



OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

Notice is hereby given that the Public Works Committee of the City of Stoughton, Wisconsin will hold a regular Public Works Meeting as indicated on the date, time and location given below.

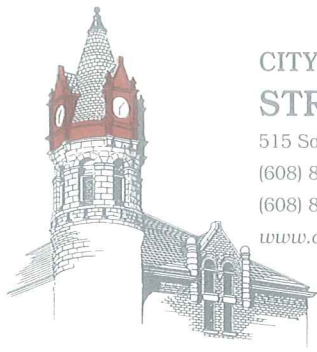
Meeting of the: **Public Works Committee of the City of Stoughton**
Date /Time: **Tuesday, May 20, 2014 @ 6:00 PM**
Location: **Hall of Fame Room, City Hall (lower level) – 381 E. Main St, Stoughton, WI 53589**
Members: **Ron Christianson, Tom Majewski, Tom Selsor, Tim Swadley, Mayor Donna Olson**

Item #	CALL TO ORDER
1.	Communications – National APWA Public Works Week (May 18-24, 2014)
2.	Reports; Activity, Yardwaste, Street Opening
Item #	OLD BUSINESS
3.	Single Use Plastic Bag
Item #	NEW BUSINESS
4.	Elect Chair
5.	Elect Vice-Chair
6.	Cemetery Board & Tree Commission Appointments
7.	Approve Minutes of March 18, 2014
8.	Williams Drive Reconstruction Project
9.	2014 Stormwater Project
10.	2014 Construction Projects
11.	Truck Route Signage near Hillside and Ridge Streets
12.	Street Department Plan for Listol Property
13.	Future Agenda Items – Joint Meeting With Public Safety; Snow Emergency Ordinance and Traffic Management Policy
	ADJOURNMENT

cc: Council Members, City Leadership Team, City Attorney Matthew P. Dregne, Library Administrative Assistant Sarah Monette, Clerk Pili Hougan, Tim Onsager Stoughton School District, Deb Blaney, Bill Livick Oregon Observer, Stoughton Newspaper/WI State Journal/Capital Times

NOTE: AN EXPANDED MEETING MAY CONSTITUTE A QUORUM OF THE CITY COUNCIL

NOTE: For security reasons, the front doors of the City Hall Building (including the elevator door) will be locked after 4:30 p.m. If you need to enter City Hall after that time, please use the Fifth Street entrance or if you are physically challenged and are in need of assistance, please call 873-6677 prior to 4:30 p.m.



CITY OF STOUGHTON
STREET DEPARTMENT

515 South Fourth Street, Stoughton, WI 53589
(608) 873-6303 Ext. 622
(608) 877-8387 Fax
www.cityofstoughton.com

KARL D. MANTHE
Street Superintendent
kmanthe@ci.stoughton.wi.us

Activity Report
Street & Parks Department
April 15 – May 15, 2014



Spring as finally arrived along with the spring rains. Just need some warmer weather to dry things out and start some major Street & Parks projects.

Street sweepers were out completing first round of sweeping city. Usually takes up to three full weeks to complete first sweeping of year. Sweepers were also out cleaning up the city streets for Syttende Mai.

Patching potholes remains a high priority and crews have been out almost daily when not raining. The spray patch machine was down for a while for repairs and repairs were delayed due to problem with vendor getting parts shipped out.

May brush collection was completed, last curbside brush collection until October (residents can haul brush to yardwaste site during non collection months). Crews collected 41 truck loads in May, as compared to 9 truck loads and 7 chipped loads in April.

Crews will start treating 125 trees for EAB in late May/early June. There will be a training event from the vendor Eco-Ject on Wednesday May 21 at 2:00 pm at Norse park.

Yardwaste site has been busy with the late spring and residents finally cleaning up their yards. There has been 515 permits sold to city residents and 85 permits issued to Dunkirk residents so far this season.

With the many rain events, crews were busy cleaning stormwater inlets. Street Foreman Rick Gullickson monitored water levels at the Fourth Street Dam and also at Paradise Pond. The Paradise Pond was pumped down in early May to allow for extra storage capacity for any additional heavy rainfall events.



Street crews also did curbside yardwaste collection for two plus weeks at the end of April. Vacuum machine collected 500 yards of yard waste materials (grass, leaves, etc)

Crews were busy getting barricades, cones, traffic boards, picnic tables, and barrels ready for Syttende Mai celebration. Crews work throughout the weekend performing many tasks. Staff also assisted with getting ready for Wood Carving Event that is a fundraiser for the Tree Commission and the Wood Recycle Program.

The Fleet Maintenance Manager was busy getting summer equipment ready for Streets and Parks Departments and removing snow removal equipment. Fleet Manager has also been very busy performing preventive maintenance and making repairs to city wide fleet. With new hoist system and taking on city wide fleet, I am seeing great results from Fleet Manager Bryce Bronstad as he has completed almost all repairs in-house.

Parks Department has a new Supervisor; John Halverson has taken over for Sean Brusegar who left for a job in another community. Parks activities are in full swing, current tasks include mowing, trash clean up, picking up branches, preparing ball diamonds, aeration, fertilizing and herbicides treatments, building new dugouts at Lowell Park, and . Finalizing plans for Norse Park Shelter Improvement Project. Crews are working on a bindweed removal project at Schefelker Park with volunteers from Cummins. Preparing Swimming pool for season will start after Syttende Mai.

Other routine tasks completed during last month include; dumping trash barrels downtown, sign repairs, cleaning fleet and garage, monitor water levels at dam, garage safety inspections (fire extinguishers, eye wash stations, exit lights, fall protection) repair downtown street lights and traffic signals.

Attended Spring APWA Conference with Street Foreman Rick Gullickson

As we approach the first holiday of the summer, enjoy and have a safe Memorial Day Weekend

