

**MINUTES**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD**  
**APRIL 14, 2023**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Katherine Arnett, Tim Pritchard, Sarah Richard,  
Kathleen Turner, Brian Williams, Matthew Worsham, Assoc. Member  
Hannah McClure, Assoc. Member Caroline Turnbull

MEMBERS ABSENT: Scott Eardley, Hillery Spearman

STAFF PRESENT: Eric Borth, Mary Faulkner, Paul Fleischman, Julie Height, Darius Hixon,  
Meg Maloney, Carolyn Moore, John Musto, Katie Norris, Michael Powell  
(virtually), Zak Schultz, Michele Simmons

OTHERS PRESENT: Jamie Burenga – UD Student  
Kiara DiLoreto – UD Student

Chairperson, Katherine Arnett, called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. and introductions were made.

Citizens' Concerns: There were none.

Approval of the March 2023 Minutes: Chairperson Katherine called for a motion to accept the minutes from the March 2023 meeting. Kathleen Turner made a motion to accept the minutes. Brian Williams seconded the motion; a vote was taken, and the minutes were accepted.

Staff Items: Source Water: In response to questions concerning rail safety in the Source Water Protection Area, a map was shared showing the monitoring wells near the two rail lines through the city. There are currently processes in place for the City to respond to derailments and spills. Gary Rettig, Dayton Regional HazMat, has invited the City to join in their emergency exercises in the future. John Musto, Law Department, shared that the rail industry is regulated by the Interstate Commerce Act, that preempts local regulations. Paul Fleischman said the Environmental Management division provided the City Commission with suggestions for their upcoming meeting with Senator Brown at the Fly-In in April. Some of the suggestions are Rail companies share their emergency response plans, posting training exercises alongside the regional HazMat team, inspecting rail integrity at a minimum of every five years. reducing speed when coming into a highly populated or groundwater sensitive area. The two companies that run through Dayton are CSX and Norfolk Southern. Darius Hixon gave a summary on what is transported through Dayton. The North/South line is operated by CSX and is mostly servicing agricultural and food industries. Besides food products, can include pesticides. The train station, adjacent to the Miami Wellfield, is subject to regular DEM inspections and chemical inventory reviews. They also keep a spill prevention control plan and are required to update it regularly. They also have a few EPA permits that are monitored. There are prohibitions on transporting certain toxic chemicals through the Well Field Protection Area. The East/West line is owned by Norfolk Southern which transports more hazardous materials to industries downtown. DEM is aware of what is being transported on these lines and can anticipate how to respond to emergencies. In case of an emergency, the monitoring well network, including MicroGC's, will alert us to any contamination. There is also an emergency response contractor on retainer. Katie Norris, who also sits on the Montgomery County Local Emergency Planning Committee Board, shared that the Dayton Regional HazMat Team is trained, have the equipment, and is ready to respond to emergencies. They are at the highest level for a HazMat team. Paul will find out what City Commission will do with this information.

Paul Fleischman made a request of the EAB to send a letter of support to elected officials in favor of federal funding for the City's PFAS Strategy. There were no concerns from the Board, so Paul will submit details for the letter. Katie Norris shared that the Rain Barrel sale was so successful that they closed the sale early because they sold all 760 rain barrels. She will get the number of rain barrels that were sold to City of Dayton residents and will share with the board. The Children's Water Festival will take place in person this year on Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at the UD campus. They have enough volunteers but will take more if anyone is interested. The board members will be invited to a CWF recognition luncheon. The second annual Earth Day Symposium will take place April 21<sup>st</sup>. This half day event will be virtual with a variety of speakers, including Board member Tim Pritchard. Goodwill Industries will have several drop off locations at City locations in conjunction with the Symposium.

