

MINUTES
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

March 3, 2016
City Council Chambers

A Special Meeting of the Environmental Commission of the City of Woodstock was called to order at 5:30 PM on Thursday, March 3, 2016 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

In the absence of Chairwoman Erica Poremba, the meeting was called to order by Steve Wenzel. A roll call was taken.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Ed Ellinghausen, Laurie Kacmar, Steve Wenzel.

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT: Chairwoman Erica Poremba, Jaci Krandel.

STAFF PRESENT: Assistant Public Works Director Tom Migatz and Chief Deputy Clerk Jane Howie

OTHERS PRESENT: Emily Glasberg of Clarke Mosquito Control.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by E. Ellinghausen, second by L. Kacmar to approve the February 11, 2016 Minutes with the following corrections to the Minutes: On the 1st page, 1st paragraph, "Solar PV (Photovoltaic) and thermal hot water credits survive until the end of 2020". And, on the 2nd page, last paragraph, "S. Wenzel asked IF the Commission has any comments". Ayes: E. Ellinghausen, L. Kacmar, S. Wenzel. Nays: None. Absentees: E. Poremba, J. Krandel. Abstentions: None. Minutes were approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT: None

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Presentation by Emily Glasberg of Clarke on the use of botanical products in the control of adult mosquitoes

Emily, Clarke, Key Accounts Manager / Entomologist with Clarke Mosquito Control presented information on mosquito control projects available to the City of Woodstock. Currently, the City of Woodstock has a contract with Clarke that consists of Clarke employees bicycling through the City dropping larvicide tablets into 2300 storm drains city-wide. These tablets kill mosquito eggs in catch basins and can last up to 30 days. This process is done four times during the spring / summer season. On occasion, mosquito spraying is requested; Clarke uses Biomist for the mosquito abatement program in City of Woodstock. Spraying is requested when tests reveal that there is a large mosquito population or when reports show West Nile Virus is present in surrounding areas. The active ingredient in the Netular pellets/tablets is Spinosad. Clarke also treats other larger breeding sites, i.e., anything larger than a catch basin up to the size of a retention pond. In these areas they use a larvicide called Abate.

In 2008 Clarke made a big transition toward lowering their carbon footprint and bringing more sustainable ideas to reality. They were looking for different solutions and seeking to do something new; something different, something better – where environmental accountability was the focus.

One of the changes was to switch over to using bicycles to distribute the storm sewer pellets. The EarthRight Program was born. Currently over 10 communities are using this new program. The new products are approved for use in and around organic farms. The program is comprised of using different products that respect the environment, and are naturally derived products. The way the service is delivered is different as well. This program is designed for communities that are looking to do things in a more sustainable way. Emily listed several of the communities that are currently using the EarthRight Program. S. Wenzel asked ingredients are in these new products. E. Glasberg said Merus is the adulticide and Natular is the larvicide. Clarke produces these products. Spinosad comes from a soil-dwelling bacteria and it has a natural component to it. It's great for resistance. It can be used in creeks where there's flooding along side of it, which creates a breeding ground for mosquitoes. S. Wenzel stated that Woodstock is a community of wetlands. Would Clarke suggest going into any of those sites. E. Glasberg said Woodstock's program consists of 15 ½ acres. S. Wenzel asked what informs Clarke of protected areas. E. Glasberg said Clarke has a map with specific zones. E. Ellinghausen asked if Clarke is aware of political boundaries. E. Glasberg said yes, they are. She added that forest preserves are a separate contract. E. Ellinghausen asked if Clarke deals with Conservation Districts / Areas. E. Glasberg said that Clarke's mapping department looks at all breeding sites, wetlands, as well as endangered species. E. Glasberg said that Clarke discloses this information to the Department of Public Works. Emily can share this information with the Commission. E. Ellinghausen asked about Raintree Park, which can be wet for long periods of time. How can this be treated? E. Glasberg said Clarke can look into this. L. Kacmar asked is this area is monitored by Clarke, as this area is turf but it's also used for soccer practice/games at times. T. Migatz said there's a project that will be starting soon at Raintree Park to remove silt and help to decrease standing water. Clarke can look to expand upon this if the City is interested.