Respectfully Submitted,

Karl D. Manthe

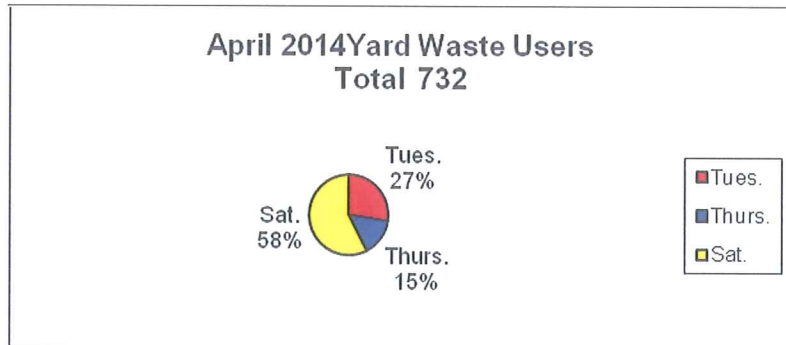
Karl D. Manthe
Street Superintendent

2014 Street Opening Permits

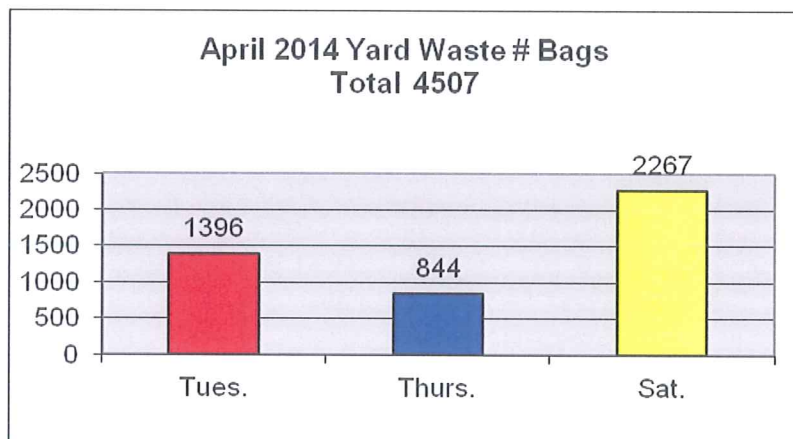
#	Street Name	Block	Date Opened	By	Amt Paid	Date Paid	Contact	Phone	Reason For Opening	Date Closed	Status #
1	Prairie St	409	1/24/14	A T & T			Justin LeRoy	920-288-8991	place fiber cable	2/24/14	
2	Virgin Lake Dr	1101	1/22/14	Matson	\$ 50.00	1/21/14	Intercon	877-1642	install natural gas	2/20/14	
3	Veterans Rd	198	1/27/14	A T & T	\$ 50.00	2/3/14	A T & T	920-288-8991	place copper cable	4/27/14	
4	West & Johnson Sts		1/22/14	Sto Util			Larry Scheel	877-7430	water main repair	1/22/14	
5	West St	700	1/31/14	Sto Util			Water Dept		water main repair	1/31/14	
6	Wilson St, E	117	2/1/14	Sto Util			Water Dept		water main repair	2/1/14	
7	Harding St	112	2/4/14	Sto Util			Water Dept	877-7430	water main repair	2/5/14	
8	Industrial Circle	205	2/25/14	A T & T			Brian Scholz	282-6899	placing fiber cable	3/18/14	
9	Madison St, S	608	2/13/14	Sto Util			Water Dept	877-7430	repair curb stop	2/13/14	
10	Sundt Ln	1508	2/12/14	Sto Util			Water Dept	877-7430	repair curb stop	2/12/14	
11	Lowell & S Monroe	inter	2/14/14	Sto Util			Water Dept	877-7430	water main repair	2/14/14	
12	Prairie St, S	101	2/19/14	Sto Util			Water Dept	877-7430	repair curb stop	2/19/14	
13	Roby Rd	420	2/19/14	Sto Util			Water Dept	877-7430	water main repair	2/20/14	
14	Page St, S & Randolph		2/20/14	Sto Util			Water Dept	877-7430	water main break	2/20/14	
15	West St	520	2/24/14	Fox & Son	\$ 100.00	2/26/14	G Fox & Son	774-0883	sewer break	?	
16	East St	408	2/24/14	Sto Util			Water Dept	877-7430	repair curb stop	2/24/14	
17	Clyde St	510	3/3/14	Sto Util			Water Dept	877-7430	water main repair	3/3/14	
18	Water & Jefferson W Sts	inter	3/9/14	Sto Util			Marty Seffens	877-7430	water main repair	3/9/14	
19	Lincoln Ave / Jackson Sts		7/1/14	A T & T			Justin LeRoy	920-288-8991	bore & place conduit	7/24/14	
20	Lincoln Ave	216	3/25/14	Fox & Son	\$ 100.00	3/25/14	Jerry Fox	774-0883	repair sewer lateral	3/25/14	
21	Van Buren St	324	4/1/14	A T & T				920-288-8991	bore & place conduit	4/24/14	
22	Main St, W	277		Vogel Bros	\$ 300.00	3/28/14	Speedway Sand/Gravel	241-5454	core opening back of curb		
23	Coolidge & Van Buren N	inter	1/7/14	Sto Util			Water Dept	877-7430	water main break	1/7/14	
24	Taft St, E	100	3/22/14	Sto Util			Marty Seffens	873-3379	water main break	3/22/14	
25	Forton St & Forton Ct		4/9/14	Alliant			Steve Schuett	877-1650	replace & relocate gas main	5/30/14	
26	Madison St, N	103	4/5/14	Sto Util			Marty Seffens	873-3379	repair water leak	4/5/14	
27	Hilldale Ln	800	7/15/14	Alliant			Intercon	877-1646	install natural gas	8/29/14	
28	Forton St	All	5/6/14	GMS Exc			Mike Shumakee	884-1854	new utilities	6/25/14	
29	Hillside Ave	217	5/7/14	Alliant	\$ 50.00	4/16/14	Intercon	877-1650	install natural gas	6/7/14	
30	Jefferson St, E	307/311	5/5/14	Haugen Exc	\$ 50.00		Ken Haugen	205-0238	connect two sewer laterals	5/12/14	
31	Main St, W	1528	5/19/14		\$ 400.00	4/30/14	Jason Jerman	212-1973	building addition	9/19/14	
32	Veterans Rd	125	5/19/14	A T & T			Intercon	282-6899	hand dig hole to place service	6/9/14	

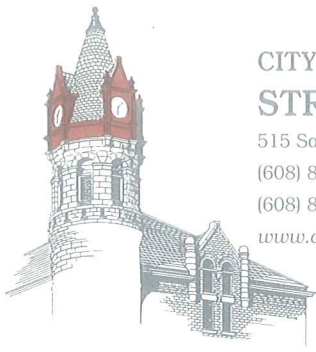
2014 April Yard Waste Report

April	
Day of Week	Users
Tues.	201
Thurs.	110
Sat.	421
Total:	732



April	
Day of Week	# Bags
Tues.	1396
Thurs.	844
Sat.	2267
Total:	4507





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KARL D. MANTHE
Street Superintendent
kmanthe@ci.stoughton.wi.us

Date: May 14, 2014
To: Public Works Committee
From: Karl D. Manthe – Street Superintendent
Subject: Update on Reducing Single Use Plastic Bags

At the March 18, 2014 Public Works meeting, I was requested to look into a few single bag recycling items, especially what the cities of Eau Claire and Madison are doing with their plans to reduce “Single Use Plastic Bags”.

I have included in the packet, plenty of information related to single use bags (both pro & con). I would recommend that the Public Works Committee follow what the City of Eau Claire did and form a “Sustainable Bag Committee” to review what the best approach for the City of Stoughton is. It may not have to be as large as Eau Claire (14 members), but should consist of the same type of representatives.

Please let me know if you have any questions.



Karl Manthe

From: Dreckmann, George [GDreckmann@cityofmadison.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 1:39 PM
To: Karl Manthe
Subject: RE: Single use plastic bags

Karl,

We are looking into a plastic bag ban. I am in the process of putting together a report for the Council. You might want to have your City Attorney look into the idea of charging a fee. I do not believe municipalities have the authority to put a fee program in place under state law.

George

George P. Dreckmann
Strategic Initiatives Coordinator
City of Madison, Streets Division
1501 W. Badger Rd.
Madison, WI 53713
608-267-2626
FAX 608-267-1120

"facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclinations, or the dictates of our passion, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence."

John Adams

From: kmanthe@ci.stoughton.wi.us [mailto:kmanthe@ci.stoughton.wi.us]
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 11:03 AM
To: Dreckmann, George
Cc: kmanthe@ci.stoughton.wi.us
Subject: Single use plastic bags

Hi Mr. Dreckmann,

The Public Works Committee for the City of Stoughton is looking into reducing or putting a ban on single use plastic bags (grocery store bags). Someone at our last meeting mentioned the City of Madison was working on a possible ban. Are you aware of anything in the works for Madison.

We are looking at putting a fee on plastic bags or giving credit to shoppers who bring their own cloth/paper bags. Some of our retail stores already have a container to recycle plastic bags, although our private contractor for refuse & recycling collection for home owners does not accept single use plastic bags at this time.

Let me know

Thanks

Karl Manthe

Karl D Manthe

Karl Manthe

From: Ned Noel [Ned.Noel@eauclairewi.gov]
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2014 9:17 AM
To: Karl Manthe
Subject: Plastic Bag Reduction

Karl:

Here is the link where you can learn more about the issue in Eau Claire.

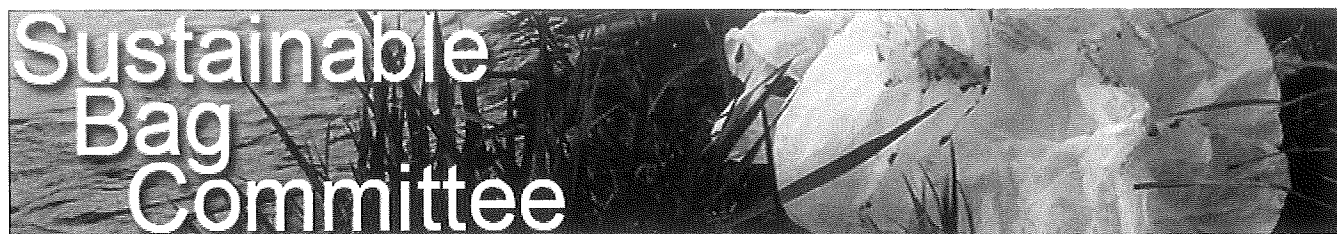
<http://eauclairewi.gov/government/boards-commissions-committees/sustainable-bag-committee>

There are three phases to the committee's recommendation which was approved by council. Each phase has benchmarks that if hit, the phase continues instead of penalizing citizens moving to the tougher requirements. Each phase needs council approval. Total reduction goal is 80%.

- 1) 1 yr. Pre-Development (The education campaign plan has to be presented to city council by Jan. 1, 2015- we are here)
- 2) 2-yr. Education (bring your reusable bag)
- 3) 1- yr. Incentive (\$.05 credit for reusable bags)
- 4) 1- yr. Requirement (~\$.10 fee on disposable bags)

Recycling plastic and paper bags/film is another feature of the program, both curbside and at non-residential locations. This will take some time to bear out since most of our private haulers' contracted MRFs cannot recycle plastic bags yet...

Ned Noel
Associate Planner
City of Eau Claire
715-839-8488



Sustainable Bag Committee

On March 12, 2013, the City Council by resolution created the Sustainable Bag Committee, composed of 14 representatives: 3 from the business community, 1 Chamber of Commerce staff member, 1 dealing in landfills, 3 local sustainability leaders, 3 citizens, 1 in public education, and 2 City Council members.

The Sustainable Bag Committee (SBC) was charged with the task of exploring the various possibilities to reduce, reuse or recycle plastic and paper bags and examine what others have done. Fundamental to their purpose was to meaningfully represent the varied stakeholders' interests, explore options together pertaining to Eau Claire, and to recommend the final strategy/strategies for Council consideration.



The SBC has concluded their work. On November 25th, 2013 the City Council considered SBC's recommendations and on November 26th after deliberation postponed action. On February 11th, 2014 council approved SBC's report and charged the new Advisory Commission on Sustainability with creating an educational campaign, no later than January 1, 2015, to reduce point-of-sale disposable paper and plastic shopping bags by 80%. See the approved resolution for more detail on phases. If you have questions, please contact the Community Development Department at 715-839-4914.

