

Greenhouse Gas/Energy Conservation Team

Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2009, 12:00-2:00 pm

140 W. Pine, City Council Chambers

Members: Brian Kerns, Nancy Wilson, Ben Schmidt, Sam Hall, Julie Osborn, Ross Keogh, John Freer, Angelique Arachy, and Owen Weber.

Facilitators: Susan Anderson (Sustainable Business Council), Gary Bakke (Chamber of Commerce)

I. Call to Order: 12:05

II. Roll Call Present: Ben Schmidt, Sam Hall, Julie Osborn, Ross Keogh, Owen Weber, Nancy Wilson, John Freer, Brian Kerns

Absent: Angelique Arachy

Others Present: Susan Anderson, Chase Jones, Pam Walzer

Introductions were made to the new member John Freer and he provided some background info on himself to the team.

III. Announcements: Brian mentioned the 350.org student organization held a recent event. Owen asked about outreach for the team and if there was anything to offer, as a result, the CF bulbs the team has had for some time were distributed and provided a big draw to the event.

Brian also announced there are some climate change seminars at UM in the next several weeks with renowned speakers. He is on several list serves that announce these types of things and would be happy to share those with others.

Nancy talked about the Amtrak North Coast Hiawatha Study recently released, it is available on the Amtrak website and is worth looking at. A comment to your U.S. Representative(s) would be helpful to get this in motion. This is the best chance to restore this service from Chicago to Seattle and connect Montana's major cities.

Ben has been working on the county website gearing up to emphase the REC program and updating the website in general; is a work in progress and would like input.

Pam Walzer relayed the broad recycling issue of what can the city do to encourage waste minimization was discussed in Conservation Committee. Since the City does not own the waste utility, it is hard to determine what can be done to provide incentives. Hoping to work with a newly formed group comprised of representatives from many large employers work in a community effort for suggestions to reduce waste and the best reductions to make and then recycling as much as we can. Nancy asked if the city is able to regulate waste. Pam replied that the landfill is regulated by DEQ permit and they do make effort to recycle; the transportation of waste is regulated by the PSC, both of which are run by the same company in this instance. The approach can be framed as incentive vs. punishment. Allied Waste has been approached to devise a billing system to bill according to waste generated--bill less for those customers with less waste to pick up. This could be an incentive to reduce waste and recycle. The only tools the City has it to have laws in place requiring certain measures like everyone having garbage service. With the sewer, which we own, we want to reduce amount going in, incentivized to reduce waste to improve water quality for less restrictive permitting. Allied does not have that incentive. In fact, they have applied for an expanded site and transports waste from outside the city.

Julie commented that Rod Austin at BID is big advovate for recycling and may have some ideas (if he isn't involved in the group mentioned beforehand). Susan Anderson just forwarded the team a grant

opportunity through DEQ for \$25,000 for recycling in town, it requires a \$5000 match, maybe there is opportunity there for the City to provide that match towards a project.

Pam said that Rod was present at the first discussion. Recycling in Missoula is collection of a few items to ship somewhere else. What can be done to develop and encourage 'recycling' done right here; transportation is an issue-cost, CO2 emissions, etc. There is not a market for glass, what can the City do to make it easier to use in construction for example, permitting its use. Looking to 'think bigger' than the minimal (collection) recycling that is available in Missoula. Ross asked how can this team generate some tangible policy objectives. Pam replied that determining 'what is the problem' will be the bigger picture. She sees these as issues and concerns: a) no one is incentivized to minimize waste; b) we generate glass and people are concerned about that and want to work with that; however, it is the least toxic waste; c) having community composting program available as organic waste generates methane in the landfill; and d) building inspection issues with recyclable materials. What are the impediments people are experiencing and seeing in different areas and what can be done to relieve that. Need experts that are advocates for using glass, fly ash, etc. to help ensure that what we do as a city is streamlined. The economic development of getting businesses here that make waste into 'new' products.

IV. Public comments on items not listed on the agenda. (Required by law)

NONE

- V. Approve meeting minutes of October 8, 2009.** Mr. Keogh motioned to approve, Ms. Osborn seconded, all in favor.

VI. Non-Action Items:

A. MIM cash for bus commuting program update (2 minutes) Nancy

There has been a couple meetings, the parking commission is onboard to buy into the program. Will be meeting with the ALT soon to discuss. Met with Ginny Merriam, City Communications, with a positive discussion as well.

