

SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION

Thursday, September 23, 2010

Room 3220, La Crosse County Administrative Center, 400 N. 4th St., La Crosse

4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marilyn Pedretti, Mike Giese (4:12), Jai Johnson, Brad Konkel (4:11, exc. 5:08), Wayne Olson, R. Jean Salk, Eric Schmidt

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Dan Bagniewski

MEMBERS ABSENT: Rob Tyser

OTHERS PRESENT: Hank Koch, Nick Nichols, Margaret Norden, Karl Green, Rick Kaiser, Patti Darley, Maureen Freedland

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Marilyn Pedretti called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2010

MOTION by Schmidt/Johnson to approve the Minutes of August 26, 2010. **Motion carried unanimously.** Bagniewski, Giese, Konkel excused; Tyser absent.

AGENCY REPORTS

None requested.

COMMUNITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Rick Kaiser and Patti Darley, presented Xcel Energy's Community Conservation Program which will begin in La Crosse in 2011. Xcel has partnered with Focus on Energy on a program that encourages energy conservation. Three percent of the conservation dollars from each Xcel bill is mandated by the Public Service Commission to be used for conservation. Xcel provides matching dollars for improvements such as insulation, energy efficient appliances, and other structural and mechanical features. The program is in two parts:

- Residential – Existing Xcel customers can have an energy audit at \$45, rather than the regular fee of \$300. The customer has a year to make recommended improvements, after which there is another audit. If reductions in energy use are shown, the homeowner can apply for cash incentives up to \$5,000.
- Small Business – The program is similar to the residential program, but energy audits are free, and businesses have three years in which to make improvements.

Discussion was held regarding Xcel's plans for publicizing the program. County staff will ask to have a link created on the Sustainability website to the Community Conservation web page.

BASELINE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Karl Green reported that the committee has met and had a conference call with Xcel. He reported on meeting with the County Finance Department to verify accounts, and noted that they organize energy bills by department, not by account (i.e. debtor) numbers. He is meeting with separate departments to verify their accounts, and with the deputy finance director to learn the system the Finance Department uses. A lengthy discussion followed regarding location of account numbers. The item will be brought back to the October 28, 2010, meeting.

GREEN CERTIFICATION POLICY UPDATE

Brad Konkel reported that he will be meeting with Rob Tyser and will report back at the October 28, 2010, meeting.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Karl Green showed the website changes that were made, including links to the new City of La Crosse transit center, and the La Crosse Waters website. There is now also a link to committee agendas. Suggestions were made to include committee member names, a link to City plastics recycling, the Solid Waste Evaluation Report, and sustainable features that were included in the Hillview Assisted Living and Law Enforcement Center addition architectural plans.

SOLID WASTE EVALUATION REPORT UPDATE / AD HOC IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Nick Nichols reported on the Solid Waste Department event to roll out the evaluation that was conducted. He distributed copies of the final evaluation report, and recommended that the committee members become familiar with the contents to be able to inform and reaffirm the municipalities' decision-making. Lengthy discussion followed regarding the role of the Sustainable La Crosse Commission, a potential joint City of La Crosse-City of Onalaska ad hoc committee, the challenges all municipalities will face with utilizing information in the study to make changes, opportunities for public education, and the role of the County in encouraging awareness, communication, and collaboration. Hank Koch noted that Foth, Inc., has been asked to make recommendations about going forward with collaboration, and stated that the Foth consultant who wrote the study could be available for a presentation. The item will remain on the agenda. Nichols suggested dedicating a committee meeting to the topic.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

Karl Green has done a housing study for the City of La Crosse that he will be presenting to the La Crosse City Council.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No items suggested other than previously noted.

NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 28, 2010, AT 4:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Johnson/Olson to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Bagniewski, Konkel excused; Tyser absent. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Approved, October 28, 2010, Margaret Norden, Recorder