

SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION

Thursday, March 25, 2010

La Crosse County Administrative Center, Room 3220

4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marilyn Pedretti, Dan Bagniewski, Jai Johnson, Brad Konkel, Wayne Olson, (exc. 5:10), Jean Salk, Eric Schmidt, Rob Tyser (4:07)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Mike Giese

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Karl Green, Margaret Norden, Jerry Severson, Jenny Kuderer, Erica Black, Glen Jenkins, Steve O'Malley

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Marilyn Pedretti called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2010

MOTION by Bagniewski/Olson to approve the Minutes of February 25, 2010. **Motion carried unanimously.** Giese, Tyser excused; Johnson, Konkel abstained.

AGENCY REPORTS

None reported.

REQUEST BY COULEE PARTNERS FOR SUSTAINABILITY FOR FINANCIAL FUNDING

Glen Jenkins, representing Coulee Partners for Sustainability, reported that the organization is planning a conference in fall, 2010, to focus on the practicalities of sustainability for small businesses. They are considering the OmniCenter for a location. They are expecting an executive from Interface, a producer of environmentally responsible carpet, to deliver a keynote address. They estimate a budget of \$10,000 to hold the event. He indicated that Xcel Energy, Dairyland Power, and Gundersen-Lutheran have stated they are willing to be sponsors. Jenkins stated he would return to the committee when budget details are available. **MOTION** by Johnson/Tyser to pledge up to \$1,500 in matching funds from the La Crosse County Solid Waste – Sustainability budget to the Coulee Partners for Sustainability event in fall, 2010, based on their budget needs. **Motion carried unanimously.** Giese excused.

BASELINE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Karl Green reported that the Baseline Committee has met twice. They met one time at Gundersen Lutheran to look at their baseline data and fluctuations in energy use, and learned about their different methods of measuring to make data understandable. Dan Bagniewski stated that the same type of information would be available from Franciscan Skemp. Wayne Olson stated he is working on an interactive reporting system that will show data in picture format. Jerry Severson and Jean Salk each reported on the quantity of information that could be retrievable, and the options for categorizing data, such as energy cost per square foot, dollar cost per square foot, or combined gas and electric for a BTU number. Lengthy discussion was held on converting data into terms that would be meaningful to the public. Jai Johnson indicated she would eventually like to see community-wide data to show energy use per capita.

DISCUSSION AND UPDATE ON RESEARCH ON COST SAVINGS OF GOING LEED

Karl Green highlighted information from three publications:

- *Energy Performance of LEED for New Construction Buildings* by the New Buildings Institute concluded that LEED energy use shows an average of 25%-30% better than the national average; as performance goals increase, average savings also increase; and energy use intensity data showed large degrees of variation from design projections.
- *Assessing Green Building Performance* by the General Services Administration showed that the 12 sustainably-designed buildings in its study had 26% less energy use, 13% lower aggregate maintenance costs, 27% higher occupant satisfaction, and 33% fewer CO2 emissions.

- *The Economics of LEED for Existing Building for Individual Buildings* by the Leonardo Academy for Johnson Controls concluded that among the 53 LEED-EB buildings that were surveyed, overall cost of LEED-EB implementation and certification ranges from \$.02 to \$5.01 per square foot; and the average overall cost of LEED-EB implementation and certification is \$1.58 per square foot.

Questions were asked about comparing the performance of LEED certification to non-LEED, comparing LEED to a LEED equivalent (e.g. Energy Star), and the cost of implementing LEED standards without LEED certification. Staff was asked to research other certification standards.

DISCUSS PROCESS FOR COMPLETING AND ADDING TASKS

Consensus of the committee was to refer the item to a later meeting.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

Steve O'Malley reminded the committee to visit the County website and sign up for the eNews, which focused on sustainability news this week. He reported that LADCO will host a High Speed Rail event on April 16, 2010, that will include speakers from Amtrak and Talgo, a train manufacturer. He announced that the County has received a Department of Commerce stimulus funds grant for three projects:

- Law Enforcement Center solar hot water;
- Lakeview Health Center solar hot water;
- Seed money to challenge the community to convert Rotary Lights to LED.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Suggestions for other sub-committees

NEXT MEETING

Due to a conflict with the County Board Retreat and the regular Commission meeting date on April 22, 2010, the members agreed to move their meeting to Thursday, May 6, 2010, at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Konkell/Johnson to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Giese, Olson excused. Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Approved, May 6, 2010, Margaret Norden, Recorder