Public comment: None

B. Recycling Bin Update (2 minutes) Julie

Allied Waste pick-up will be part of the city contract, no additional fee. The BID will empty the smaller containers into one large one. If there are businesses in town that want to add recyclables to that large dumpster, Rod indicated that is welcomed. The dumpster is locked and located in the NW corner lot on Orange St. next to the river, will need to contact the BID for scheduling.

Public comment: None

VII. Action Items

A. Renewable Energy Credits – Marketing Plan Development

Ben indicated he will be meeting with Ginny Merriam to discuss name ideas tomorrow as well as input on the PSA's. Plan is to develop the county website to be ready to have content for the city site. Attorneys are still negotiating the contract. Don't see making the November deadline and probably not ready to meet with the climate change group until Jan/Feb. Hope to do a launch in February.

Public Comment: None

B. Student Intern Request

A solicitation from Nicky Phear at UM for intern proposals was circulated via email and the team discussed description and tasks. Several ideas were thrown around and the following motion was suggested:

Mr. Keogh motioned to submit an internship proposal to the University of Montana that seeks someone interested in advocating for policy at state and local levels on topics such as ‘green building’ above code issues, energy efficiency financing, municipal energy projects, reducing green house emissions, and renewable energy credits to have effective marketing and enhancing website development with focus on advocacy and education. **Mr. Hall** motioned to amend the motion by *striking building codes* and **Mr. Freer** recommended replacement with ‘green building’ above code issues instead (which are incorporated in said motion). With that amendment accepted by Mr. Keogh, **Mr. Schmidt** seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Ross commented he would like to leave room in the internship proposal to discuss with potential intern a number of topics to see where interest best lies and then work with the team in January to decide upon which topic(s) to pursue; through a scope of work, will be assigned a team member(s) for oversight of internship. Ben replied that Ms. Phear is looking for more concrete proposal this week. Owen commented that if you have three roughly etched out projects, the process would/could be how to etch that out further.

Public Comment: None

C. What Projects Should GHGEC Team Pursue – Vision Ideas or Brain Storm

The Greenhouse Gas/Energy Conservation Team is appointed by the City Council to aid in the community-wide education and communication of energy efficiency opportunities and renewable energy measures that minimize greenhouse gas generation. Team will brainstorm ideas to meet this mandate for it's work in the upcoming year. Out of this brainstorm session came the following ideas:

- Solar municipal energy project (lots of interest from MT. League of Cities & Towns)
 - Funding Sources: Sell panels to the public, bonds, SID,
- City involvement in state legislative initiative for building codes, renewables, recycling, financing for Energy Efficiency
- Waste stream: minimization, recycling
 - Building sector waste stream huge contributor and big target for change
- LED outdoor lighting (city investment/direction to increase efficiency by ordinance, buy-in, lobby PSC)
- Block grants for Energy Efficiency (with the \$150k revolving loan fund, criteria still needs to be defined once awarded through CDBG funds)
- Expand Green Blocks (identify loan funds to assist w/things not covered in the program, windows, etc.)
- Sustainable emphasis of city website
- Education/Advocacy
 - Internships
 - Position Papers (start collecting on topics)
 - Press Releases
- Have a GGEC rep regularly come to city council meeting to push agenda items
- "CO2 is Green" ad campaign (there is a drop in general acceptance that climate change is happening we could provide education to help dispel this campaign message)
- Transportation: Building core density brought direct reduction in miles driven in urban settings. Possible education aspect-work w/OPG on supporting/endorsing that land use designation)
- Web presence; add position papers
- Personal choices

- Get involved when city prepares to make a decision regarding GHG emissions
- Renewable Energy Credits
- Internship
- Green power community
- Should city become a utility (owner/provider) ?
- Incentivize green building; find markets for waste
- Emission inventory tracking
 - that it continues to evolve; that it becomes a working product, tie in with Climate Action Plan
- Aging urban forest
- Show presence

Public Comment: Chase Jones offered to set up a meeting to talk about the revolving loan(s) out there and the PACE funds if team members are interested.

The team will work to futher refine, rank, and prioritize these ideas for action.

Think about vice-chair nominees for January election.

VIII. Adjournment: *Mr. Schmidt* made motion to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.