

## **SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION**

Thursday, May 24, 2012

City Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room,  
400 La Crosse St.

4:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Marilyn Pedretti, R. Jean Salk, Rob Tyser, Sharon Hampson, Wayne Olson, Dan Bagniewski, Sara Sullivan

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Dick Swantz,

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Nick Nichols, Amy Peterson, Jacob LaRow, Andrew Novak, Henry A Koch, Erica Black

### **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 April 26, 2012**

**MOTION** by Tyser/Olson to approve the minutes of April 26, 2012. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

- Nick Nichols – Kwik Trip had approximately 1000 attendees at their compressed natural gas event. Kwik Trip will have the 1<sup>st</sup> station in the nation to have all forms of fuel available for transportation. Nichols had literature available for those interested.
- Nichols - A group of Russian exchange students will be in La Crosse and will be attending a landfill tour on June 25<sup>th</sup>. Commissioners are welcome to tour with the students.
- Nichols - Gundersen Lutheran in conjunction with the La Crosse County landfill held an informational event/ open house on May 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Nichols – A river cleanup event was held on May 19<sup>th</sup> with 275 volunteers. 6,000 lbs were collected, which is down from the previous year perhaps due in part to less flooding.
- Nichols – An organization called Facility Dude that tracks facility energy consumption could be useful in baseline work.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

- Sustainable Business Cluster: Nichols informed the Commission the event is postponed until the fall.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM UPDATE – SALLY KEFER, WISCONSIN DNR (PETERSON)**

- Kefer gave a power point presentation on the subject of climate change adaptation in La Crosse. The main topics covered included:
  - La Crosse climate change adaptation study goals
  - Community climate adaptation workshop goals
  - Projected changes to Wisconsin's climate
  - Workshop results: Impacts and Issues
  - La Crosse's strategic plan for sustainability
  - Plan for Sustainability: Expansion and coordination of action items

- Suggested new action for the City Parks and Recreation outdoor strategic plan, La Crosse County Health Improvement Plan, County All Hazards Mitigation Plan, Ports and Harbor Plan, Engineering and Public Works, Neighborhood Revitalization and the City of La Crosse Comprehensive Plan.
- Solicited questions on what is or is not working regarding educating the community and incorporating climate change adaptation.

#### **SUSTAINABILITY TRACKING SYSTEM – ANDREW DANE, SHORT ELLIOT AND HENDRICKSON (NICHOLS)**

- Dane gave a presentation to the Commission detailing a new sustainable infrastructure rating system called Envision. Envision was created because to date no rating system exists for infrastructure and this system is holistic and community level framework critical. The rating system is being developed in partnership with a variety of different partners as a foundation for the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI). The system goals are stated to encourage higher sustainability performance for civil engineering infrastructure from a social, environmental, and economic perspective (triple bottom line).
- The program has five areas that are reviewed: Quality of Life, Leadership, Resource Allocation, Natural Resources and Climate and Risk. All five areas are further sub-divided for further detail. Based on a “credit” scoring system, infrastructure is then graded on a scale: Improved at the lower end proceeding to enhanced, superior, conserving and then restorative being the top grade. ISI membership is complementary for government agencies and would be beneficial as a tool to have better conversation with citizens, taxpayers and rate payers about community infrastructure needs.
- Dane also provided a two page fact sheet for further reference material.

#### **PROPOSED GOALS SHEET RESPONSES, INPUT AND POSSIBLE ACTION – NICHOLS**

- County Administrator Steve O’Malley spoke regarding a hand-out titled “Sustainable La Crosse Commission Proposed Goals”. O’Malley sought clarification on how fossil fuel use was to be calculated. The Commission discussed different interpretations and decided to put it on next month’s agenda to allow more time to seek input from department heads and answer questions.

#### **RECYCLED ASPHALT SHINGLES –HANK KOCH (NICHOLS)**

- Koch spoke about the County’s waste diversion program as it deals with shingles, hauler rebates and variances on sustainability. He sought input from the Commission on a possible shingle variance requested by Harter’s Quick Clean Up Service. Koch discussed the pros and cons of granting shingle variance for haulers to take material out of La Crosse County. The view of the County Solid Waste Department is to not grant a variance as it does not further sustainability for the County. Consensus on the Commission was that shingles should stay within the community. (No formal action was taken).

#### **LIVING GREEN EXPO – OLSON**

- Wayne Olson read a proposal seeking support from the Sustainable La Crosse Commission for the Living Green Expo on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Western’s Lunda Center.
- **MOTION** by Sullivan/Tyser to participation in the Living Green Expo and to help with cost and staffing. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **GREEN BUILDING WORK GROUP REPORT AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION – PEDRETTI**

- Chair Pedretti provided the Commission with 2 attachments and an updated resolution. The County Finance Committee advised on changes to the resolution amending language. The Commission discussed the advantage of using LEED versus Energy Star as standards in the policy. Chair Pedretti forwarded a copy of resolution to personnel at the City of La Crosse to consider at their discretion.
- **MOTION** by Hampson/ Bagniewski to approve the Sustainable Building Policy for Facilities and Purchasing as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- O'Malley commented that the resolution may be amended further as the Sustainable La Crosse Commission is not a standing committee.

### **BASELINE WORK GROUP: FUTURE ACTION ON SUSTAINABILITY REPORT**

- Raintry Salk stated that the final version of the report was sent out May 23 and would like to hear feedback and a motion to approve as presented.
- **MOTION** by Tyser/Olson to approve the Sustainability Indicators Report of May 26, 2012. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- The report will be then posted on the Sustainable La Crosse Commission Website (<http://www.sustainablelacrosse.org/>) and can be used at different sustainability events.
- **MOTION** by Tyser/Bagniewski to approve press release distribution to CC email list with Sustainability Indicators Report. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Climate Change Forum
- Sustainability Tracking System
- Proposed Goals Sheet
- Tribune Articles

**MOTION** by Hampson/Salk to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Chair Pedretti adjourned the meeting at 5:38 p.m.