



**Greenhouse Gas Energy Conservation Team
Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2011, 12:00 - 2:00 pm
City Council Chambers, 140 W. Pine**

Members: Ben Schmidt, Chair, Brian Kerns, Dan Daily, Julie Osborn

Members Absent: John Freer, Ross Keogh, Alexander Sievers, Katie George, Owen Weber

Others Present: Solomon Martin, Kirt Dennis, Tim Skufca

Facilitators: Susan Anderson (Sustainable Business Council), Gary Bakke (Chamber of Commerce)

I. Announcements:

Brian Kerns said he approached the University "Griz Tix" program administration and discussed the concept of adding an option for ticket buyers to donate a small fee that would go towards offsetting the electrical use for the event. He suggested an additional \$1.00 (as an example) option to each ticket and the money would be collected and used to purchase Renewable Energy Certificates (REC). He said the administration will discuss the option.

Mr. Schmidt stated he has been very busy and hasn't been able to market the REC's, but he can continue his efforts in April to help with the REC program.

II. Public comments on items not listed on the agenda:

Solomon Martin stated he is a local Contractor and a University student of Professor Robin Saha, Environmental Studies class. He heard about the Greenhouse Gas Energy Conservation Team and would like to know more about it. He mentioned an assignment for his class is to enact a policy change or start a program with the workings towards environmental ecology sustainability. He noted his class is considering proposing a "Grey Water" ordinance throughout the City. He said the water that is used will go through a filtering system instead of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He asked what the purpose and goals are for the GGEC team.

Ben Schmidt gave a brief summary of the GGEC functions.

Mr. Martin asked if the GGEC created the Greenhouse Gas Municipal Emissions Inventory report.

Mr. Schmidt stated the report was created by Professor Robin Saha's class. He said Chase Jones, Office of Planning & Grants has access to the report.

Tim Skufca, Missoula Urban Demonstration (MUD) stated in the past several years he has requested Professor Robin Saha's class to assist with the MUD projects but they have not responded. The GGEC team would be an asset to MUD as well.

Ben Schmidt stated the GGEC is a group that can help MUD, because after discussions the GGEC can give recommendations to the City Council. The GGEC focuses on Greenhouse Gas Emissions and MUD is a broad program with related projects.

Mr. Skufca agreed and asked if he can attend a GGEC meeting where he can present a presentation. MUD is focused on recruiting University students to become involved with some of their projects as well.

Kirt Dennis, University of Montana is a student in Professor Saha's Environmental Studies and is currently working with Mr. Martin with the class project.

III. Approve meeting minutes:

The Minutes for January 13, 2011 were passed unanimously.

IV. Administrative:

A. City Legislative web page explanation

Linda Jordan, Mayor's Office stated the Mayor's office is responsible to manage all City related issues that involves the 2011 Legislative Session. She works directly with the staff that have input about bills that may affect the City. She updates the site with information as it comes to her attention.

Ms. Jordan said a link was created on the City website called "Missoula in Session" and it follows the 2011 legislative session from the State of Montana website. Ms. Jordan performed a demonstration on how to navigate the website and find bill information.

B. University of Montana Student Intern Guidance

Brian Kerns stated he has been in contact with the intern student and he will be pursuing the LED project. The student will be contacting Ross Keogh to help him with the research.

V. Non-Action Items:

A. Missoula Green Building Incentive Subcommittee Update

John Freer absent – No update

Mr. Schmidt stated Mr. Freer is no longer working with the City Building Department, but is working with Missoula Building Industry Association. There is an intern helping them to create an incentive program that will be implemented for state wide use.

VI. Action Items:

A. Bills the city should support at the 2011 legislature session

Mr. Schmidt stated the Missoula in Session website is a better system than previously. It will be easier to track the bills that were designated from the GGEC, and noted the lobbyist is attending all of the meetings. He asked if the team had any changes to the list.

- SB 104 Eliminate inverted block rates
 - **Oppose:** Inverted block rates provide a market based incentive for energy efficiency measures and serve a useful function.