City Council Approved Resolution

February 11, 2014 City Council Packet, SBC Resolutions

November 25th, City Council Packet, SBC Recommendations

November 26th, City Council Packet, Resolution

Recommendation Report

Press Release

Agendas • Notes

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE RECOMMENDATION REPORT OF THE CITY SUSTAINABLE BAG COMMITTEE TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF DISPOSABLE PAPER AND PLASTIC BAGS IN THE CITY BY PROMOTING REUSABLE BAGS AND RECYCLING OF PLASTIC FILM

WHEREAS, the Federal Trade Commission estimates that Americans use 90 billion plastic bags, sacks, and wraps each year. Each year it is estimated the average American uses 330 plastics bags. Hence, city residents used on average approximately 21,741,390 plastics bags in 2010; and

WHEREAS, plastic and paper disposable bags have a number of environmental impacts through their lifecycle including greenhouse gas emissions and pollution from the process of extracting and refining petroleum gas, harvesting timber, manufacturing the bags, transporting them to market, and ultimately landfilling the bags; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) states that one of the greatest negative environmental impacts of plastic bags comes from their disposal. These bags clog city gutters and sewer grates causing flooding. Bags get caught in trees, fences, and other objects, becoming a public eyesore. Bags can kill animals, particularly birds and marine life, when they become entangled in the bag or mistake pieces of the bag for food; and

WHEREAS, the Eau Claire City Council, per Resolution No. 2013-16, expressed support for sustainable solutions regarding plastic and paper bags and created a committee to proactively achieve this goal; and

WHEREAS, the City of Eau Claire's Sustainable Bag Committee was charged to explore the various possibilities to reduce, reuse or recycle plastic and paper bags, to meaningfully represent the varied stakeholders' interests and to recommend a final strategy for Council consideration; and

WHEREAS, the Sustainable Bag Committee (SBC), comprised of members of the business and retail sector, waste industry, Chamber of Commerce, sustainability leaders, higher education, City Council representatives and the general public, met from May through October 2013 to study the issue and forge a consensus on the final recommendation entitled the *Recommendation Report of the Sustainable Bag Committee of the City of Eau Claire - November 2013* (the "Report"); and

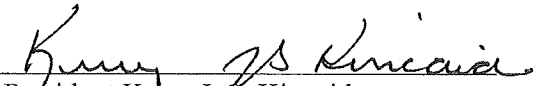
WHEREAS, said Report recommended a four-phase plan to reach an 80% reduction goal in disposable point-of-sale paper and plastic bags offered by retailers in the city, and a goal to move the city toward reaching an 80% increase in plastic film recycling in the course of five years.


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Eau Claire, that the *Recommendation Report of the City of Eau Claire Sustainable Bag Committee* (the "Report") is hereby adopted, subject to the following modifications and provisos:

1. The City's *Advisory Commission on Sustainability* (the "Commission") is charged with overseeing the SBC Report Plan including the four phases for reduction in the use of plastic and paper point-of-sale bags, to wit:
 - a. Pre-development Phase
 - b. Education Phase
 - c. Incentive Phase
 - d. Requirement Phase
2. The Commission is authorized to complete the remaining work on the Pre-development Phase.
3. The Commission is charged with presenting a recommendation to the city council no later than January 1, 2015 for adoption of an Education Phase plan.
4. Should the goals identified in the Report for the Education Phase not be reached within two years after commencing operations of said phase, the Commission shall recommend to the City Council a plan for implementing the Incentive Phase.
5. Should the goals in the Incentive Plan not be achieved within one year after commencing operations of said phase, the Commission shall recommend to the City Council a plan for implementing a Requirement Phase.
6. Should the City Council fail to adopt any plan under sections (3) to (5) above, the commission shall be discharged from presenting any subsequent plan phase(s), unless otherwise directed by the City Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in recognition of Eau Claire County being the "Responsible Unit" on recycling, that a copy of this resolution and the SBC's Report be submitted to the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors for its consideration of formally partnering with the City of Eau Claire on the aforementioned efforts.

Adopted
February 11, 2014

(SEAL) 
President Kerry J. S. Kincaid

(SEAL) 
City Manager Russell Van Gompel

(ATTESTED) 
City Clerk Donna A. Austad

RECOMMENDATION REPORT
of the
City of Eau Claire Sustainable Bag Committee
November 2013

Background:

In April of 2013, the City Council appointed a committee to study the problems associated with disposable paper and plastic bag use in Eau Claire, and to make recommendations to the Council to improve the situation. Beginning in early May, the Sustainable Bag Committee (SBC), co-chaired by Mike Buck and David Soll, began to meet to share research and to discuss possible solutions.

The SBC met twice a month since then in an effort to learn more about plastic and paper bags, share opinions, and forge a consensus recommendation to the Council. For the sake of convenience, we have condensed our recommendations into a one-page-document (See Exhibit A). The document outlines recommended steps for the city and community to take during specific phases. Because it was difficult to include all the details of our proposal on a single page, we have provided further detail in this document.

In recognition of the fact that Eau Claire County is the Recycling Responsible Unit, we recommend that the City Council also pass a resolution containing these recommendations to the County Board for their consideration.

Summary/Process:

The SBC has made a sincere effort to comply with the charge given it by the Council: *“The Sustainable Bag Committee is charged with the task of exploring the various possibilities to reduce, reuse or recycle plastic and paper bags and examine what others have done. Fundamental to their purpose is to meaningfully represent the varied stakeholders' interests, explore options together pertaining to Eau Claire, and to recommend the final strategy/strategies for Council consideration”* (See Exhibit B for original resolution).

We focused on the challenge of designing a policy intended to reduce the environmental impact of paper and plastic use. This goal is connected to sustainability goals as outlined in the City’s Comprehensive Plan Sustainability Chapter. Although we restricted ourselves to the disposable bag issue, we concluded that the Council will need to constitute a follow-up committee to design and implement the details of the recommended proposal.

Before describing our process and recommendations, it is important to underscore the critical need for a committee of citizens to implement the proposed program. We fully

acknowledge that we have not fine-tuned many of the important details that will shape the implementation of the plan. We discussed many of these (e.g., how to develop the baseline data for bag use that would be used as a benchmark to measure progress), but ultimately concluded that the “Implementation” Committee should make these important decisions.

Nonetheless, we believe we have crafted a reasonable set of recommendations that reflect the will of the SBC. We used a “multi-voting” procedure to determine the core components of the plan. Under multi-voting, committee members were permitted to vote for several options at a time. This process helped clarify which views were clearly in the majority and which were not. The group agreed that multi-voting reflected the consensus of the committee.

Recommendations:

Vision

The overall vision is to rely on a well-funded program and coordinated education campaign to achieve reductions in the use of disposable shopping bags while significantly increasing the use of reusable shopping bags. To realize this goal, the SBC recommends a phased approach to reducing and recycling disposable bags in Eau Claire. The phases are as follows: pre-development; education; incentive; and requirement. Each phase is described below.

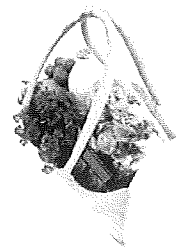
The program applies only to point-of-sale plastic and paper disposable bags distributed in Eau Claire. The program would apply to all retailers including restaurants offering these types of bags, large and small, located in the city.

The same is also recommended to the County Board, for retailers located in the county, covering incorporated and unincorporated places.

Per the City Council’s original directive to the SBC, the following strategies are important components of our final recommendation.

Reuse Strategy

The SBC recommends the use of more reusable shopping bags as the replacement to disposable ones. This change would largely be accomplished by the retailers providing reusable bags, giving a small receipt credit, asking if the customer needs a disposable bag, and through education/marketing. Additionally, it is envisioned that in partnership with the retailers, others would be involved in a lesser role, such as government agencies, the Chamber of Commerce, waste haulers, recycling firms, colleges, schools, media, etc., to keep the “bring your own reusable bag” message in focus. Reusable bags are commonly made of canvas, recycled plastic, nylon or synthetic fibers. Reusable bags that are the most environmentally responsible should be researched and recommended to retailers. The reuse strategy is paramount if the next strategy is going to have any success.



Reduction Strategy

The SBC recommends an 80 percent reduction in paper and plastic bag use over five years. While some municipalities have achieved 100 percent reduction through a bag ban, others like Washington D.C. have realized an 80 percent reduction by using a fee/charge approach. We hope to achieve similar goals by relying on education, with a fee as a last resort. We believe that an objective measurement of bag use, such as the total number of paper and plastic bags purchased by a cross-section of retailers over a given time period, will be the most accurate and efficient way to measure progress in reducing bag usage.

While we recognize that stores distribute bags that will not be specifically targeted by this program (such as produce bags or deli bags in a grocery store), it is impractical to attempt to create a program that would also target these bags. It is our hope that the educational campaign will also lead to a reduction in the use of these non-point-of-sale bags.

Recycling Strategy

The SBC recommends moving towards mandatory recycling of plastic bags/film for both residential and commercial sectors over the five-year period. Paper bags and rigid plastic containers are required to be recycled but plastic bags/plastic film are not currently required, although recyclable.

This would be accomplished by amending City and/or County ordinances, and by subsequent means such as City hauler licensing, a Recycling Responsible Unit (County) hauler agreement mandate, or voluntarily as hauler contracts get renewed with the County or with Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) which permit plastic film recycling. It is envisioned that all haulers would comply with this objective within five years.



SBC's tour of Republic Services' MRF

Although it is a difficult thing to measure, the committee also recommends reaching an 80 percent increase in plastic film recycling over the same five year period as the reduction goal.

