

SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION

Thursday, January 26, 2012

City Hall, 3rd Floor Conference Room,
400 La Crosse St.

4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marilyn Pedretti, Dan Bagniewski, Mike Giese (arrived at 4:05 p.m.), Sharon Hampson, Wayne Olson, R. Jean Salk, Sara Sullivan, Rob Tyser, Richard Swantz (left early)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Erica Black, Beth Piggush, Randy Nedrelo, Nathan Patros, Keith Carlson, Mark Johnson, Maureen Freedland, Marlon Nelson, Mark Meyer, Henry Koch, Art Fahey, Jacob LaRow, Amy Peterson

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Marilyn Pedretti called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

APPROVE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 22, 2011

MOTION by Hampson/Swantz to approve the minutes of December 22, 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.** Mike Giese absent for vote.

AGENCY REPORTS/ INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

- A Regional Independence Energy Plan meeting organized by E3 will take place at 6:30 p.m. in Gays Mills.

STAFF REPORTS

- Report on County Highway Shop lighting retrofit: Nick Nichols indicated that the installation of more efficient lighting at the Highway Shop is completed and the savings will pay back the cost in three and a half years. The project was accomplished with the help of Focus on Energy. Nick Nichols informed the Commission that projects are being looked at in other County facilities; such as the installation of LED lighting.
- Report on Climate Change Forum: Amy Peterson handed out a two-page Community Climate Adaptation Study Pilot Program that laid out a tentative four month timeline. The program would begin with data collection, discussion and education on what is "climate adaptation" and ending with a submission of a finalized report to the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASHTO) and other interested and contributing groups and agencies. The goal of the study is to reveal where La Crosse has already implanted climate adaptation strategies and how to further implement climate adaptation strategies and how to further such strategies in the future while addressing barriers to those goals.

Peterson asked if the Commission would like to serve as an advisory board for the report. Upon discussion a **motion** by Tyser/Swantz to make the Sustainable La Crosse Commission (SLC) an advisory board for the initiative. **Motion carried unanimously.** The Commission set Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. for a Climate Change Workshop to last approximately three hours.

UPDATE ON MONTHLY NEWS ARTICLE FOR MEDIA (GIESE/PEDRETTI)

- Ideas were discussed about having periodic inserts in the Tribune or having guest viewpoints published on the editorial page. Chris Hardie from the Tribune indicated that his paper is on board in partnership, but didn't want to commit to anything prior to SLC commitment. The Commission determined that the best way forward was to start with education and build awareness before getting too in-depth and thereby alienating the target audience. The Commission formed a sub-committee consisting of Commissioners Olson, Hampson and Salk to review letters to be submitted to the paper for publication.

POLICY IN SUPPORT OF ADOPTION OF SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES & GOALS IN THE REGULATION OF OUTDOOR ADVERTISING

- **MOTION** by Swantz/Sullivan to adopt the policy paper. Swantz offered friendly amendment to change "we" to "Sustainable La Crosse Commission" in the Policy Statement area at the end. Tyser offered wording added to item #2 under "Sustainable Practices Related to Outdoor Advertising Include the Following"; to read as follows "Separation of outdoor advertising from homes and families so as to minimize light pollution and allows for enjoyment of evening sky". Supervisor Freedland gave background information on the policy paper in that it stems from the purpose clause of an ordinance drafted in the County. **Motion carried unanimously.**

REVIEW OF CITY OF LA CROSSE ETHICS CODE

- Peterson presented the Code of Ethics for review for City members of the Commission.

SUMMARY REPORT OF CITY OF LA CROSSE PROGRESS (SULLIVAN/SWANTZ)

- Swantz said the City of La Crosse wishes to be engaged with the SLC and share results in sustainability progress. Peterson handed out a memorandum highlighting various City department efforts and progress in sustainability. In December, department heads were asked what they and their staff have done in the areas of sustainability and Peterson touched on a few including the airport lighting upgrades, information systems and technology power management systems and the police using propane as an alternative fuel.
- The City is also in the process of overhauling its Refuse and Recycling Ordinance to improve efficiencies and reduce waste. Nichols said that on February 14 the Public Works Directors from the City of Onalaska and La Crosse will give a presentation on this issue. On March 13, Hilltoppers and Harters will provide input on proposed changes. Nichols, Hank Koch and Dale Hexom emphasized the timeline issues on recommendations being completed by the end of summer and put to the Common Council before the contracts expire at the end of the year.

REVIEW OF SUSTAINABILITY IN LA CROSSE COUNTY 2011

- Nichols reviewed the "Annual Sustainability Report for 2011". He sought input from the Commission on how it works for the SLC. Commission members offered various ideas on how to format and present the report and how the report might be efficiently used to further educating the public on sustainability.

PROVIDE SOME INPUT ON NAME CHANGE FOR SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT (NICHOLS)

- Koch said the big reason for a possible change was to align the name of the department more so with a mindset of sustainability. Currently the word "waste" denotes throwing away, but a change would represent thinking about our trash in a different manner, geared more towards

sustainability and the goals of the County, City and Commission. Koch wished to have the input from the SLC on possible name changes.

BASELINE WORK GROUP UPDATE

- Rob Tyser said that of the 27 indicators in the Sustainability Master Plan; 7 deal with City and County use (i.e. Xcel providing 7 years of electricity & natural gas use by County and City); and 18 deal with the community and its uses (water use, mass transit, landfill, etc.). The group is working to have this information up to date as of December 31, 2010 and publish it in time for Earth Day. He told the Commission that the audience should include at least City and County Department Heads and the Community and it is important to tailor the report to the audience and they are looking at the best tools to achieve that.

BUILDING STANDARDS WORK GROUP REPORT

- Chair Pedretti said that the group met the prior week and will meet Tuesday.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Xcel Energy and County Solid Waste Department – heat resource availability in the community.
- Sustainable Business Clusters – Formation and information
- County Fracking Issue.

ADJOURN

- **MOTION** by Giese/Salk to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Chair Pedretti adjourned the meeting at 5:11 p.m.

Approved, February 23, 2012, Jacob LaRow, Recorder