



Environmental Commission

Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting | Wednesday, June 8, 2022

[Agenda](#)

Call to Order 5:35 p.m.

Chair Bazan provided opening remarks and announcements:

- Commissioner Derrough will be participating in Climate Reality's Leadership Corps training.
- Texas A&M Forest Service (TFS) notified the City of confirmed presence of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) within Dallas city limits and western Dallas County ([press release](#)).
- TCEQ Sunset Review ([Report](#); [Executive Summary](#)). Opportunity to provide comments to TCEQ before June 22nd.

Public Comment / Open Microphone

No speakers.

Approval of [Minutes](#)

Commissioner Dankert moved to adopt the minutes as presented.
Motion seconded by Vice Chair Villarreal and unanimously adopted.

Briefing Item

1. Fleet Electrification Analysis – *Donzell Gipson, Director – Equipment & Fleet Management; Ken Kelly, Cory Sigler, Matt Jeffers – National Renewable Energy Laboratory*

Attachment: [Presentation](#)

- a. The speakers briefed the Commission on updates related to a feasibility study for implementation of a fleet electrification plan to meet emission reduction targets in the Comprehensive Environmental & Climate Action Plan.
- b. Questions
 - i. Commissioner Wallace
 1. Suggest workers have the opportunity to test drive EVs
 2. Urge the City to consider (down the line) hiring students graduating out of automotive programs for maintenance of these vehicles.
 3. Regarding Ford Lightning truck – consider using as battery backup at resilience hubs.
 4. Concern around getting EVs to those with lower income. Consider selling to Dallas residents who show proof of lower income.
 - ii. Commissioner Day
 1. You've done modeling on the cost differential over 8 years. Did take into account the possibility of EV cost coming down in future years? Maybe the differential will be lower after 8 years?
 - a. Didn't do future projection on cost of vehicles or cost of fuel/electricity for this study. We did sensitivity analysis. The study

shows impact of lower cost for vehicles and chargers but didn't forecast.

b. We will rerun the model as changes happen.

iii. David Marquis

1. Has the natural gas fleet increased / has this affected the baseline of this study?

a. Actual number of natural gas vehicles has decreased, but our use of natural gas has gone up due to usage among the heavier fleet.

b. Use of diesel has gone down. We're looking to continue this.

2. Define medium and heavy duty?

a. Dump trucks, bucket trucks.

iv. Alan Hoffmann

1. What assumption did you make regarding maintenance cost comparisons?

a. The full report outlines baseline inputs and some of the assumptions made for these parameters.

b. Based on best available information, EVs have lower maintenance cost.

2. Were there also comparisons with plug-in hybrids?

a. This analysis only concerns fully electric vehicles.

v. Commissioner Lachman

1. Regarding fuel costs for gas-powered vehicles, what was your point of reference?

a. Prices have changed since initial analysis (\$2.36 initially).

b. The model is parametric (you can input updated assumptions and rerun).

c. Original data source was Dallas Fueling Records (the City pays different fuel rates). Sensitivity study included changes in conventional fuel prices.

vi. Vice Chair Villarreal

1. Whose responsibility is it to discuss feasibility/availability of federal grants? What can we receive rebates on?

a. We have some pending awards.

b. We aren't aware of direct rebates we're eligible for (direct at time of purchase).

c. There is a desire to ensure full utilization (availability to residents)

2. Provide insight on the 8-year life?

a. Matching life cycle of traditional fleet.

vii. Commissioner Hiatt Haigh

1. Timeline for recommendations/demonstrations/tests?

a. In 2012 we bought 10 Nissan Leafs and a Chevy Volt that are used today.

b. We looked at a 100% electric refuse truck recently with the Sanitation Services department.

c. Must consider what each vehicle will be used for and determine if it meets all needs.

d. This study will put EVs at a greater percentage of our fleet.

e. Will be going to Council in August with framework of next steps.

