

SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION

Thursday, August 26, 2010

La Crosse County Solid Waste Department, 6500 State Highway 16, La Crosse, WI 54601

4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marilyn Pedretti, Dan Bagniewski, Mike Giese, Jai Johnson, R. Jean Salk, Eric Schmidt, Rob Tyser

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Brad Konkell, Wayne Olson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Nick Nichols, Margaret Norden, Jack Zabrowski, John Heck

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 JULY 22, 2010

MOTION by Schmidt/Bagniewski to approve the Minutes of July 22, 2010. **Motion carried unanimously.** Konkell, Olson excused; Johnson abstained.

AGENCY REPORTS

- Jack Zabrowski, La Crosse County Bicycle-Pedestrian Coordinator, provided an invitation to the workshop the County Health Department will co-sponsor with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation at Myrick Hixon Eco Park on October 5, 2010, regarding the Complete Streets program. He explained that the Wisconsin Pedestrian and Bicycle Accommodation Law provides for safe access for all users, including motor vehicles, bicyclists, pedestrians, and mass transit. He is also working with the regional bicycle-pedestrian plan.
- John Heck, Focus on Energy, spoke about the four sectors they work on—agriculture, business, industry, and schools and government. He is working with local schools and governments. Nick Nichols reported that La Crosse County's solar hot water projects at the Law Enforcement Center and Lakeview Health Center, and the Gas to Energy project with Gundersen-Lutheran may qualify for Focus on Energy funds.

BASELINE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Rob Tyser gave an update. The committee is still verifying that all meters match Xcel Energy records. When that is verified, they can start building a database.

GREEN CERTIFICATION POLICY UPDATE

No further report at this time.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE UPDATE

No further report at this time.

UPDATE OF SOLID WASTE EVALUATION

Nick Nichols provided copies of the executive summary of the draft recycling collection evaluation that was conducted for the Solid Waste Department. The study covers the following: Existing System Description, Trends, Benchmarking, Carbon Footprint, and Collection Technology Options. The information included pros and cons of various options that could help municipal policymakers take the cost of disposal off the tax levy. The final draft will be presented at an open house and customer appreciation day at the Solid Waste Department on September 17, 2010. Mike Giese spoke about the challenges of coordinating municipal contract renewal dates with updates in the waste collection system. He suggested the committee review the material to be able to advocate from a sustainability standpoint to municipalities that will be receiving citizen feedback about changes in service and payment. There was further discussion regarding the possibility of a City of La Crosse-City of Onalaska ad hoc implementation committee, and suggestion was made to place on the September 23, 2010, agenda.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

Nick Nichols distributed copies of the *Recycling News* from the Department of Natural Resources. He also reported that the vote on the resolution to approve the Gas to Energy project was carried by County Board.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Solid Waste evaluation report update
- Discussion regarding ad hoc implementation committee

NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 23, 2010, AT 4:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Johnson/Schmidt to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Konkel, Olson excused. Meeting adjourned at 4:28 p.m. Following adjournment, the committee toured the county landfill.

Approved, September 23, 2010, Margaret Norden, Recorder