

## **SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION**

Thursday, February 23, 2012  
City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room,  
400 La Crosse St.  
4:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Marilyn Pedretti, Dan Bagniewski, R. Jean Salk, Sara Sullivan, Rob Tyser, Richard Swantz, Wayne Olson (arrived 4:10)

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** None

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Sharon Hampson, Mike Giese

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Clint Torp, Dan Wruck, Jacky Kallberg, Dale Hexom, Nathan Patros

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

Chair Marilyn Pedretti called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None requested.

### **APPROVE MINUTES OF January 26, 2012**

**MOTION** by Tyser/Swantz to approve the minutes of January 26, 2012 (with correction to date). **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

- None.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

- Report on Climate Change Forum: Amy Peterson informed the Commission that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) had received a grant and was looking to use La Crosse in a pilot project. The DNR had met with City Staff and the Wisconsin Department of Health this week to analyze the various plans the City of La Crosse has to determine their compatibility with sustainability and possible actions that can be taken and acted on. Peterson reminded the group that the Climate Change Forum is still on for February 28 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- E3 Coalition on Energy Independence Conference held January 26 in Gays Mills. Nick Nichols reported that the E3 Coalition received a grant exceeding \$1 million from the State of Wisconsin to work within Vernon County and surrounding areas. The money came from the Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant fund and is the largest award to any group from that fund in Wisconsin. The group invited Nichols to speak regarding gas to energy projects. Chair Marilyn Pedretti mentioned that the website [E3 website] is a great resource for information.
- Other: Jerry Severson spoke upon the historical flooding of Gays Mills and Soldiers Grove and the recent relocation efforts. Nichols said the Gas to Energy project with Gundersen Lutheran is going through Commissioning and it has generated approximately 500 kW. The project still had many bugs to be worked out, but Nichols indicated they were hopeful that it would be in full operation this month.

### **SUSTAINABLE EFFORTS AT CITY OF LA CROSSE AIRPORT – DAN WRUCK**

- Dan Wruck had a power point presentation detailing sustainability efforts and projects undertaken to date at the airport.
  - Removed one runway and installed another while removing 110,000 square feet of impervious surface
  - Created acreage of wetland to offset land filled in for airport use as well as addressing oxygenation of lagoon near Pettibone Park with 24 acres improved.
  - Replacement of conventional light bulbs with more efficient LED lighting: Buildings and runway.
  - Increased green space and cultivation of certain flora to diminish impact on airport functions.
  - Increased efforts of recycling and low sulfur fuels for airport vehicles while cutting paper and utility use.
  - Continued sustainability efforts include environmentally compatible engineering techniques in future construction.
  - The airport is self-sustaining in that neither their capital budget nor operation budget are drawn from City of La Crosse coffers.

#### **XCEL ENERGY AND COUNTY SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT – HEAT CAPTURE AVAILABILITY – NICHOLS**

- Henry Koch was going to meet in the future with Xcel Energy on this issue and Nichols would report to the Commission with any updates.

#### **SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS CLUSTERS – FORMATION AND INFORMATION – NICHOLS**

- Nichols indicated staff are still continuing discussions and working on meetings. Nichols indicated that among others the La Crosse Area Development Corporation (LADCO), Workforce Development, Western Technical College, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and La Crosse Partners in Sustainability are partners with the first presentation expected to take place in May organized by LADCO. Nichols said that the partnership began with a discussion with Inland Printing and that discussion between Inland Printing and other businesses would help bring others onboard. As this partnership moves forward, Nichols said that it could be a topic used in a [La Crosse Tribune](#) article.

#### **COUNTY FRACKING ISSUE**

- Chair Pedretti serves on the County Planning Resource and Development Committee. Pedretti said the Committee is looking at how other communities have addressed the fracking issue and that likely La Crosse County will use its Conditional Use Permit process. Highway Commissioner Ron Chamberlin is looking at the transportation implications on the county level likely to be released in the next month. The Town of Holland has put a year moratorium on the issue until further study can be completed. Richard Swantz indicated a constituent’s concern with rail cars transporting this sand uncovered through the City and fine layers of dust are ending up on cars. Swantz had inquired with various authorities and had not received any concrete information. Pedretti indicated that Karl Green, UW Extension, and Keith Butler from the Emergency Management Program were resources. Wruck said there is a mining ban in a 3 mile radius surrounding the airport due to such concerns such as dust.

#### **COUNTY SOLID WASTE NAME CHANGE SUGGESTION – NICHOLS**

- Nichols handed out a sheet with some suggested names with creative acronyms. The Commission discussed the list and Nichols restated that they were looking feedback from the group.

#### **BASELINE WORK GROUP UPDATE – TYSER/SALK**

- Rob Tyser said his group had met Monday and worked on a slide show and press release for Earth Fair Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. He would present the Sustainable La Crosse Commission (SLC) with an executive report with a slide show at the next SLC meeting. Several to be considered are who is the audience, how to proceed and business involvement. Perhaps the group can present their work to department heads and send an email out to all employees with direction to their website? Swantz and Sara Sullivan said they would help on how to proceed with contacting City employees. R. Jean Salk said it is important to explain the “how” part to businesses if we are to tie this in with business cluster formation. Some questions still need to be answered in where the group started and what exactly they do. Keeping the public informed on the functions of the group is important.

#### **BUILDING STANDARDS WORK GROUP REPORT – PEDRETTI**

- Chair Pedretti said this work group is still working on the basics and formulating a work policy statement.

#### **COMMISSION STAFFING ROTATION SCHEDULE – PETERSON**

- Peterson asked for clarification of the rotation and responsibility for the SLC. The Commission agreed that it should rotate every two years.

#### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Baseline group presentation
- Peterson/Piggush – EPA portfolio manager
- Peterson – IT Director Presentation on sustainability within the City’s Information and Technology Department
- County Administrator talk?
- Energy Star Plaque?
- Update on Solid Waste evaluation – (March 20<sup>th</sup> – Refuse haulers would do the next presentation).
- Peterson – David T. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison on WICI and 14 models set up to show the effects that the progress will have over 50 years.

#### **ADJOURN**

- **MOTION** by Sullivan/Swantz to adjourn. **The motion carried unanimously.** Chair Pedretti adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.