By proposing mandatory recycling of all plastic bags and plastic film, the committee has attempted to ensure that the vast majority of these shopping bags and non-point-of-sale bags/film get recycled (See Exhibit C for what type of plastic film is recyclable). Perhaps the most revealing aspect of our discussion and research was the realization that

enormous volumes of plastic film are utilized in all phases of the production, distribution, and consumption process. To cite just one example; grocery, “big-box,” and hardware stores generally dispose of more plastic (e.g., shrink wrap) from the shipments of goods they receive in a single day than the number of point-of-sale bags these stores distribute to customers in the course of a month.

This realization did not dissuade the SBC from designing a vigorous recycling strategy to recover both point-of-sale and non point-of-sale bags/plastic film. We believe this is a relatively achievable way of recycling plastic film used in Eau Claire. For instance, one local waste hauler already accepts plastic film curbside and contracts with a MRF that recycles it. The SBC toured this facility in Inver Grove Height, MN. As noted, the transition for all haulers in Eau Claire to accept plastic film will take time. The SBC recognizes not all area MRFs can recover plastic film yet and end-markets for plastic film can fluctuate. Residential curbside recycling also poses some challenges since bags can get wet and dirty making reprocessing harder. The Implementation Committee should investigate these issues, while encouraging store drop-off bins to assist in the meantime. The website www.plasticfilmrecycling.org lists ten locations in Eau Claire that already offer plastic bag/film drop-offs. Grocery stores and “big boxes” are the primary places.



Plastic bag drop off at Mega Foods East

Moreover, a critical reason why this issue is important is that plastic bags and plastic film are the ones most likely to clog storm drains, litter our community, harm wildlife, and cause problems with landfills. While plastic film only takes up a relatively small amount of space, it does not decompose and inhibits the decomposition of other landfill waste.



Top, plastic film litter in Eau Claire; bottom, plastic bags at Seven Mile Creek Landfill

Nonetheless, the committee believes that it would not be fulfilling its task if it only targeted point-of-sales bags. Eliminating the distribution of such non point-of-sale bags is impractical, but requiring all plastic bags and film to be recycled is possible.

This recycling requirement will ensure that Eau Claire significantly reduces the volume of plastic entering the landfill. Again, we recognize that this requirement will need to be phased in by the City and County with participation from the haulers and waste companies. We are confident that the combination of reducing consumption of point-of-sale bags and mandatory recycling of plastic bags/film will reduce plastic consumption and ensure that more of the plastic that does get used is recycled rather than landfilled.

Implementation Committee

The SBC recommends an Implementation Committee be formed to carry out the direction, mission and framework provided in SBC's recommendation. As noted earlier, the SBC did not have the time or resources to fully resolve every issue and idea envisioned. Thus, a new committee is needed to resolve these items and to oversee the successful operation of the program. There may also be the option that this program could be part of an existing committee's duty, if found within their role and responsibility. This new Implementation Committee would exist for 3-5 years until its charge is completed. The SBC recommends the committee consist of 7 to 11 members with a broad representation similar to the Sustainable Bag Committee. Members should come from but are not limited to affected retailers, elected City and County officials, waste industry experts, haulers, recycling firms, environmentalists, educators, relevant non-profit organizations, interested citizens, etc.

Phases:

Pre-Development Phase

The Pre-Development Phase would last no more than 12 months from the time of Council's approval (See Exhibit A). This phase would allow the Implementation Committee to develop the remaining details of the program. The Implementation Committee would pursue grants to fund the program, form partnerships, determine an appropriate data collection method (informed by the advice of a statistical expert), research and recommend criteria to retailers on selecting the most sustainable reusable bags, design an educational/media program, etc.

It is important to highlight the need for consistent funding to ensure the creation of a robust education program. We discussed various means of financing a campaign. One possibility the SBC discussed was having a local organization (e.g., Eau Claire County) host an AmeriCorps volunteer to help coordinate the education campaign. This would be an excellent approach since the County handles recycling programs. We also anticipate that retailers will apply some of the savings from reduced need for bag purchasing to run their own educational campaigns. Through successful community partnerships, we believe it should be possible to run an effective campaign with minimal contribution of City or County funds.

The committee recommends, as noted before, that the City and/or County start moving towards requiring haulers to recycle plastic bags and plastic film. This should be achieved over the five year phase-in period.

Education Phase

During the two year Education Phase, the goal is to reduce disposable paper and plastic bag usage by 45 percent. This would be accomplished by an aggressive education campaign encouraging reusable bags instead of disposable bags. It would be accomplished through partnerships and with the cooperation of retailers. As some retailers already offer, a small credit (e.g., \$0.05) would be encouraged if a patron used a reusable bag. In addition to reducing bag use on the front end, we hope to encourage responsible disposal of those bags that are distributed via the recycling strategy and promote the use of recyclable-content bags.

The Education Phase will last a minimum of two years. If the 45 percent reduction goal is not achieved by the end of two years, the city would move to the next phase, the Incentive Phase. If the goal after year two is met, the Education Phase would continue on towards achieving the next goal of 65 percent. If this goal is met after a year, this phase would again continue towards achieving the final goal of 80 percent. We envision the City, the Implementation Committee, or if more appropriate, the County, would track usage on a periodic (most likely quarterly) basis.

It is also important to emphasize that not all reusable bags are environmentally sustainable. We believe that one of the tasks of the Implementation Committee should be to make recommendations to retailers regarding the reusable bags they offer. The goal is to ensure that Eau Claire consumers can purchase affordable reusable bags that will be durable and made from responsibly harvested materials.

Incentive Phase

Under the yearlong Incentive Phase, the goal is to reduce disposable bag use by 65 percent compared to the initial benchmark. All retailers that distribute paper and plastic bags would be required to offer a \$0.05 cents credit to consumers who bring their own bags. We also anticipate a significant intensification of the education campaign to ensure citizens are aware of how much progress remains in order to achieve the 80 percent goal. The contribution of retailers will be important to continue the message.

If the 65 percent goal in this phase is not met within one year, the program would move into the last phase. If the goal is met after the year ends, this phase would continue towards the 80 percent goal for one more year. If after this additional year ends and the final goal is not met, the Requirement Phase would begin.

Requirement Phase

Finally, if the city is unable to reduce disposable paper and plastic bag usage 65 percent by the end of the Incentive Phase, we recommend the imposition of a \$0.10 cent fee on each plastic or paper bag distributed at point-of-sale. (The \$0.10 reflects

the approximate cost of a paper bag. This cost should change over time to reflect the cost of a paper bag. However, if this cost remains in the 9-12 cents range, then it makes sense to keep the fee at 10 cents.)

We are hopeful that a comprehensive and well-funded education campaign will enable Eau Claire to meet the final 80 percent goal before entering into this Requirement Phase. However, if not, we believe it is prudent to include a financial incentive to increase the likelihood of meeting this goal during the final phase.

Because of the legal and administrative issues surrounding the collection and distribution of said fees, the SBC recommends that the Implementation Committee be charged with researching and recommending a proposal to City Council for their consideration. Several options on where the fee could go such as the County, City, retailers, non-profits, were discussed. We are confident with the experience gained during the Pre-Development and Education phases that the Implementation Committee will be well positioned to craft a viable proposal.

Conclusion:

We believe we have crafted a program that reflects the values of the city. **The SBC strongly recommends that the City and County collaborate to reduce, reuse and recycle plastic and paper bags in the community.** We believe that the success of this initiative will be greatly enhanced through this collaboration.

Committee members would be happy to discuss our recommendations or provide any further details the Council requires to act on these recommendations. We thank you for this opportunity to serve the city.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Buck, Co-Chair



David Soll, Co-Chair



City of Eau Claire
Sustainable Bag Committee
November, 2013

Co-chairs

- Mike Buck
- David Soll

Committee Members (14)

Business Community (3)

- Mike Buck, Mega Foods/Consumers Coop Assoc.
- Scott Cassidy, Menards
- Steve Exner, Gordy's County Market

Chamber (1)

- Brett GeBoy, Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce

Citizens (3)

- Jackie Pavelski
- Sandra Rutter
- Resigned member

City Council (2)

- David Duax
- Andrew Werthmann

Public Education (1)

- David Soll, University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire

Sustainability Leaders (3)

