

**CITY-COUNTY COMMON  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, August 4, 2009**

**Present:** Ray Stevens, Larry Hudkins, Jayne Snyder, Doug Emery, Bob Workman, Bernie Heier, Deb Schorr and John Spatz.

**Absent:** Jon Camp, Adam Hornung, Gene Carroll and Jonathan Cook

**Others Present:** Terry Fairfield, UNL Foundation, JoAnn Kissell, The Clark Enersen Partners and Dr. Barbara Ogg, Lancaster County Extension Educator.

**1. Horse park Update -**

Terry Fairfield from the UNL Foundation gave a brief background update. From an economic standpoint this is an opportunity to secure horse racing in Nebraska, meet local needs, and the potential to provide opportunities on a regional and national level. The University of Nebraska has become a dominant player in the potential horse park due to growth in their equestrian program.

The 2015 Group is ready to start the phase two study and had requested support from the County Commissioners in a letter drafted to Commissioner Workman January 6, 2009 requesting \$50,000.

JoAnne Kissel from Clark Enersen Partners gave a brief update on the horse park. The 2015 Group has continued meetings with potential partners. In order for the group to understand the infrastructure and regulatory issues, they have met with City staff. The existing race track needs to be moved in to allow the University of Nebraska to develop the innovation campus. During the meetings with potential partners, the Visitors and Convention Bureau and City Staff, the Group has discovered there is a need for a true horse park that allows sharing with various groups. The project also offers the potential to preserve open space and valuable land similar to Wilderness Park, and commercial development along 84<sup>th</sup> Street. The Clark Enersen team needs to add sub-consultants who are knowledgeable of the equestrian industry to their team. They will soon be sending out an RFP.

Phase two will allow the Group to have the professionals working on the project full time. The goal is to have the master plan in place for the buildings, horse track and equestrian needs by end of this year or first of next year.

Fairfield updated the group on funding for the project. The Horsemen's Benevolent and Protection Association has committed \$58,000 to the project. The 2015 Group is waiting to hear back from a local foundation on a proposed \$100,000 grant and the University of Nebraska is researching whether it can offer both in-kind and monetary donations totaling \$25,000 - \$30,000. Up to this point, phase one has been funded by the 2015 Group with in-kind contributions from Clark Enersen Partners, Olsson

Associates and Seacrest Law Firm. There are dollars coming in and with the commitment from Lancaster County they are ready to move forward with the project. Commissioner Heier inquired as to whether the City had been approached for funding of the project. Fairfield responded the City Council members have been briefed on the project but have not been asked for funding. Councilman Emery offered to put the discussion of funding on the agenda for a City Council meeting.

## **2. Biosolids Overview -**

Dr. Barbara Ogg, Lancaster County Extension Educator gave an overview on biosolids. Ogg distributed a copy of the power point, brochures, general provisions for land application of the City of Lincoln's wastewater biosolids and Biosolids Land Application Program Lincoln, Nebraska 2008 annual report, Exhibit A , which are available upon request at the County Commissioners Office.

With the building of the City wastewater plant in 1992, farmers have been able to use the sludge as fertilizer. The program is a partnership between the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County Extension Office, farm cooperators, contract haulers and the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The City of Lincoln meets the EPA concentration levels for different metals in biosolids and also meets the Class B biosolids classifications which allows them to be applied to farm fields. Due to health and environmental safeguards, the use of biosolids are restricted to nonpublic contact sites and not for use on gardens or lawns. With the concerns of leaking into ground water, the application needs to be at the agronomic rate for nitrogen. There are setbacks from streams, lakes, ponds, wells and storage. However, the storage setback distances are more restrictive. In the Lincoln program if the soil test over 100 parts per million for phosphorus, there is no application to that land.

Biosolids have many benefits, including yield increases, decreased out-of-pocket fertilizer expenses, reduction in phosphorus, Zink or copper deficiencies, and small payments to the farmers. Other benefits include improved soil tilth, saved space and extended life in the land fill. Land application is the most cost effective management of biosolids. There are challenges, especially for the farmers. They include, potential need to rent equipment, time needed to apply or hire custom applicators and potential for localized compaction. Fifteen to twenty farmers use biosolids annually. The ability to have farmers store the biosolids during the spring and summer months is an important part of this program for fall applications.

In order to get an accurate representation of how much organic nitrogen is in the soil, three to four years between applications is required on the same piece of land.

All fields are mapped which gives accurate record keeping and allows the use of databases to keep track of the field applications and helps with being in compliance with regulations.

Commissioner Workman voiced concern regarding the storage program, in particular the smell, water source and the health of living next to stored sludge which might include pharmaceuticals and personnel care products. Ogg replied that due to testing of waters located below wastewater plants, this has become a concern for the EPA and there are on-going studies regarding this.

Due to time constraints, Ogg was unable to complete the final few minutes of her presentation.

Councilman Camp moved and Commissioner Schorr seconded to adjourn the meeting. Roll called, motion passed 8-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

Minette Genuchi  
Administrative Aide- Lancaster County Board of Commissioner

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