- SB 226 (LC 1486), amend utility net metering requirements
 - **Oppose:** This bill would set two different rates for energy, a higher rate for the utility delivering energy and a lower rate for the customer/generator that chooses to install net metering. Net-metering installations are small scale renewable energy projects that produce locally generated clean energy and provide a cushion against fossil fuel price spikes. This bill would discourage private investment in renewable energy projects and take away jobs involved with small scale renewable energy installations. Ways to encourage a dispersed energy generation system that reduces strain on the electrical distribution system should be encouraged, not have more hurdles put in the way.

- SB 225 Revise laws governing qualifying small power production facility purchases
 - **Oppose:** This bill would mandate that the Public Service Commission only consider the avoided cost to the electrical utility when setting the reimbursement rates to small-scale net metering energy generators. The proposed rule also states that rates set by the Public Service Commission must be established with consideration to whether the small power producer has attributes that meet the needs of a utility as outlined in the utility's plan. The effect of this would be to greatly discourage net-metering and the development of small scale renewable energy generation. This bill would give way too much power to the large utility based on the plan developed by the utility and make it very difficult for the small energy producers to ever get up and operating. Ways to encourage a dispersed renewable energy generation system that reduces strain on the electrical distribution system should be encouraged, not have more hurdles put in the way.

- SB 159 Revise energy efficiency code adoption requirements
 - **Oppose Strongly:** Buildings account for 39% of total energy use in the US and 50 years or more. The many long term impacts of energy production and use drive the increased stringency of energy conservation codes. Using a five year payback to justify energy efficiency measures with the current low cost of electricity and gas does not reflect the environmental toll of energy nor does it make sense with few efficiency measures having the ability to qualify. This legislation would make it impossible to consider future energy price increases when setting codes.

- HB 244 & LC1497 - Would repeal the Montana Renewable Power Production and Rural Economic Development Act (Would repeal MCA 69-3-2001 through 69-3-2008).

- **Oppose Strongly:** In 2005, the Montana Legislature passed the Renewable Power Production and Rural Economic Development Act (also known as the RPS) which required regulated utilities, primarily NorthWestern Energy, to procure renewable energy at increasing increments with a goal of 15% by 2015. This is one of the most effective ways to start to shift our energy production to less polluting renewable energy sources and so the RPS should not be repealed. Several studies have also shown the renewable energy production produces more jobs and economic development than an equivalent amount of energy generated by fossil fuels.
- SB 109 Revises definition of eligible renewable resources to include hydroelectric power.
 - **Oppose:** Including expansion projects on existing hydroelectric facilities under Montana's Renewable Portfolio Standard would have the effect of undermining the existing incentive for utilities to build, add or invest in new and more environmentally-preferred technologies such as solar or wind power.
- HB 406 (LC 2004), Add energy efficient expert to building codes council
 - **Support:** Energy use and operating cost are important economic considerations for buildings. Placing an energy efficient expert to the building codes council would show that energy use and cost are important considerations for building codes.
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- LC 1046 Resolution calling for Montana's withdrawal from a regional climate initiative
 - **Oppose:** Climate change, and the economic repercussions from this change, is real for Montana and the region. Changing our energy supply to renewable sources with reduced greenhouse gas emissions will need to be solved at the local, state, regional and national levels. By participating in the regional climate initiative Montana can coordinate its efforts with other states and provinces in the west and stay in the forefront of climate adaptation and renewable energy development. As written, this proposed bill ignores the financial affects of climate change and inaccurately (negatively) portrays the economic impacts of renewable energy development.

The team reviewed the bills and clarified their previous discussions regarding them. Mr. Schmidt stated the March meeting will be the last chance to add or remove bills. He said if there are bills that need to be addressed to contact him and Ms. Jordan can attend to the changes.

The team discussed bill SB 225 and SB 226, and Mr. Schmidt noted there is still time to add SB 225 to the list.

Mr. Kerns moved to include and oppose SB 225 "Revise laws governing qualifying small power production facility purchases" to the list of bills.

Dan Daily seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

B. LED Lighting Proposal

Owen Weber absent – No update

VII. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 1:22 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Elam

Kelly Elam
City Clerk Office