

SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION

Thursday, June 24, 2010

La Crosse County Administrative Center, Room 3220

4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marilyn Pedretti, Jai Johnson, Brad Konkol, Wayne Olson, Jean Salk

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Dan Bagniewski, Mike Giese, Eric Schmidt, Rob Tyser

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Nick Nichols, Hank Koch, Margaret Norden, Jerry Severson, Erica Black, Steve O'Malley, Linda Schams

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 MAY 27, 2010

MOTION by Konkol/Olson to approve the Minutes of May 27, 2010. **Motion carried unanimously.** Bagniewski, Giese, Schmidt, Tyser excused.

AGENCY REPORTS

None reported.

BASELINE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Wayne Olson read aloud an email report from Rob Tyser. Tyser stated that the committee has been reviewing the past year of Xcel Energy databases for City and County electricity and gas use. They are now able to access Xcel's billing history reports for individual City and County facilities. The reports can be used to spot check the database for accuracy and understandability, and preliminary reviews indicate the billing history and databases are consistent. Tyser expects they could complete the review at their next meeting, and then have discussions as to how the data can be communicated to the public.

GREEN CERTIFICATION POLICY UPDATE

The item was referred to the July 22, 2010, meeting.

RESOLUTION RE: SUPPORTING THE STATE OF WISCONSIN'S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE'S 25X25 VISION

Nick Nichols reported at the May 27, 2010, meeting that the statewide Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program loans money for energy efficiency. Cities and counties must join the Wisconsin Energy Independent Community Partnership to access the PACE funds. The City of La Crosse has already passed a resolution to join the partnership. The County's resolution would approve joining the partnership, as well. **MOTION** by Johnson/Konkol to approve the Resolution Re: Supporting the State of Wisconsin's Office of Energy Independence's 25X25 Vision. **Motion carried unanimously.** Bagniewski, Giese, Schmidt, Tyser excused.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE UPDATE AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Wayne Olson reported that the Website Committee met with Michelle Jensen in the Information Technology (IT) Department. Jensen suggested that a county staff person act as a conduit for monthly updates and any substantial Commission-approved changes that would be communicated to the website administrator. **MOTION** by Olson/Konkol to request that Karl Green be the conduit through which Sustainable La Crosse Commission website changes will be made and to notify the web administrator and the IT Department supervisor of this decision. **Motion carried unanimously.** Bagniewski, Giese, Schmidt, Tyser excused. Olson reported that the Website Committee recommended the following changes: Replace highlights in boxes with City and County accomplishments as provided by Larry Kirch and Nick Nichols; change Oversight Committee to Sustainable La Crosse Commission, and add committee members, meeting dates, and subcommittees; have highlight blurbs and links to pdf documents of City and County efforts lists; and archive old newsletters. Other Commission suggestions were: Add links to organizations, such as Coulee

Partners for Sustainability, Sierra Club, Focus on Energy, and City of La Crosse Public Works page on plastics recycling.

HILLVIEW ASSISTED LIVING UPDATE

Nick Nichols reported that the Aging & Long-Term Care Committee, which oversees Hillview, would not be pursuing LEED certification for the proposed assisted living facility; however, at the Committee's direction, he and the Hillview administrator, assistant administrator, and project architect went over a LEED checklist, and it showed that out of 40 points to meet LEED certification criteria, 32 had been met so far. They will be looking at other criteria that could gain additional points. Steve O'Malley distributed a list of sustainable elements that were included in the design from the beginning, and reported that inclusion of sustainable design experience and concepts were included in the RFP process for the architect and contractor. O'Malley also spoke about LEED requirements of document commissioning, mechanical commissioning by an independent third party, and modeling, and the additional cost of satisfying those requirements. Lengthy discussion was held about setting County policy for future building projects. Suggestions included having a policy that can be flexible and take cost effectiveness into account, but at a minimum to go through the LEED checklist, and incorporate that review into the project timetable. O'Malley stated that the Aging & Long-Term Care Committee did direct Nichols to go through the LEED checklist. Jai Johnson further suggested completing the Commission's review of other certifications, such as Energy Star, before drafting policy for County Board consideration. She and Brad Konkel will bring back a report to the Commission. Steve O'Malley suggested they also speak with River Architects about challenges they encountered with LEED certification of their own office building.

SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT REPORT ON ITS PART IN SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

Hank Koch provided a handout and gave a report on the progress made in 17 goals set by the Solid Waste Department and the Sustainability Program. He outlined the challenges of getting support from all municipalities on projects that require their involvement, and highlighted the successes of recycling asphalt shingles and a gas to energy project. A Solid Waste Evaluation to be completed in September, 2010, will address several components. A summary of goals is as follows:

1. Develop and enhance tools to keep waste within our region: Significant discussions have taken place with the Solid Waste Policy Board, waste haulers, and County administration;
2. Expand use of waste drop off sites: Physical improvements have been made at Solid Waste. They have also extended hours, done advertising, and expanded types of acceptable waste.
3. Organize and have a consistent municipal drop off site system: As part of the Solid Waste Evaluation, they are inventorying drop-off sites.
4. Encourage municipalities to incorporate composting: No activity.
5. Explore feasibility of a yard waste composting facility to capture methane and heat: There have been ongoing discussions, but no program in place yet.
6. Work with municipalities on a construction and demolition ordinance: This is being addressed in the Solid Waste Evaluation to be completed in September, 2010.
7. Enhance value of County's wood waste: Demand for wood waste is decreasing and there are liability issues to be addressed.
8. Encourage municipalities to adopt comprehensive recycling, including plastics: The Solid Waste Evaluation will address regional recycling.
9. Encourage carpet recycling: No current activities.
10. Work with local entities to recycle asphalt shingles: Solid Waste utilizes ground shingles for road base at the landfill. Mathy Construction is now also utilizing asphalt shingles as a supplement to their paving projects.
11. Explore plasma gasification to dispose of hazardous waste: No activity.
12. Attract businesses to use waste methane gas as a heat source: Significant progress has been made with a proposal for County Board approval to be considered in August, 2010.
13. Explore reuse program for ash trees affected by the emerald ash borer: A recommendation is being reviewed at County administration level.
14. (Sustainability) Work with other non-profits to install wind turbines: No activity.
15. (Sustainability) Explore converting UW-L's coal fired plant to a co-firing facility: No activity.
16. Work with Xcel Energy to capture waste heat at the Waste-to-Energy plant: Not feasible.
17. Work with municipalities on banning burn barrels: The Health Department is surveying current ordinances.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

None reported.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Nothing further requested than those items brought up in discussion.

NEXT MEETING: JULY 22, 2010, AT 4:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Johnson/Konkel to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Bagniewski, Giese, Schmidt, Tyser excused. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Approved, July 22, 2010, Margaret Norden, Recorder