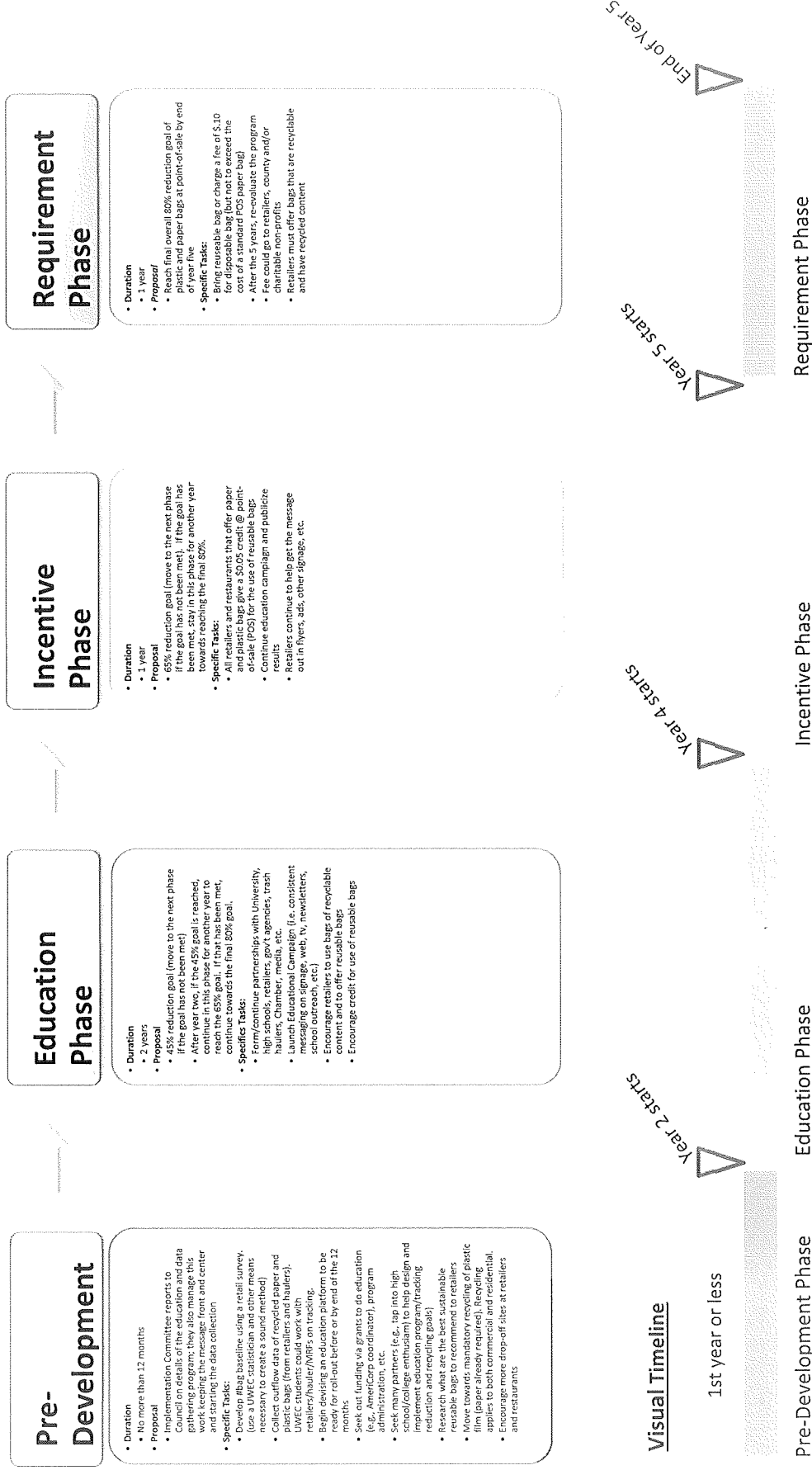
- Douglas Faulkner, University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire
- Jeremy Gragert, Sierra Club, Chippewa Valley Group
- Resigned member

Waste Industry (1)

- Josh Zeug, Advanced Disposal

City of Eau Claire Sustainable Bag Committee's Recommendation Framework

Main Objective: Over 5 years reduce by 80% paper and plastic disposable shopping bag usage at point-of-sale and recycle plastic film by 80%



RESOLUTION**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS IN DEALING WITH PLASTIC AND PAPER BAGS IN THE CITY OF EAU CLAIRE AND CREATING A COMMITTEE TO PROACTIVELY ACHIEVE THIS GOAL.**

WHEREAS, plastic and paper disposable bags have a number of environmental impacts through their lifecycle including greenhouse gas emission and pollution from the process of extracting and refining petroleum gas, harvesting timber, manufacturing the bags, transporting them to market, and ultimately landfilling the bags; and

WHEREAS, when retailers and consumers choose paper or plastic bags, the choice is not clear which is better for the environment. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency states that it takes 40 percent more energy and more greenhouse gases and pollution are released to manufacture paper bags than plastic bags. On the other hand, paper bags are currently easier to recycle and break down more quickly in the environment; and

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) states that one of the greatest negative environmental impacts of plastic bags comes from their disposal. Bags clog gutters and sewer grates causing flooding. Bags get caught in trees, fences, and other objects, becoming an eyesore. Bags kill animals, particularly birds and marine life, when they become entangled in the bag or mistake pieces of the bag for food; and

WHEREAS, according to a new study by the Wisconsin DNR, an estimated \$64 million worth of recyclable plastic is landfilled annually in Wisconsin. The study was conducted to find actions that could be taken to capture more plastic as a means for economic and job growth. The study emphasizes the potential to increase recycling of plastic bags and other film plastics, as well as rigid plastics, the DNR said. As a result, the agency has already agreed to launch a pilot program on recycling of flexible film packaging; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Trade Commission estimates that Americans use 90 billion plastic bags, sacks, and wraps each year. Each year it is estimated the average American uses 330 plastics bags. Hence, city residents used on average approximately 21,741,390 plastics bags in 2010; and

WHEREAS, some grocery and retail stores in Eau Claire have taken a leadership role offering reusable bags, financial incentives to bring your own reusable bag, and plastic bag recycling drop-off locations. It is recognized that Eau Claire citizens already take advantage of these private-market driven methods but the amount participating could very well increase; and

WHEREAS, the City and County of Eau Claire have a commitment to “Reduce, Reuse or Recycle” which is evident in the existing recycling programs administered through Eau Claire County. Education should continue to highlight to the community that the best apparent long-term approach is to use reusable bags as much as possible and use disposable bags only when truly needed; and

WHEREAS, the City of Eau Claire in its 2009 Sustainability Chapter of the Eau Claire Comprehensive Plan, Objective 5 – Managing Waste addresses policies to promote consumer product awareness, increase recycling rates, and reduce the amount of substances entering into landfills; and

WHEREAS, the recycling of plastic bags in Eau Claire is not available curbside, but is available at certain retail outlets; and

WHEREAS, an exploratory group is looking at possible avenues to achieve the goals of reducing paper and plastic bag use while promoting the use of reusable bags; and

WHEREAS, communities across the nation have passed a variety of ordinances, created mandatory and voluntary measures such as recycling drop-off locations, implemented education programs that address the issues of paper and plastic bag use, and have promoted reusable bags.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Eau Claire commits to explore ways to reduce, reuse or recycle plastic and paper bags and take a proactive approach to accomplishing this goal by looking to public education, city and county ordinances, recycling programs, and mandatory and voluntary initiatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Eau Claire creates a Sustainable Bag Committee which shall be composed of 14 representatives: 3 from the business community, 1 Chamber of Commerce staff member, 1 dealing in landfills, 3 local sustainability leaders, 3 citizens, 1 in public education, and 2 City Council members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Eau Claire City Council, based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee on Appointments shall make the appointments to the Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Committee would start meeting in April and advance recommendations to City Council by October, 2013; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Sustainable Bag Committee will be charged with the task of exploring the various possibilities to reduce, reuse or recycle plastic and paper bags and examine what others have done. Fundamental to their purpose is to meaningfully represent the varied stakeholders' interests, explore options together pertaining to Eau Claire, and to recommend the final strategy/strategies for Council consideration.

Adopted,
March 12, 2013

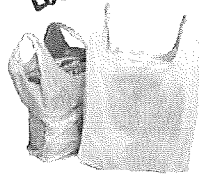
(SEAL) Kerry J.S. Kincaid
President Kerry J.S. Kincaid

(SEAL) Russell V. Gompel
City Manager Russell Van Gompel

(ATTESTED) Donna A. Austad
City Clerk Donna A. Austad

Recycle clean, dry, plastic bags and film packaging

Look for this label on film products like these...



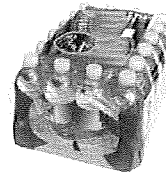
Retail Bags



Newspaper Bags



Produce Bags



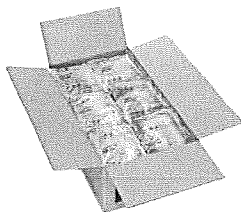
Case Wrap
(e.g. snacks, beverage cases)



Bread Bags



Napkin, Paper Towel, Bathroom
Tissue and Diaper Wrap
(packaging)



Air Pillows



Dry Cleaning Bags

**Recycle if
Clean & Dry**



PLASTIC

BAGS / FILM / WRAP

how2recycle.info

- ☒ NO frozen food bags
- ☒ NO prewashed salad mix bags
- ☒ NO degradable bags

Recycled plastic bags and wraps can become new
packaging or durable home building products.

plasticfilmrecycling.org





City of Eau Claire
Phone: (715) 839-4914

P R E S S R E L E A S E

November 7, 2013

For immediate release:

The City of Eau Claire's Sustainable Bag Committee has concluded its efforts in making a recommendation on disposable paper and plastic shopping bags in the city. Their recommendation report will be presented to the City Council on November 25th, 2013 at 7 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers. There will be opportunity for the public to comment. City Council will then take action on the item during their November 26th, 4 p.m. meeting.

According to Committee co-chair Mike Buck, "releasing the report ahead of the council meeting allows the public and those affected to consider our recommendations and possible implications. If enacted, the committee has outlined a balanced approach to work with stakeholders during the early stages and a robust educational strategy towards reducing and recycling paper and plastic bags in the community."

The committee's recommendation proposes a phased-in program over the course of five years, where the end goal is reducing and recycling disposable paper and plastic shopping bags by 80 percent. The educational campaign aims at encouraging the use of more reusable bags while moving the community towards greater recycling of plastic bags and plastic film. If certain goals are not met, requiring credits and then later a small fee, would be part of the final strategy to meet the 80 percent goal.

