

SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION

Thursday, July 28, 2011

Administrative Center, Room 3220, 400 N. 4th St.

4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marilyn Pedretti, Sharon Hampson, R. Jean Salk, Sara Sullivan, Richard Swantz, Rob Tyser

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Dan Bagniewski

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Giese, Wayne Olson

OTHERS PRESENT: Nick Nichols, Karl Green, Margaret Norden, Jerry Severson, Jesse Horstman

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Marilyn Pedretti called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Pedretti welcomed City of La Crosse Committee of the Whole members Dick Swantz and Sara Sullivan, who were recently appointed by the Mayor to represent the City on the Sustainable La Crosse Commission.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2011

MOTION by Hampson/Tyser to approve the Minutes of June 23, 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.** Bagniewski excused; Giese, Olson absent.

AGENCY REPORTS/INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

Nick Nichols attended the Urban Sustainability Leadership Academy in Washington, DC, on July 18-20, 2011. He reported there are metrics and formulas that are available on their website.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR TO REPLACE JAI JOHNSON

The following nomination was made and seconded for the office of Vice-Chair: Sara Sullivan by Hampson/Tyser. There were no further nominations. The Chair called for unanimous consent of Sara Sullivan as Vice Chair, which was approved unanimously. Bagniewski excused; Giese, Olson absent.

DISCUSS VOLUNTEER TO REPLACE ERIC SCHMIDT ON BUILDING STANDARDS SUBCOMMITTEE

Since Eric Schmidt resigned as a City of La Crosse representative on the Commission, there is a vacancy on the Building Standards Subcommittee. Nick Nichols gave a brief report on their progress. There were no volunteers to take Schmidt's place at this time.

RESOLUTION RE: OPPOSITION TO CAPX2020 AND ATC APPLICATIONS FOR A 345 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

The County Resolution states that there are alternatives to high capacity power lines, which include conservation, demand and supply side management, dispersed renewable generation, and energy-related economic development. It also addresses the issues of condemnation of private property, increased costs to ratepayers, and health concerns, and concludes with opposition to the planned grid expansion project. Sharon Hampson stated that Minnesota amended their plan to not include any wind energy requirements, so the electricity transmitted will be coal-produced. Nick Nichols and Steve O'Malley added that Xcel Energy has stated there is a glut of electricity, and they are beyond their requirement for wind energy, and have enough until 2030. Furthermore, there is no wind energy standard in Wisconsin. Jean Salk stated that the ATC argument in favor of the project is that there is a need for better transmission, not more electricity. **MOTION** by Hampson/Sullivan to approve the Resolution Re: Opposition to CapX2020 and ATC Applications for a 345 kV Transmission Line Project. **Motion carried unanimously.** Bagniewski excused; Giese, Olson absent.

COUNTY EDUCATION REPORT ON ITS PART IN STRATEGIC PLAN FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Karl Green and Nick Nichols reported on education goals, as follows:

INTERNAL EDUCATION

Office sustainability coordinator	Not completed
Training/orientation for new employees	Not completed
TLC training for existing employees	Completed; ongoing
Employee newsletter articles	Completed; ongoing
Recognitions/awards	Completed (award to Household Hazardous Materials/Solid Waste); ongoing
Visual display (green thermometer)	Not completed
Energy protocol/educate employees	Completed; ongoing
Accounting system to measure savings	Completed; ongoing
Education for developers and public re sustainable land use	Completed (stormwater education, tax assessment education, LESA working lands model, City of La Crosse housing study); ongoing

EXTERNAL EDUCATION

Regular columns in local newspaper	Not completed
Sustainability principles op-eds	Completed
Radio, TV, newspaper, etc.	Completed
Savings reports – past history	Not completed
Sustainability education in local schools	Completed (programs at grade and high schools and higher education facilities)
Our savings and yours – public/private	Not completed
Personal success stories	Completed
Maintain Sustainable La Crosse website	Completed
Education on burn barrels	Ongoing (by Health Department)

RECOMMENDATION REGARDING COUNTY’S USE OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS

Nick Nichols reported that it would be advantageous for department heads to consider purchasing fuel efficient vehicles and using propane fuel when formulating their 2012 budget proposals. A copy of the memo that will go out to all County department heads was provided. Dick Swantz reported that when the City of La Crosse introduced propane fuel in police squad cars, the initial concerns about performance did not materialize when propane-fueled vehicles performed equally well. Discussion was held about encouraging purchase of alternative vehicles. **MOTION** by Hampson/Tyser to approve the memo titled 2012 Budget and Vehicle Purchasing, and to include hybrids. **Motion carried unanimously.** Bagniewski excused; Giese, Olson absent.

PRESENTATION ON RECOMMENDED GOALS FOR STRATEGIC PLAN RELATED TO NATURAL STEP

Rob Tyser gave a Power Point presentation as follow-up to the June 23, 2001, meeting motion to provide clearer organization and prioritization of goals. He stated there are 200 action items in the Sustainability Plan; of the 81 actions in the County’s plan, none have related goals. Jean Salk proposed specific goals to provide targets that can be measured, and which take into account a timeframe and percentage of compliance. She reported that the goals could be expanded with further review to see if other actions could be grouped under a single goal heading. The goals were written using S.M.A.R.T. principles (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-based) and were tied to The Natural Step. Jesse Horstman, a member of the public who was present, suggested measurements should be a percentage of productivity. Discussion followed regarding the need for staff to be aware of The Natural Step to achieve goals. Jerry Severson suggested going through an exercise at a future meeting that would use The Natural Step to demonstrate how to look at more than cost savings when considering a project. **MOTION** by Pedretti/Swantz to direct Steve O’Malley to present goals to staff and report back in 90 days. **Motion carried unanimously.** Bagniewski excused; Giese, Olson absent.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Presentation on decision making with consideration of The Natural Step
- Recycling bin locations

NEXT MEETING DETERMINATION: AUGUST 25, 2011 AND/OR SEPTEMBER 22, 2011

Chair Pedretti explained she has a conflict with the August 25, 2011, meeting date. **MOTION** by Sullivan/Tyser to meet on September 22, 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.** Bagniewski excused; Giese, Olson absent.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Hampson/Swantz to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Bagniewski excused; Giese, Olson absent. The meeting adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

Approved, September 22, 2011 Margaret Norden, Recorder