2. Is the last time the City bought EVs was in 2012?

a. Yes - the City has also put a lot of effort into compressed natural gas vehicles.

3. The desire to move away from combustion engine isn't going to go away.

Encourage the City to look at how we can deploy now.

a. Continuing to investigate grant opportunities (including federal).

4. We'll be buying more combustion engine vehicles soon. Can we switch a portion of that to EV?
 - a. This is where the study is headed.
 - b. Caveats related to charging infrastructure.
- viii. Rita Beving
1. How many hybrid and EVs does Dallas have in total?
 - a. We have 230 hybrids and 10 battery electric vehicles.
 2. Did anyone from the City participate in TxDOT's meeting about statewide EV infrastructure?
 - a. The Equipment & Fleet Management Department didn't participate
 3. Recorded call is online. Comments are due on June 22nd.
 - a. Transportation, Public Works, Fleet, Procurement, and the Office of Government Affairs are working with OEQS to provide comments.
 - b. The North Texas Transportation Electrification Alliance is focused on developing a good network of charging infrastructure.
 4. Have you spoken with other cities that have been buying EVs?
 - a. Have spoken with Austin and Fort Worth.
 5. There are cities like El Paso and Houston that have had hybrids since 2010 and have invested in EV infrastructure. They have realized significant savings on maintenance. Suggest speaking with Climate Mayors EV Purchasing Collaborative.
 - a. It is helpful to speak with sister Cities and share data. The study is the starting point for what is best for Dallas specifically.
 6. In Austin there is a monthly subscription service for \$4.17 to use chargers around the city
 - a. Austin has a municipal electric utility (unlike Dallas).
- ix. Commissioner Derrough
1. What is being done to expand EV infrastructure in the southern sector?
 - a. Wherever we convert City equipment to electric, we'll collocate charging infrastructure.
 - b. We've been working with NCTCOG on an equity-based study to identify gaps that could benefit from public-facing infrastructure. TxDOT vehicle charging plan should be helpful.
- x. Commissioner Dankert
1. Where do we go from here? What are the deliverables for what will go to Council in August?
 - a. Footprint in current infrastructure investments through grants and items related to future direction
 - b. Policy change? Yes.
 - c. New infrastructure, new vehicles (this time next year)
 2. As we continue to move forward with the CECAP, make sure there aren't vehicles that are left out of the transition.
 - a. Expectation is that the EV world will change/improve. This informs goals for 2030.
 3. 700 City vehicles will be retired, and new ones will be purchased – why aren't replacements going to be electric?
 - a. VICE model will support or not support this. If not, we can give credible details on why it may not meet the mark.
 4. Continue including grants/continue to evolve the model.
- xi. Chair Bazan
1. Today, there were two Council agenda items regarding maintenance of existing fleet (not purchase of new, correct)?
 - a. Correct

2. Have we evaluated a plan to phase out/close USTs/ASTs?
 - a. We'll need to consider. Must keep resiliency in mind. As we grow our EV fleet, we reduce these. This may linger behind fleet electrification.
 3. Are we planning to utilize the City's renewable energy contract to supply electricity for EV charging?
 - a. Will get back on details of contract.
 4. Make sure we aren't charging EVs with a non-renewable energy source.
 5. What is the feasibility of connecting 700 of these charging stations to the grid? Is that cost for infrastructure in the VICE model?
 - a. Yes.
 6. TxDOT is accepting comments through 6/22 on the *cost and location* of EV infrastructure (\$400 million in federal dollars).
- xii. Commissioner Roberson
1. Don't leave end-users out of the conversation.
 2. There needs to be a plan for distribution of charging stations that will avoid disparities.
 3. Will this mean it will become less affordable to charge personal EVs?
 - a. The charging stations used by City staff are powered by the City's renewable energy contract (100% wind). We're addressing how to grow our network of public-facing stations. It is somewhat market-driven. Public stations are paid for by the person with the vehicle. It shouldn't impact residents as a whole. We've identified gaps.
- xiii. Director Evans
1. Thanking Director Gipson. Staff will come back to provide updates.