For more specific detail on these recommendations, please visit the City's [website](#) to read the committee's report. Questions can also be directed to Associate Planner, Ned Noel, at ned.noel@eauclairewi.gov or 715.839.4914.

Karl Manthe

From: Jonathan Perman [jperman@thepermangroup.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2014 1:53 PM
To: Karl Manthe
Subject: Re: Plastic Bag Policy

Mr. Manthe:

The American Progressive Bag Alliance represents the manufacturers and recyclers of plastic bags and plastic film. We don't run municipal recycling programs but have worked with numerous communities to educate residents and businesses about the value of recycling plastic. Here is an example of one of our programs.

<http://www.abagslife.com/>

I had also shared with Erica some of the plastics recycling activities that are now going on in Wisconsin.

http://dnr.wi.gov/news/Weekly/Article_Lookup.asp?id=2468

<http://www.americanchemistry.com/Media/PressReleasesTranscripts/ACC-news-releases/Milwaukee-Launches-New-Campaign-to-Increase-Recycling-of-Plastic-Bags-and-Wraps.html>

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/opinion/mayor-urges-consumers-to-recycle-more-plastic-bags-and-wraps-b99132645z1-230120571.html>

If you would be interested in setting up a call to discuss these ideas and how we could further assist Stoughton, please let me know. I am happy to help.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Perman
773-405-6312

On Wed, Mar 19, 2014 at 1:39 PM, <kmanthe@ci.stoughton.wi.us> wrote:

Hi Jonathan,

I have been talking with Erica Dial from our Chamber of Commerce. What type of recycling programs do you offer for single use plastic bags for residents or retailers.

Thanks

Karl Manthe

Street Superintendent

City of Stoughton

From: Donna Olson
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2014 9:10 AM
To: 'Stoughton Chamber'
Cc: Karl Manthe
Subject: RE: Plastic Bag Policy

Erica,

Street Superintendent Manthe has been working with the Public Works Committee regarding this initiative. By copy of this e-mail I am sharing your inquiry with Karl. Please feel free to have Mr. Perman contact Mr Manthe directly for more information.

Thank you

Donna

From: Stoughton Chamber [<mailto:administrator@stoughtonwi.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2014 10:37 AM
To: Donna Olson
Subject: FW: Plastic Bag Policy

Mayor,

I just left you a voice mail about this. I spoke with Jonathan about this issue a few weeks ago and after our conversation he forwarded me the following information about plastic bags. Just thought you might like to have it as a reference. If you could let me know the status of this – I'd appreciate it.

Thanks.
Erica

From: Jonathan Perman [<mailto:jperman@thepermangroup.com>]
Sent: Monday, February 24, 2014 11:46 AM
To: administrator@stoughtonwi.com
Cc: Scott McPherson
Subject: Plastic Bag Policy

Dear Erica:

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me this morning about the Stoughton Chamber of Commerce and plastic bag policy in your community.

I have compiled a number of informative links and resources for you.

First: jobs, economic development, and manufacturing. In Wisconsin, there are 1,900 employed in the plastic bag industry and thousands more in other plastic products -- there is a strong economic argument for shifting the conversation from regulation to how recycling is linked to manufacturing.

There are several plastic bag companies close to Stoughton and it is quite probable that some residents of Stoughton work in these operations:

- Star Packaging, Whitewater
- K & G Marketing & Manufacturing, Co., Waukesha
- Monster Packing, Elkhorn
- Tewes Corporation, Waukesha
- New Day Packaging Products, Merton
- Nassco, Inc., New Berlin
- Sharp Packaging Systems, Sussex
- Schwartz Bag & Rag, Madison
- American Film & Packaging Corp., Waukesha

<http://www.thomasnet.com/wisconsin/plastic-bags-2722403-1.html>

One of the most innovative plastic bag companies in the nation is:

Wisconsin Film & Bag, Shawano

<http://www.wifb.com/index.html>

Here is more on the relationship between plastics recycling and manufacturing in WI:

http://dnr.wi.gov/news/Weekly/Article_Lookup.asp?id=2468

<http://www.americanchemistry.com/Media/PressReleasesTranscripts/ACC-news-releases/Milwaukee-Launches-New-Campaign-to-Increase-Recycling-of-Plastic-Bags-and-Wraps.html>

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/opinion/mayor-urges-consumers-to-recycle-more-plastic-bags-and-wraps-b99132645z1-230120571.html>

Second, here are some key industry links:

<http://plastics.americanchemistry.com/Product-Groups-and-Stats/FFRG>

<http://www.plasticfilmrecycling.org/>

<http://plasticsindustry.org/apba/>

<http://www.bagtheban.com/>

<http://www.abagslife.com/>

Third, attached are a series of myths/facts for your review.

Fourth, here is the article from the Wisconsin Reporter, which prompted my outreach to you.

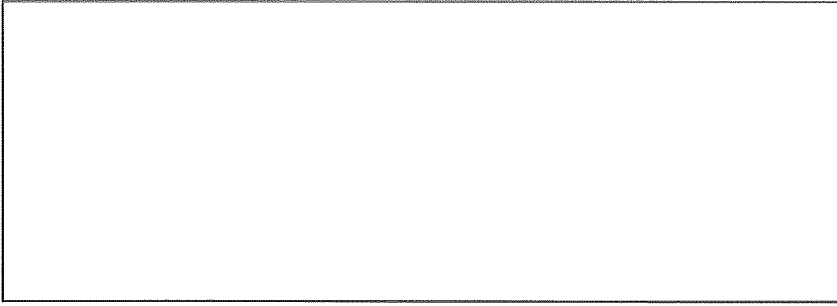
<http://watchdog.org/129642/plastic-shopping-bag-ban/>

Again, Erica, thank you for your assistance. Please consider me a resource as the Stoughton COC considers this issue and its impact on its members. You might also think about talking to the Eau Claire COC, who we have been assisting, as they had a profound influence in moving their community away from bans/taxes and to recycling.

I would appreciate your keeping me updated on where this discussion is heading in Stoughton.

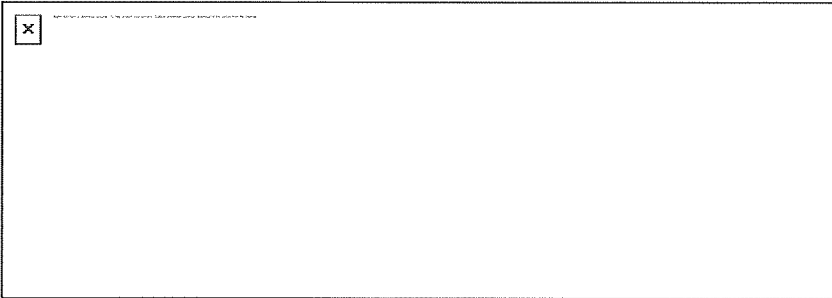
Thank you,

Jonathan Perman
Managing Director



--

Jonathan Perman
Managing Director

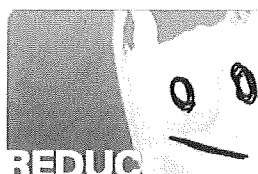




[Home \(/\)](#) [About Us \(/about-us\)](#) [Select a State \(/\)](#) [Recycle Me \(/recycle-me\)](#) [Become A Partner \(/become-partner\)](#)
[Bag Blog & News \(/blog\)](#) [Contact Us \(/contact\)](#)

ABOUT US

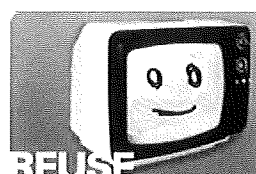
This website serves as a public educational campaign that unites non-profits, business, community and government organizations around the common goal of promoting the three R's as they relate to me, and others like me — reduce, reuse and recycle.



REDUCE. or BYOB (bring your own bags) to the store when you shop. Many stores now offer reusable bags for a minimum fee. And don't forget to use them.



RECYCLE. Use our [locator \(/find-a-recycle-center\)](#) to see where to recycle your bags — and give them a new life as splinter-resistant decking, crates and containers, or even new bags.



REUSE. People reuse bags and over again in a variety of ways — as trash can liners, lunch bags, to pick up poop and store their stuff.



[Home \(/\)](#) [About Us \(/about-us\)](#) [Select a State \(\)](#) [Recycle Me \(/recycle-me\)](#) [Become A Partner \(/become-partner\)](#)
[Bag Blog & News \(/blog\)](#) [Contact Us \(/contact\)](#)

RECYCLE ME

I can't do this on my own. It's easy to place blame on others. The reality is, if I'm not reused or recycled, it's because you chose not to take that one extra step by either finding another use for other bags like me or bringing me back to just about any retailer that originally gave me away.

Just remember three words — reduce, recycle and reuse. What you do next makes a big difference whether I end up as something different or as litter and trash.

Please, give me a second chance. Here's how:

Bring your reusable bags with you, or if there is a self-checkout, pack your own bags with more items than checkers normally do.

The next time you head to the grocery store or retailer, bring back your bags. Many retailers accept plastic bags and wraps for recycling. ([Click here for locations finder. \(/find-a-recycle-center.\)](#)) These include dry-cleaning bags, bread bags and wraps from paper towels, bathroom tissue, napkins, diapers and newspaper bags.

