

SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION

Thursday, April 28, 2011

Law Enforcement Center, Room 1615

4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marilyn Pedretti, Dan Bagniewski, Brad Konkel, Wayne Olson, R. Jean Salk, Eric Schmidt, Rob Tyser

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Mike Giese, Jai Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Margaret Norden, Nick Nichols, Karl Green, Bryan Jostad

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 24, 2011

MOTION by to approve the Minutes of February 24, 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.** Giese, Johnson excused.

AGENCY REPORTS/INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

- Chair Pedretti reported that the County Board passed a Resolution in April, 2011, to oppose elimination of municipal recycling requirements and recycling grant programs, and another Resolution in support of the Complete Streets policy for designing roadways in La Crosse County that are accessible to multiple users and types of vehicles.
- Chair Pedretti noted that Supervisor Konkel is leaving the area and thanked him for his service. She also announced that Supervisor Johnson is planning to resign from the committee.
- Nick Nichols reported that the Solid Waste Policy Board also discussed the Resolution on recycling and how communities will have a difficult time funding recycling programs without state grant money. He reported that there might be opportunities to collaborate with other areas. He invited committee members to the policy board's annual meeting at Fox Hollow on May 4, 2011.
- Nick Nichols reported that Applied Ecological Services in Vernon County is in the business of treating leachate. The DNR has raised concerns about the potential of a spill and contamination of a nearby trout stream.

PURCHASING SECTION REPORT ON ITS PART IN STRATEGIC PLAN FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Bryan Jostad gave an overview of goals and accomplishments for the Purchasing section, as follows:

1. Establish a base line of electric and gas usage: Karl Green in the Extension Department is tracking.
2. Examine long-term cost differential of new lighting technology: In the downtown campus, all T8 light bulbs have been transitioned to T12 which are more efficient; they are beginning a transition to LED lights.
3. Complete lighting audit of all city owned facilities: Purview of City of La Crosse.
4. Purchase renewably produced electricity: There have been discussions with the Facilities Department; there is not a viable source at this time.
5. Establish baseline amount of fuel consumption: Karl Green in the Extension Department is tracking.
6. Require 25% of fleet vehicle purchases to be "green" and look for alternatives: There are currently two hybrid vehicles within the Health Department. The Facilities Department has tested a NEV truck.
7. Purchase bio-diesel when cost effective, especially cellulosic: The Highway Department uses a 5% bio-diesel mix.
8. Investigate compressed natural gas for fleet vehicles: This is a possibility for the future, but is currently constrained by having only one fueling depot in the La Crosse area, located at Honda Motorwerks.
9. Consider requiring use of La Crosse airport for city sponsored air travel: Purview of City of La Crosse.

10. Establish a baseline use of pesticides, chemicals: The Facilities Department is working on this.
11. Environmentally-preferred alternatives (identify and educate): A Resolution was passed August, 2008, which incorporated a sustainable provision in the purchasing policy.
12. Consider for adoption an environmentally preferred purchasing policy: Passed resolution in August of 2008 and incorporated a sustainable provision within purchasing policy.
13. Develop full cost and life cycle accounting for purchasing: Have not perfected.
14. Investigate the replacement cycle on all electronic equipment: IT Department is using an internet public auction site to sell used electronic equipment rather than disposing of it.
15. Encourage staff to minimize # of electronic devices used: On-going.
16. Establish baseline of paper use: Printing Department is compiling.
17. Automate to electronic payroll, billing, A/R, and purchasing: Currently accept credit cards for six county departments, started paying invoices via ACH-Wells Fargo.

Jostad further reported that there are more vendors who claim they are producing sustainable products. Jean Salk asked about criteria for establishing whether a product is "sustainable" or "green", and Jostad replied that it depends on the product, and that at this time the RFP's looked for a percentage of natural or recycled material. Jostad commented that the resolution that established a sustainable provision for purchasing has helped to further the County's sustainability efforts, but that it was a continuously evolving process.

BASELINE COMMITTEE REPORT

Rob Tyser, Jean Salk, and Karl Green compiled thousands of data for City and County electric and gas energy usage, and gave a power point presentation on their findings. Graphs showed the differences in energy usage by department/building and by year. The greatest energy users for the County were the downtown campus, Lakeview and Hillview, and for the City were the La Crosse Center, City Hall, City Water Department, and their wastewater treatment facility. Committee consensus was to determine an average for the years 2006-2008, and to summarize data annually thereafter. Discussion was held about other baseline committees or workgroups that could be established, e.g. fuel use, land use, solid waste, or water use. Rob Tyser suggested establishing a workgroup regarding building policies. Marilyn Pedretti will talk to the County Administrator, and Eric Olson will discuss with City department heads regarding baseline data storage, and report back on recommendations.

DISCUSSION ON 2011 GOALS AND REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLAN FOR SUSTAINABILITY

The item was referred to the May 26, 2011, agenda.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No further items suggested than previously noted.

NEXT MEETING: MAY 26, 2011

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Salk/Olson to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Johnson excused. Meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Approved, May 26, 2011, Margaret Norden, Recorder