Sustainability: Meg Maloney shared that they just submitted for an Environmental Justice Grant for \$1,000,000 to put solar on the houses with ventilation systems. The community partners are Co-op Dayton, Cook Field, Old North Dayton, and the Community Advisory Group. Five new employees will be trained on installing solar and energy efficiency in houses. The decision will be made in October. The City Commission just passed to start a solar united neighbors' business and nonprofit co-op. They partnered with Montgomery County to include businesses and nonprofits in the area. A session will be held on April 27<sup>th</sup> for education concerning solar co-op through Dayton Regional Green. The official launch will be held May 4<sup>th</sup> at the Dayton Regional Green Luncheon. Meg is the volunteer coordinator for the Bike Summit, May 19<sup>th</sup>, and is looking for volunteers. Dayton Daily News reported that the City intervened on a settlement with the electric utility to prohibit a rate increase. Through the settlement, the City has applied for \$2.7 million to help residents with weatherization and combating energy burden. The City facilities received approximately \$1 million to reduce bills of the redundant service fee. They also agreed to help with the interconnection at Valleycrest. Meg will start a podcast and would like to recruit guests to speak on Earth related topics in 15-minute segments. The Community Advisory Group has a request of the Board, asking for a support letter to Dayton Children's Hospital on screening children (for TCE Contamination) and educating parents that live in known contaminated area codes. Meg is to send details to the Board. Michele shared that the EPA will be hosting a community meeting on April 25<sup>th</sup> to empower the communities near the three superfund sites (Behr, Valleycrest, & Valley Pike) to decide what's best for health and environment. She strongly encourages those community members to attend. A flyer with meeting information was sent to attendees previously. She also thanked UD River Stewards for inviting Sustainability/Water to a community partners' meeting on March 31<sup>st</sup>. They did a great job presenting what has been done in the past and their future plans. They will be using the input received during the meeting to improve the community. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the River Mobile at the Boonshoft Museum on April 21<sup>st</sup>, hosted by the UD River Stewards.

Economic Development: No update.

Public Health, Dayton and Montgomery County: No update.

Solid Waste District: No update.

Five Rivers MetroParks: Tim Pritchard shared they are partnering with Dayton Regional Green for the "Bring your Green" challenge around rewilding property. It will be launched on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Solid Waste District, after the remodel of their facility, will have a demonstration site for some of these challenges. MetroParks just passed a resolution with the Board of Park Commissioners to join SOPEC (Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council) working together on draw down efforts. The demolition at Foxton Court has been completed and now in a design build RFP process for restoration. The Passport to MetroParks program will be May 26<sup>th</sup>. The "Bike to Work" day will be May 19<sup>th</sup>. Earth Day-ton, a kickoff to events happening in the area. A calendar of events is currently on the City website. Going to three events will be entered into a drawing. Second Street Market is having a tree seedling giveaway on April 16<sup>th</sup> and a native plant sale on May 7<sup>th</sup>. A sustainability hub is being set up in the pavilion part of the Market, with the Water Department, MetroParks, and SOPEC being there.

University of Dayton: Sarah Richard shared that UD moveout will be happening soon. Twenty-Four tons of waste last year. The Midwest Regional Sustainability Summit will be held in Cincinnati on May 12<sup>th</sup>. Please share and post supplied flyers. The theme this year is “Imagining What’s Possible”, please invite residents to attend. There are scholarships available. There will be board discussion on having a May meeting as this summit is on the same day as the next scheduled EAB meeting. The proposed new GM site, near the Wolf Creek watershed, is open for public comment to the EPA until Monday. Sarah will be writing a letter and requested a letter from the EAB. She has sent an email explaining the details and has volunteered to author the letter. Katie Norris mentioned that currently there is a City of Dayton Wolf Creek Restoration project happening near Adventure Central, which would be downstream of the proposed site. They are scheduled to start construction in July or August of this year.

Chairperson Katherine Arnett shared that Boonshoft Museum is restructuring their first floor and will be including an exhibit on our river and aquifer systems. Susan Vincent, Planning Department, will give an update on the Flight Line at the next meeting. There was a press conference yesterday with Mike Turner’s office about it and an article in the Dayton Daily News today. Funding has been secured, but negotiations are ongoing with Norfolk Southern. Katie Norris will be sending a link to a website for distribution presenting the Active Transportation draft plan, recommendations, and interactive map. Susan Vincent is currently making community presentations to the stakeholder groups that initially gave input. There will be other community engagement opportunities in the future.

Old Business: Presentation given earlier in the meeting.

New Business: Still looking to fill the last remaining board vacancy. Niani Brown has expressed interest in applying. She would make a great addition to the board with her experience.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Katherine Arnett asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Brian Williams and seconded by Tim Pritchard. The meeting was adjourned at 1:12 p.m.