Recycling plastic bags and wraps is important because I'm made from valuable material that can be made into dozens of useful new products like low-maintenance fencing and decking, building and construction products and of course, new bags.

Bags like me and product wraps are fully recyclable, but require a different type of recycling than plastic bottles and containers. That's why most communities collect bags and bottles separately. Plastic bottles and containers usually are collected curbside, while major grocery chains ask that clean and dry, used plastic bags and wraps be recycled in bins in front of the store or near the checkout.

More than 90 percent of plastic bag owners reuse plastic grocery bags at home for things like lining bathroom wastebaskets, as filler in plant containers or cleaning up pet poop.



[Home \(/\)](#) [About Us \(/about-us\)](#) [Select a State \(/\)](#) [Recycle Me \(/recycle-me\)](#) [Become A Partner \(/become-partner\)](#)
[Bag Blog & News \(/blog\)](#) [Contact Us \(/contact\)](#)

RECYCLE LOCATION FINDER

Wal-Mart - 1.07 mi (#)

1





- [Home \(/\)](#)
- [About Us \(/about-us\)](#)
- [Select a State \(\)](#)
- [Recycle Me \(/recycle-me\)](#)
- [Become A Partner \(/become-partner\)](#)
- [Bag Blog & News \(/blog\)](#)
- [Contact Us \(/contact\)](#)

MEET THE BAG FAMILY



MEET THE BAG FAMILY

The Bag Family

I've got a pretty big family and we all want to be recycled when you go to the store. Below you'll find my relatives who also don't want to be treated like trash!

Newspaper Bags

They protect millions of newspapers from damage every day and you can do right by them by getting them into the recycling stream.

Dry Cleaning Bags

Some dry cleaners actually have their own recycling programs, but if yours doesn't, bring them back with me.

Bread Bags

Shake the crumbs out first and they're good to go.

Veggie Bags

These bags can be pretty important because they help keep your produce separated from things like raw meat.

Product Wraps

These come with toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, diapers and more. And I bet you end up with a lot of these guys — probably more than bags! Aren't you glad all this wrap can be diverted from a landfill too?

Furniture Wrap

Think about that wrap that kept your sofa from getting scratched or dirty during a move. Valuable, wasn't it? Well recyclers want it too!

Electronic Wrap

This includes bubble wrap as well.

Plastic Retail Bags

Be sure to remove any hard plastic and string handles first.

Food Storage Bags

If they're clean and dry, bring 'em back!

Cereal Box Liners

If it tears like paper, don't include it, but otherwise if it's clean, you can recycle it.

Tyvek

If it's plain, with no sticky labels.

Plastic Shipping Envelopes

Remove the labels first.

Ice Bags

Take away any metal closures and wait for them to dry out first.

Bag's labeled #2 or #4

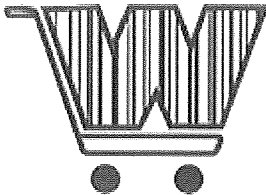
Clean and dry bags can go back to the store to be recycled.

Karl Manthe

From: Michelle Kussow [mkussow@wisconsinshoppers.com] on behalf of Brandon Scholz [brandon@wisconsinshoppers.com]
Sent: Friday, April 25, 2014 3:33 PM
To: Donna Olson; Tim Swadley; David Kneebone; Sonny Swangstu; Paul Lawrence; Ron Christianson; Michael Engelberger; Thomas Majewski; Greg Jenson; Tricia Suess; Eric Hohol; Tom Selsor; Karl Manthe
Cc: 'Brandon Scholz'
Subject: Industry Input on Plastic Bags
Attachments: WGA stoughton plastic bag ban.pdf

Attached you will find a letter in response to the plastic bag issue being reviewed by the City of Stoughton's Public Works Committee. Please contact me with any questions via email at brandon@wisconsinshoppers.com or phone at 608.244.7150 x305.

Thank you.



Wisconsin Grocers Association
33 East Main Street, Suite 701
Madison, WI 53703
Phone: 608.244.7150
www.wisconsinshoppers.com



April 25, 2014

Mayor Donna Olson, City of Stoughton
381 East Main Street
Stoughton, WI 53589

Michael Engelberger, Public Works Committee Chair
381 East Main Street
Stoughton, WI 53589

VIA E-MAIL

Dear Mayor Olson and Chair Engelberger:

This letter responds to the issue of plastic bags that the City's Public Works Committee is reviewing. We understand that the committee is seeking input on the issue and would like to offer our insight.

While we recognize the concerns some have on the issue of plastic bag usage, there is little evidence to suggest that a ban on plastic bags is the most effective solution.

Plastic bags are preferred by consumers, and especially by grocery store customers and retailers for many reasons. While some suggest they are not environmentally friendly because they are produced from petroleum and the litter produced by them is highly visible, there are many sides to this story.

As the Public Works Committee reviews the issue, it is important to recognize that the benefits of paper versus plastic grocery bags may not be as significant as believed. Here are some points to consider while discussing a ban on plastic bags.

- Plastic bags require 40% less energy to produce than paper; generate 80% less solid waste; produces 70% fewer air emissions; release more than 90% fewer waterborne wastes; and requires nearly 90% less energy to recycle one pound of the product.
- Plastic bags also save energy in transportation. It takes seven trucks to deliver the same number of paper bags as one truck of plastic bags.
- Plastics take up approximately one seventh of the space in landfills that paper grocery bags do.
- Paper bags don't degrade much faster than plastic bags but even more so the paper composting loses significance considering that nothing decomposes significantly in modern landfills
- Plastic bags are low cost; plastic bags cost approximately \$.01 whereas paper is \$.06-.10. A ban on plastic grocery bags would thus push prices higher for consumers, particularly grocery prices, as store owners increase reliance on more expensive paper bags as an alternative.
- Plastic bags are reusable and recyclable. Plastic grocery bags are some of the most reused items around the house; more than 80% of consumers reportedly save and reuse plastic bags. Further, there's a demand for recycled plastic that didn't exist 15 years ago. Plastic bags can be recycled into plastic "lumber", planters for gardening, new plastic bags and other products.

As you can see via the points above, instigating an ordinance banning plastic bags would not necessarily be better for the environment. There are significant costs that would hurt consumers and grocery stores as the cost of paper bags is greater than plastic bags. Litter is something however that can be significantly affected by achieving a relatively insignificant shift in individual behavior, including a little more effort to dispose of litter properly and increase recycling.

While the overall recycling rate for plastic bags is still low, virtually every store in the grocery business in Wisconsin participates in plastic bag recycling programs at their own expense. The grocery industry voluntarily offers plastic carryout bag recycling in many communities; several larger retailers have already established their own plastic bag recycling program for Wisconsin consumers. Therefore, instead of a ban, a more viable solution could be to center efforts on recycling, reuse and education.

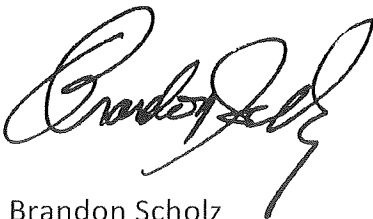
Further, changing the minds of millions of shoppers or retailers won't come overnight, but some stores are helping to nudge shoppers toward reusable bags. But caution is needed here as well because reusable bags, unless they are washed after each shopping trip could be incubators for various harmful bacteria contributing to a food safety issue for that household.

With respect to the costs of plastic versus paper bags, a number of communities experimenting with plastic bag bans have either mandated or allowed retailers to charge a minimum of 5¢ per paper bag requested by customers to help the retailer recoup their additional costs of carrying and providing paper bags to customers. It is simply unrealistic to expect a business with a razor thin margin to accept increased costs based on government mandates without some form of financial relief.

There is also the matter of fairness and equity as it relates to the vagueness of the proposed ban. Is the ban intended to address all plastic bags used by a wide variety of retailers or will city staff focus on plastic bags distributed by grocery stores? If the research and eventual ban does not include plastic bags distributed by convenience stores, farmers markets, restaurants, hardware stores, dry cleaners, shoe stores, sporting goods stores, fast food/carry out restaurants, clothing stores, accessory stores, cell phone storefronts, craft stores, book stores and other establishments, then the action of the Public Works Committee and the Stoughton City Council will be to target grocery stores.

We hope this information is helpful and would be ready and willing to discuss the impact of this issue at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon Scholz", with a stylized, flowing script.

Brandon Scholz
WGA President

cc: Wisconsin Grocers Association Board of Directors
Karl Manthe, Streets Superintendent
Members of Stoughton City Council

Public Works Committee
Tuesday March 18, 2014 at 6:00 PM
Hall of Fame Room, 381 E Main St

Members Present: Alderpersons Michael Engelberger, Sonny Swangstu and Tom Majewski

Absent/ Excused: Tom Selsor

Staff: Street Superintendent Karl Manthe, Street Department Secretary Vickie Erdahl

Guests: Alderpersons David Kneebone and Tim Swadley, Residents Jill Izydor and Sylvia Lawrence

Call to Order: Engelberger called the Public Works Meeting to order at 6:00 PM

1) **Communications:** *Manthe* informed the committee that the street sweepers were out and the spray patcher was going out the next week as the roads took a beating with the winter weather. *Manthe* let the committee know about the upcoming wood carving event at Syttende Mai that the Tree Commission was putting together.

