



## **Energy & Climate Team**

### Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2019, 12:00 pm  
140 W. Pine, Missoula, MT

**Members Present:** Gwen Lankford Spencer, Michael Dorshorst, Bart Mihailovich, Joshua Nichols, Chris Rowe, Robin Saha,

**Members Absent:** Marcia Brownlee, Brian Kerns, Craig Couch

**Others Present:** Chase Jones, Kelly Elam, Freya Sargent, Amy Cilimburg, Lily Chumrau, Jeremy Flesch, Karen Sippy, Julie Thompkins

#### **I. Announcements:**

Michael said on March 14, it was reported from Brussels that the European Parliament, meeting in Strasbourg, had failed to endorse opening trade talks between the EU and the US, amid fears over Donald Trump's trade and environmental policies. Ministers of the European Parliament (MEP) voted down a resolution on the talks. Some MEP's wanted the US to be held to the Paris climate change agreement.

Freya Sargent, UM student presented a resolution to recommend the City Council adopt further commitments to the Conservation & Climate Action Plan on insect farming. Climate change impacts food security from diminishing access to fresh water and changes in the distribution of arable land due to draught in the United States fertile agricultural areas. The practice of eating insects contributes to a sustainable food system. Freya said she will give a presentation at a later date. There were questions and comments.

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

None

**III. Approve meeting minutes:**

Minutes for February 7, 2019 were approved as submitted.

**IV. Administrative:**

A. April offsite meeting

The Team will meet with the Campus Committee at the UM from 9 to 11am and the Team will meet from 11 to 1pm.

**V. Non-Action Items:**

A. Thriving Earth Exchange project

Chase and Julie Thompkins are involved with the Thriving Earth Exchange (TEX), and both are program members for Missoula. Julie said the TEX mission helps volunteer scientists and community leader's work together to use earth and space science, and to tackle community issues and advance local priorities related to natural hazards, natural resources, and climate change. In 2019, TEX will launch 100 partnerships, engage over 100 American Geophysical Union members, catalyze 100 shareable solutions, and improve the lives of 10 million people. TEX, local leaders and earth and space scientists will create resilient communities that improve the earth and will create solutions for the planet.

Julie gave a presentation and said in 2017 a heat vulnerability study was completed in Missoula. The city of Missoula is experiencing longer and hotter summers that includes wildfire smoke. Climate projections from the Montana Climate Assessment indicate that the state will experience a 2-5°F increase in mean air temperature over the next 20-30 years.

Increased summer temperatures disproportionately affect vulnerable populations, including low income households, children and the elderly. The impacts include extended periods of poor air quality leading to decreased physical and mental health, the new reality and burden of summer cooling costs, and economic impacts from tourism losses. They would like to identify heat islands throughout the city to address priority areas for urban forest regrowth and expansion and improvements to the environment.

The primary deliverables for this project is a heat map and adaptation recommendations. The data will help guide future planning efforts and resource allocation in Missoula.

Following completion of the project, Missoula will continue to build on the work by collaborating with city foresters to improve the city's urban forest and constructed environments. This project will be shared with the TEX community so that other communities in the country may benefit from the developed methodology and results.

This project extends and enhances the work started with Missoula's Summer Smart program, which is a collaborative project to prepare the community to thrive among increasing summer wildfire smoke and heat by helping the community to be physically, mentally, and economically healthy and resilient.

There were questions and comments.

**Action Items:**

A. City of Missoula and Missoula County 100% Clean Electricity (Joint Resolution)

Karen Sippy, Trees for Missoula, served on the committee that wrote the 2015 Missoula Urban Forest Master Management Plan, and continues to support the Missoula's urban forest. She gave a presentation on why trees create quality of life.

- Trees creates oxygen, and provides air quality
- Provide shade, windbreaks and evapotranspiration and reduces electric/gas usage
- Provides storm water runoff reduction
- Absorbs gaseous pollutants and intercepts particular matter
- Provides physical, emotional and good mental health

Trees for Missoula supports and advocates for the city's Urban Forestry Division, the volunteers participate by:

- Assisting inventory Missoula's public trees,
- Planting trees in parks and along streets each fall,
- Pruning Missoula's youngest trees each winter and
- Advocating for funding to plant and maintain trees

They educate Missoulians of all ages about the value and benefits of urban trees public and private, and keeping those trees healthy.

Karen noted the Missoula Urban forest currently has 29,656 trees.

Amy Cilimburg, Climate Smart Missoula presented the City of Missoula and Missoula County 100% Clean Electricity Joint draft Resolution. The Missoula City Council and Missoula County Commissioners will consider the resolution in support of 100% Clean Electricity at a joint meeting on Wednesday, April 3, from 3:30 – 5 pm, located in the Council chambers and the City Council will make their final vote on Monday, April 8, at 7 pm.

The Energy and Climate Team moved to recommend the Missoula City Council approve and adopt the draft City of Missoula and Missoula County 100% Clean Electricity Joint Resolution dated March 7, 2019. With a condition that if the draft language changes between now and its presentation to the City Council, the E&C Team will have a chance to review the edits.

There were questions and comments.

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Legislative Report

The Team has been working on an index of recommendations to the City Council Conservation Committee on bills for this year's State Legislative session. A second recommendation will be made in the beginning of March, after the deadline for bill introduction.

Michael moved to recommend the list of bills to the City Council Conservation Committee and pass on to the City lobbyist.

Robin seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 2 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Elam  
City Clerk Office