

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

October 28, 2009

09:30–10:00 am

140 West Pine Street

Members Present: Marilyn Marler (chair), Pam Walzer, Dave Strohmaier, Bob Jaffe, John Hendrickson, Dick Haines, Renee Mitchell, Ed Childers, Jon Wilkins and Jason Wiener, Stacy Rye (9:50 am)

Members Absent:

Others Present: Rod Austin, Matt Hisel

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Approve minutes.

Minutes of October 21, 2009 were approved as submitted.

II. FINAL CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

IV. REGULAR AGENDA ITEM

A. Discussion on recycling in Missoula ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Pam Walzer)
(Referred to committee: 10/26/09) (**INFORMATIONAL ITEM – HELD IN COMMITTEE**)

Pam Walzer led the discussion on recycling issues in Missoula. There are State and Federal regulations on how to deal with waste but it is up to the local government to implement. In priority order the goals are to reduce, reuse, recycle then dispose. The first goal is to reduce (limit) the actual generation of waste and to reduce toxicity of generated waste. The next goal is to reuse products so again waste is not generated. An example given was to use growlers for beer rather than purchasing new product. Recycling is the collection of waste products and then processing so some or all of the waste product can be made into another useable product. An example of this process is the collection of cardboard or plastic bottles which are then turned into new products. However transportation is big part of the recycling process and uses energy.

Disposal is the final and last choice as disposal means burying waste products in the landfill and hazardous and toxic wastes are sent to special facilities. Waste minimization should always be the first choice with reusing or recycling the next priorities.

Some local issues and players include collection and transportation by Allied Waste, Missoula Valley Recycling, BNSF and long haul trucking. Items to investigate include finding a market for recyclable material, creating opportunities to encourage industrial and commercial use of waste materials generated locally, education to encourage the number of things to recycle as well as encourage waste minimization.

The committee members all agreed this is a good introduction to the issues and Missoula has significant room for improvement. It would be worth looking into partnering with the County and having a unified approach to recycling.

According to Rod Austin, who has been in discussions with Max Bauer of Allied Waste there is not enough volume to set up a recycling center in Montana. All recycling is now taken to Spokane and then Seattle which takes a bigger carbon footprint for transportation. In today's society it is often cheaper and easier to throw away a product rather than trying to reuse or fix it.

There were several suggestions from the committee members including creating a group to discuss how best to approach recycling in Missoula. Everyone agrees not having incentive to recycle is a deciding factor in the problem and solutions need to be research on how best to change attitudes and habits of citizens and businesses.

Public Comment:

Matt Hisel – co-director of Home Resources: this is a beginning of an important conversation and the City should focus on what role it can play to focus on recycling in Missoula. He would suggest support for start up for small businesses that could focus on the issue.

V. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- VI. HELD AND ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS - PER COMMITTEE CHAIR – Marilyn Marler**
- A.** Support for City employee cash for Bus Commuters Program ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Ben Schmidt and Nancy Wilson) (Referred to committee: 08/24/09)
 - B.** Consider an ordinance amending Missoula Municipal Code Title 8, entitled "Health and Safety," Chapter 8.28, entitled "Garbage and Rubbish" to provide for special management of garbage in specific areas within the City of Missoula where there is conflict with bears ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Pam Walzer and Urban Wildlife Subcommittee) (Referred to committee: 09/14/09)

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.