2) **Activity Reports:** (Manthe reported)

- Crews have stayed busy dealing with the snow, ice, sleet and whatever Mother Nature can throw at us.
- During the extreme cold days, crews took time to cleanup snow removal equipment, with washing and waxing plow trucks and other vehicles in the fleet.
- Crews have started Christmas tree collection. Crews are chipping trees and will be out for the entire month of January. As of January 14th, 734 trees had been collected.
- Crews took down Christmas decoration and seasonal banners from downtown light poles.
- Crews have started trimming trees during the winter tree pruning maintenance program. Crew will be out daily except for snow events until the end of March. Crews will also remove trees while out pruning if tree condition meets criteria.
- Tree Commission continues to work with McKay Nursery to finalize brochure for Heggstad Arboretum located in Racetrack Park and is also working on completing Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Plan. Staff is also working on updating Tree Inventory now that some minor web hosting issues have been taken care of.
- The Fleet Maintenance Manager continues to perform preventive maintenance, perform repairs, and fabricate improvements to city wide fleet. Monitor winter snow removal equipment for repairs.
- Parks Department continues to perform sidewalk snow removal and ice rink activities.
- Other tasks completed during the last month include; dumping trash barrels downtown, check sand barrels, cleaning fleet and garage, monitor water levels at dam, garage safety inspections (fire extinguishers, eye wash stations, exit lights, fall protection) repair downtown street lights and traffic signals.

3) **Update on Reducing Single Use Plastic Bags in City:** *Manthe* informed the committee that the results of the survey sent out in January. There were 127 responses. *Manthe* also had discussion with multiple business owners regarding costs for them and ways to advocate recycling of the plastic bags. Several businesses already have containers available to recycle the plastic bags.

Jill Izydor discussed the pros/cons of bans/fees, paper vs. plastic costs and successful ways to change the public's habits. Studies show that the results of banning and charging fees are usually negative, including more costs to the stores. Of the 3.9 tons of plastic in the United States only 11.5 is recycled, 58% of the recyclables stays in the United States and the rest is shipped overseas. What are the environmental costs to produce then recycle the plastics and

ship the waste overseas (usually China) vs. reducing the plastic usage. People should make it their choice to help the environment.

Grocery stores are already paying people if they bring their own reusable bags and offer plastic or paper bags. The cost of paper bags however is 3 times the cost of plastic.

Eau Claire and Madison are doing studies on trying to reduce the usage of single use plastic bags. The goal is to reduce. Educating the public is key in having people change their choices. A couple of ideas suggested where to start educating in the schools with the younger children to make them more aware of the impact on the environment and *Swadley* suggested having a fundraiser to sell reusable bags and increase people's awareness.

The direction the Public Works Committee would like to proceed with: 1) *Manthe* will meet with Jonathan Perman at Stoughton Chambers, 2) *Manthe* will check with Madison & Eau Claire on their progress, 3) get stores involved with the process, 4) check into what other cities are doing and what kind of success have they had, 5) have more recycling containers thru out the city to make recycling as easy as possible and include more stores getting on board, 6) what is the cost of a reusable bag? Jill offered to help out in any way she could.

New Business:

- 4) **Approve January 21, 2013 Meeting Minutes: Motion by Majewski seconded by Engelberger to approve minutes. Motion carried 3-0.**

- 5) **Discussion Regarding Installing Recycling Receptacles in Downtown District on Main Street:** *Manthe* was requested to look into options for recycling containers for downtown. Currently there are no recycling containers downtown. *Manthe* presented several different pictures including pricing for the committee to review. *Manthe* would like to purchase four (4) containers this year and then budget for additional containers in 2015 and continue the process each year until all the containers needed were purchased.

Ideas: Check with John's Disposal to see if they could empty the containers instead of a street department crew – any cost savings? See if any civic group would be interested in sponsoring a can where they could collect the recyclables and use the funds for their group. Purchase less expensive containers for the park shelters.

Recommendation: Directed staff to explore a 2-3 year plan for purchasing recycling containers for the downtown area.

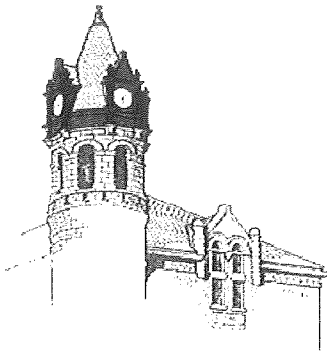
- 6) **Request from Public Safety Committee to Approve Residential Traffic Management Program:** *Chief Leck* requested Public Works to review the Traffic Management plan. Currently there are complaints of cars speeding in residential areas and *Leck* was researching other solutions/options instead of installing stop signs which hampers the flow of traffic significantly. *Leck* wants to be proactive and have a different process for handling these traffic situations at the planning stages of street construction projects for the best resolution for each area, which would include reviewing traffic issues when a particular street is being considered for construction.

The Public Works Committee felt that more information should be given and gathered from residents at the public hearings. The different solutions provided (like speed bumps, chokers and chicanes) should be discussed to see how they would impact the street departments work for plowing etc. Also more work needs to be done on the study before this goes to Council. It was suggested that there be a joint Public Safety and Public Works meeting

- 7) **Future Agenda Items:** Listol Property Plan, EAB Plan, cold storage building, report on status of E Main St, New Members to Committee

Moved by Engelberger, seconded by Majewski to adjourn meeting at 7:25 pm. Motion carried 3-0.

Respectfully submitted by Vickie Erdahl, Admin. Asst. 4/17/14



CITY OF STOUGHTON
DEPARTMENT OF
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RODNEY J. SCHEEL
DIRECTOR

Date: May 12, 2014

To: Public Works Committee

From: Rodney J. Scheel
Director of Planning & Development

Subject: Public Works Committee Agenda Items

There are a number of projects that I plan to provide update to the Committee.

Williams Drive Reconstruction Project – This project consists of the reconstruction of Williams Drive (approximately) Page Street to CTH B. The Town of Dunkirk, Town of Pleasant Springs and the City each management segments of this stretch of Williams Drive and all agree improvements are necessary. The City submitted a grant application for funding participation on the segment managed by the City. On April 30th, we found out that the City did not receive any funding. Through a different funding program, the Towns were able to submit a joint grant application for their segments of Williams Drive. Unlike the City, they were awarded a grant in the amount of \$322,882. This is still good news for the overall project. We are working with the Towns to develop an agreement that outlines the construction project and cost allocations.

This project will include the installation of a water main that will loop across the Moe Farm under the railroad tracks to create a looped water system to allow expansion of Business Park North. It will also include curb and gutter and a paved multi-use path in the southern portion of the project. The entire length will have on street bike paths with upgraded roadway construction to accommodate the traffic volume and trucks. This construction project will also require the installation of stormwater management basin. We are working with an adjacent land owner to obtain an easement or ownership of the portion of the lot for this basin.

2014 Stormwater Project – Gjertson Street to Van Buren Street - This year's capacity improvement project consists of upgrading the undersized stormsewer between homes and links Gjertson Street to Van Buren Street. You will recall the City has made capacity improvements downstream from Van Buren Street to Monroe Street over the course of several years. This project requires us to get easements from adjacent property owners. We are working out easement details with the property owners at this time.

2014 Street Construction Project – This project includes various streets that are planned for pulverization as well as segments of Ridge and Church Streets where total reconstruction is planned. We are currently advertising this project and bids are due on May 20th. We have been

meeting with and responding to property owner questions related to special assessments for this project.

Truck Route Signage near Hillside and Ridge Streets – We have heard from at least one resident who is concerned that truck traffic continues to use Ridge Street instead of Hillside Avenue. Hillside Avenue was widened to better accommodate truck traffic destined for IKI. It is suggested we discuss possible truck restrictions or routes in this area.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

cc. Mayor Donna Olson
Street Superintendent Karl Manthe



CITY OF STOUGHTON
STREET DEPARTMENT

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KARL D. MANTHE
Street Superintendent
kmanthe@ci.stoughton.wi.us

Date: May 14, 2014
To: Public Works Committee
From: Karl D. Manthe – Street Superintendent
Subject: Street Department Plan for Listol Property

In 2013, the City of Stoughton purchased 13 acres of land along County Highway A (known as Listol property), just east of Racetrack Road for a future Street Department facility.

Also during 2013, Angus Young (architecture/engineering firm) did a space need study and building design with cost estimate for the Street Department. The report was presented to the Public Works Committee.

To continue moving forward on this project, the next step is to create a timeframe and place funding in Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). I have included a draft timeframe and plan, from including funding into CIP to remove existing buildings and build new facility.

Please let me know if you have any questions



Improvement Plan & Timeframe for Listol Property

2014

- Removal of out buildings at 2439 County Highway A (June) – street crew or contractors
- Secure funding in CIP to purchase property at 2431 County Highway A (July \$175,000)
- Secure funding in CIP for grading entire 13 acre parcel (July \$175,000)
- Place Building New Facility on CIP

2015

- Purchase property at 2431 County Highway A (January)
- Annex property at 2431 County Highway A (May)
- Remove house & out buildings at 2439 & 2431 County Highway A (September \$100,000)
- Grade entire 14 acre parcel to meet building plans identified in space need study conducted in 2013 by Angus-Young. (September)
- Secure Funding in CIP for 60 x 100 foot cold storage building (July \$125,000)

2016

- Build cold storage building (April)

2017

- Finalize Construction Plans (August)

2018

- Build new Street Department Facility (March)
- Move in New Facility (November)