

## Greenhouse Gas/Energy Conservation Team

### Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2009, 12:00-2:00 pm

140 W. Pine, City Council Chambers

**Members:** Brian Kerns, Nancy Wilson, Ben Schmidt, Sam Hall, Julie Osborn

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

**I. Call to Order:** 12:10

**II. Roll Call Present:** Ben Schmidt, Sam Hall, Brian Kerns, Julie Osborn

**Absent:** Nancy Wilson

**Others Present:** Susan Anderson, Ross Keogh

**III. Announcements:** Ben said there will be new appointments on this team after confirmation from City Council. There are some changes to the team, the institutional sector has been split into commercial/business and industry and there is another alternate position, so four new members will be here next month. Ben has met with Chase Jones, the new energy coordinator position funded with the Federal stimulus money. The forest initiatives came out the conservation committee unanimously and will be on the consent agenda for City Council. There were a few word changes and Ben will get a copy of the final version out to everyone.

Brian will not be in attendance in October.

Sam posed the question, how far should we take the community energy project as far as time and energy into research. Ben stated the team would have to put it together, find funding for it-get OPG grant staff on it as well to look for funding options. Chase may be able to assist with some of the work. Ross Keogh indicated he has knowledge of such projects and would be happy to share some alternatives and discuss further. Brian mentioned that the examples of what Ashland OR and Ellensburg WA have done is where ideas and information have come from so far. People invested and share in the energy generated in proportion to their investment. Capitol costs will be large for any project.

**IV. Public comments on items not listed on the agenda. (Required by law)**

NONE

**V. Approve meeting minutes of July 9, 2009.**

*Mr. Kerns* motion to approve, *Mr. Schmidt* seconded, all in favor to approve meeting minutes of July 9, 2009.

**VI. Non-Action Items:**

**A. MIM cash for bus commuting program update-Ben Schmidt**

Nancy, Alex, and I presented to the Conservation Committee yesterday. They sounded in favor and directed Alex to take the program to the Mayor.

**B. Conservation Committee Coordination-general discussion**

There will be new members shortly, when up to full membership, can brainstorm to determine actions. General discussion on what to do to be proactive to help shift policy, some comments included the interim committee on energy issues, it would be good to be on the notification or to be kept in the loop with this. Having ideas and a course of action in the works can be beneficial, with the recent stimulus money ideas in place were ready to go.

Discussion about having a timeline to follow to be pro-active and prepared with legislative issues and how to proceed with that aspect for the next legislative session ensued. Find the stakeholders, those on common ground and have a committee perhaps that works together to have effective support.

### **C. Recycling Bin Update-Julie Osborn**

Rod Austin with the Business Improvement District is willing to install the remaining 15 bins downtown. He will organize the collection of recyclables as well. The BID could use up to 40 bins. The grant program is still available; maybe another grant application can be pursued.

21<sup>st</sup> Century Plastics will donate and print the stickers for the bins—discussion about what should be on the stickers and a way to thank them for their service. As soon as the stickers are printed up, Rod will have the bins distributed out.

### **D. Renewable Energy Credits Update—Marketing**

Brian said he is frustrated with progress with BEF; having a hard time getting them to follow up therefore thru. Problems with reconfiguration of their website and the legal contract negotiation. We are looking into other providers but the positives with BEF are they are a regional provider, support local projects and is a non-profit. We need the web links to be concise and easy to use, which are not the case with BEF. There are several members who know different entities in BEF; all will call and push to get some resolution.

The Mayor's Office is open to assisting in promotion. Ben has been drafting PSA's and will email them out. The Mayor's Climate Change Advisory Group will be meeting Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>; would like to attend that meeting and present the program to them.

With November 4<sup>th</sup> as a projected launch date, a lot has to happen; will it even be doable.

\*need to identify provider first

\*need to develop 'branding' a logo of sorts to promote this and tie in with this team

\*any graphic designers out there that might do this pro-bono

\*have an art contest for logo design

\*develop a fact sheet, include benefits to Missoula

\*start drafting web content material & PSA's

Other suggestions for the program marketing: have an event to launch it, show case the first REC purchases, create press releases, have an informational show on MCAT, develop a 2-tier marketing plan to reach local and statewide audiences; this could be a good model for other communities to pursue.

In order to launch this, will have to solidify the provider first and there is a lot of work to be done once that is accomplished. May have a 'working group' meeting the week of September 21<sup>st</sup>.

**VII. Adjournment:** *Mr. Schmidt* made motion to adjourn. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 1:50 pm.