E. Glasberg said that Merus, the adulticide, breaks down in a matter of hours. Its active ingredient is pyrethrin which is a botanical insecticide. On the other hand, Biomist takes days to get into the soil and break down. The EarthRight Program consists of an earth-friendly application. Clarke uses bicycles, hybrid vehicles, ATVs, and all-electric sprayers. The EarthRight Program includes a vehicle that sprays a mist that is very thin. The process is much quieter and the mist is not as visible. For special event treatments they use an electric ATV. Currently there's nothing on the market similar to Merus. Just as with the Biomist spray, this application is delivered throughout the City from 9:00 PM – 4:00 AM; sunset to sunrise when mosquitoes are most active. Another important point is that this product doesn't damage pollinators, which are not out at night. And Merus breaks down in a matter of hours. Clarke safely uses these products in communities that have bee keepers.

E. Glasberg discussed briefly discussed West Nile Virus and Zika Virus. Clarke's Regulatory Department is meeting in Washington DC and working closely with both public & private sector companies. Clarke is making sure they have and define the best strategy to deal with Zika Virus. They're working with health departments to do monitoring to see if anyone is picking up this type of mosquito; the day biter. In 2016 people need to focus on emptying out containers, bird baths, anything that could be a breeding ground for mosquitoes. It's important to keep mosquito populations down. Currently, Woodstock has a good larval control program.

E. Ellinghausen asked if Clarke has a proposal for the City yet. E. Glasberg answered yes, they do. T. Migatz said there is a different cost point for this program. E. Glasberg said the current

program, the larvicide pellets that are distributed to storm sewer, has a cost of \$19,652 per season / year. This part of the cost remains the same going into the EarthRight program. The change in cost is for adult control which is done on an as-needed basis, either by request or recommendation. Clarke is currently using the Biomist spray, which costs \$4463 per application. E. Glasberg said the spray is used when residents call the City to complain about mosquitoes, or when Clarke alerts the City of disease reported in the vicinity. Public Works makes that decision, after discussing the situation with the City Manager's Office. In 2013, and 2014 Clarke sprayed one time each summer; in 2015 Clarke sprayed the City three times. The cost, per application, for Merus is \$9,200. E. Glasberg said the effectiveness is the same for both adulticide products. It's more of a decision based on what direction the City wants to go. E. Ellinghausen said this is very interesting. E. Glasberg said it's because of the components that are in it, without the synergist. S. Wenzel said the consequence of having the synergist is that the Biomist doesn't break down as quickly, it takes several days. Intuitively, you'd want something that breaks down faster, like the Merus. The Biomist may kill things that you don't intend to kill. E. Glasberg said Merus is a product that is more eco-friendly, it doesn't put harmful ingredients into the environment; Merus is not absorbed. L. Kacmar asked about bio-accumulation. E. Glasberg said some products may have ingredients that can be absorbed through fatty tissues. She added that communities have to look at the program comprehensively. You're looking at larval control and adult control. Think about what might impact the City if you use less sprays; a spray that breaks down must faster. Also, the way it's applied is cleaner as they use more eco-friendly vehicles. Also, the cost depends on how many times Clarke sprays per season. S. Wenzel said the new program hasn't been adopted by the City yet. E. Ellinghausen said fogging with Merus would have some environmental benefits.

E. Glasberg said the following communities are currently using the EarthRight Program: Bannockburn, Highland Park, Highwood, Hinsdale, Lombard, Oakbrook Terrace, Riverwoods, Westmont, Deerfield, Fort Sheridan, Lake Bluff, Lincolnshire, and Ravinia. Clarke handles mosquito control in Lake, McHenry and DuPage Counties.

E. Ellinghausen said the Environmental Commission should suggest the EarthRight Program based on the information E. Glasberg provided.

A Motion was made by E. Ellinghausen that the City of Woodstock should transition to the EarthRight program, which includes Merus, adulticide; the more environmentally friendly product. A second was made by L. Kacmar. Ayes: E. Ellinghausen, L. Kacmar, S. Wenzel. Nays: None. Absentees: E. Poremba, J. Krandel. Abstentions: None.

The following items were not discussed and will be carried forward to the April 7, 2016 Environmental Commission meeting.

B. Continue review of Environmental Plan Recommendations List

C. Develop action items ranking matrix from Environmental Plan Recommendations List

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by L. Kacmar, second by E. Ellinghausen, to adjourn this Special Meeting of the Environmental Commission. Ayes: E. Ellinghausen, L. Kacmar, S. Wenzel. Nays: None. Absentees: E. Poremba, J. Krandel. Abstentions: None. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM. The next regular meeting of the Environmental Commission will be held on Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 5:30 PM in the Council Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Howie
Chief Deputy Clerk