for kids to take home or for County employees to take home

- Distribute brochure more widely at other SWAQ events (i.e. Clean Sweeps, County Fair, etc.)
- Hope for an overall energy policy (global and specific)
- Hope for a County “demonstration energy plant” (with emerging power sources: thermal conversion, wind, fuel cell, ethanol)
- Have in place a County policy to purchase “green” energy
- Have in place retrofit for school buses (to make diesel buses less polluting)
- Have in place a “bio-diesel” fuel option for Jefferson County and local government fleets.
- Have in place an “internship program” to develop:
  - Educational lesson plans related to SWAQ programs
  - A public relations plan for SWAQ and not necessarily deliver the message
- Have a graduate level project on SWAQ issues/seminar paper/research
- Have a link between landfill and its “greenhouse gas” emissions and air quality
- Have in place an in-house “marketing/PR” plan
- Consider a workshop on “gasification”
- Consider a workshop on the implications of small engines on air quality

## **Section 5 LIMITATIONS AND CONCERNS**

- a. Money and funding
- b. This requires partnering with others.
- c. The ideas look like a “ten-year” plan
- d. Requires staging/phasing
- e. Workshop requires careful and detailed planning and a realistic time frame
- f. Committee needs to focus on just a few important initiatives.
- g. Possible changes in County Board and change in Committee interest
- h. Need to strengthen relationship with “Be-Smart” people
- i. Time implementation with post-election

## ***Appendix: Prompt Sheet from Ed Jepsen, WDNR***

### **Jefferson County Clean Air Discussions November 17, 2005**

**Goal: Use limited county staff and budget resources wisely.**

#### **Things to Consider:**

- What level of effort is appropriate given the current staff and budget?
- Is the committee ready to establish goals and objectives?
- Does SWAQ and Zoning/Solid Waste staff want to be the administering entity or act as a hub to disseminate information and advocate action by other parties? Both?
- What projects or activities would foster support for the committee's mission?
- Are there projects that combine solid waste and air quality?
- Consider partner staff and budget assistance. How can other local (e.g., Economic Development), state (e.g., UW-Extension, Department Commerce and Department of Natural Resources) and federal (e.g., Small Business, EPA and Agriculture) programs aid the County's efforts?

#### **Examples of Potential Activities or Projects:**

1. **Educate and Advocate** - Be a catalyst for change in the county. Educate children, adults and public/private sector partners about air quality issues such as ozone and fine particles.
2. **Encourage alternative fuels projects** - Educate public/private sector about alternative fuel projects (e.g., biodiesel, ethanol or propane).
3. **Encourage school bus retrofit projects** - Educate school fleet managers about the EPA Clean School Bus grant program.
4. **Encourage county/municipal retrofit projects** - Educate local public fleet managers about clean diesel programs.
5. **Establish energy efficiency goals for county purchases** - Encourage adoption of minimum energy efficiency standards for county purchases/leases of appliances, products and buildings. This is consistent with your recent energy audit activities.
6. **Encourage renewable energy resources** - Work with partners to identify and encourage the adoption of cost effective, renewable energy projects. Invite private sector, vendors and units of government to meet with SWAQ and/or partners.