Briefing Memorandum

1. **Bachman Lake Dredging Update – *Terry Lowery, Director – Dallas Water Utilities; Matthew Penk, Assistant Director – Dallas Water Utilities; Stephen Cottingham, Engineering Program Administrator – Dallas Water Utilities***

Attachments: [Memo](#)

- a. A briefing memorandum was provided to the Commission on the status of the dredging of Bachman lake.
- b. Questions
 - i. Commissioner Lachman
 1. When finished, how long is the dredging good for?
 - a. ~20 years
 - ii. Chair Bazan
 1. The project began February 2022 and is anticipated to take 12 months. Is that from February or today?
 - a. From February. Anticipated completion March 2023.
 - iii. Vice Chair Villarreal
 1. Regarding silt that will be collected – can this be given to gardeners?
 - a. The contractor is evaluating suitability for reuse. If it's suitable, they intend to sell it to the public. This is in progress.
 2. Where can residents find information on this?
 - a. Still working out details with the contractor. DWU will share on bachmanlakedam.com.
 3. Can we guarantee the silt won't end up in the landfill?
 - a. Can't guarantee this. There is debris mixed in with the silt.
 - iv. Commissioner Dankert

1. Thanking DWU for their work on this project.
- v. Commissioner Lachman
 1. Can this material/silt be used for the City's urban gardens?
 - a. This material would be available. Can look into this further.

Discussion Items

1. Environmental Health Committee Update on Gas-Powered Landscape Equipment Policy Recommendations – Candace Thompson, Chair - Environmental Health Committee; Renee Roberson, Vice Chair – Environmental Health Committee

Attachment: [Memo](#)

- a. The speakers updated the Commission on outcomes of the Environmental Health Committee meeting to consider policy recommendations around gas-powered landscape equipment. This item will come back to the full Commission in August 2022.
- b. Questions
 - i. David Marquis
 1. Regarding use on a commercial basis, getting information to these landscaping companies will be critical. How can we enforce this?
 2. Look at creative incentives (i.e. buyback programs)
 - a. Clarification that the Environmental Health Committee was not asked to provide a recommendation on implementation. This will be discussed by the full commission in August.
 - ii. Commissioner Dankert
 1. Does the recommendation pertain to only City operations or does it apply to private and public users?
 - a. Citywide, phased approach
 - iii. David Marquis
 1. Keep in mind this is an environmental justice issue.
 2. This is an issue from a stormwater point of view as well.
 - iv. Commissioner Lachman
 1. Noting high volume of particulates released by this equipment. This drives asthma rates. Public cost for asthma in Dallas is \$7 million a year.
 - v. Renee Roberson
 1. Noting we have not forgotten the end-users of this equipment

2. Monthly District Updates from Commissioners

Commissioner Wallace (D5), Vice Chair Villarreal (D6), Commissioners Derrough (D7), Roberson (D8), Siegel (D10), Murray (D11), Lachman (D12), David Marquis, and Rita Beving highlighted recent events and updates from their districts.

3. Monthly Subcommittee Updates

- a. Outreach & Engagement
 - i. Did not meet within the past three weeks.
- b. Environmental Health Committee
 - i. Update provided above.

4. Upcoming Meetings

Environment & Sustainability Committee: Monday, August 1, 2022, 9:00a.m. – 11:00a.m.

Environmental Commission: Wednesday, August 10, 2022, 5:30p.m. – 7:30p.m.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Villarreal motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Lachman seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn was unanimously approved. (Commissioner Hiromoto absent when vote taken).

The Commission adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Approval for transmission:

Kathryn Bazan
Kathryn Bazan (Jun 27, 2022 15:08 CDT)

Kathryn Bazan, Chair

Jun 27, 2022

Date

Erin Diehl
Erin Diehl, Board Coordinator

6/27/2022

Date