

## **SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION**

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Administrative Center, Room 3220, 400 N. 4<sup>th</sup> St.

4:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Marilyn Pedretti, Dan Bagniewski, Mike Giese, R. Jean Salk (4:15 p.m.), Richard Swantz, Rob Tyser

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Wayne Olson, Sara Sullivan

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sharon Hampson

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Nick Nichols, Karl Green, Brian Fukuda, Margaret Norden, Jerry Severson, Amy Peterson, Maureen Freedland

### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Marilyn Pedretti called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None requested.

### **APPROVE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2011**

**MOTION** by Tyser/Bagniewski to approve the Minutes of September 22, 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.** Olson, Salk, Sullivan excused; Hampson absent.

### **AGENCY REPORTS/INFORMATIONAL UPDATES**

Nick Nichols reported on the following:

- Solid Waste and Recycling Collection Evaluation Committee will meet 11:30-1:30 on November 8, 2011.
- The Living Green Expo drew 60 vendors. Attendance doubled from the previous year. Various workshops focused on helping families save money on energy.
- The Solid Waste Association of North America had a newsletter article stating that 54% of waste in the U.S. ends up in landfills; Nichols provided a comparative graph showing that in 2010 in La Crosse County, 43% of waste was recycled or converted into electricity.
- Nichols also showed materials that are available for reviewing from the Solid Waste Department on landfills and sustainability programs.
- Assembly Bill 146 still has no Senate bill. Some lobbyists are advocating letting the Assembly bill die in committee, in which case there would be no change in renewable credits for alternative energy programs. The County resolution to oppose the bill was carried by the Legislative Committee, but was referred by the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee. It will be on their agenda if and when there is action pending on the state level.

### **REPORT ON COUNTY PROPERTY RECYCLING**

Nick Nichols provided a list of recycling locations in county buildings. The Facilities Department has purchased more recycling bins for lobbies on each floor.

### **BASELINE WORK GROUP AND WEBSITE UPDATE**

Karl Green reported that links have been added to the website to access the City's and County's gas and electric use. A link to the total developed acres in the County was also added. There will be additional indicators added as data becomes available, and the work group will be looking at remaining indicators.

### **UPDATE REGARDING PRESENTATIONS TO CITY AND COUNTY DEPARTMENT HEADS**

The update was included in the following agenda items.

### **UPDATE ON COUNTY GOALS**

Steve O'Malley reported on the County's progress in identifying goals and actions for its sustainability plan. He stated that, rather than a meeting of all department heads, he will be meeting with staff that will actually be responsible for achieving specific goals, and get their input on how goal achievement can be measured. He plans to provide an update during the first quarter of 2012 and get feedback from the Commission. He stated that internal awareness would probably

be best done using staff training available on the County intranet. Karl Green added that he will be able to provide data on external awareness based on the number of website visits.

### **UPDATE ON CITY PROGRESS**

Dick Swantz reported that he met with Amy Peterson and Larry Kirch in the City Planning Department, and they will be providing staff support on City issues. Although there are not regular department head meetings, he suggested holding a meeting and roundtable discussion at City Hall to elevate awareness of sustainability goals. Amy Peterson reported that she will be participating with the Baseline Work Group, and will be issuing an annual report. Jean Salk stated she could help with arranging student volunteers.

### **REPORT ON USING THE NATURAL STEP IN POLICY SETTING**

Jerry Severson provided some biographical information, including his participation in studies, energy fairs, and solar projects, and teaching solar installations. He spoke about attending the recent presentation from "No Impact Man." He distributed samples of a business card that he gives to people to encourage them to study The Natural Step, which includes four challenges for leading a sustainable lifestyle. He spoke about providing details on the website to show how data measurements are reached. He suggested having a demonstration on new parking lot lights as a future agenda item.

### **DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE MEETING TIMES AND CONFLICTS**

Karl Green reported he will have a time conflict January-May, 2012. He will gather input from members about alternative dates and times, with a determination made at the December, 2011, meeting.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Meeting times  
County Lot C parking lot lights  
Monthly news article for media  
Consortium grant status  
Input on name change for solid waste department  
County sign ordinance  
Full cost cycle analysis

### **NEXT MEETING DETERMINATION: CONFLICT WITH REGULAR MEETING DATE AND THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

Due to the regular meeting date falling on Thanksgiving, the consensus of the committee was to have no meeting in November, and to hold the next meeting on December 22, 2011.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Swantz/Salk to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

**Approved,** December 22, 2011, Margaret Norden, Recorder