

Greenhouse Gas/Energy Conservation Team
Meeting Minutes
January 14, 2010 12:00-2:00 pm
435 Ryman, City Hall, Mayors Conference Room

Members: Brian Kerns, Nancy Wilson, Ben Schmidt, Sam Hall, Julie Osborn, Ross Keogh, John Freer, and Owen Weber

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

I. Call to Order 12:04

II. Roll Call: Brian Kerns, Nancy Wilson, Ben Schmidt, Julie Osborn, Ross Keogh, and John Freer .

Absent: Sam Hall, Owen Weber

Others present: Susan Anderson, Chase Jones, Pam Walzer, Don Sims and Mirtha Becerra

III. Announcements

Mirtha Becerra announced a community workshop to share ideas on the update to the 2010 Missoula Active (non-motorized) Transportation Plan Thursday Jan. 28th from 5:30-8:30 PM at the UM North Ballroom in the University Center. For more information call 258-4989 or visit

http://www.co.missoula.mt.us/transportation/current_activities.htm

Susan Anderson announced. **Site Visit and Utility Panel Discussion** at Blackfoot Telecommunications, **1221 North Russell St**, Thursday January 21 with a social beginning at 5:30 pm and the panel discussion beginning at 6:00 pm. Free and open to the public. RSVP to education@sbcmontana.org requested, but not mandatory.

Don Sims introduced himself as an interested citizen pursuing to learn some skills pertaining to sustainability coordinator type professions. He would like to learn scientific aspects about greenhouse gases and how they impact Missoula perhaps. If anyone on this team has any advice or suggestions, he would welcome them.

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

None

V. Approve meeting minutes of December 10, 2009.

Mr. Kerns moved to approve the minutes, **Mr. Keogh** seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. Non-Action Items - None at this time.

Mr. Kerns commented there are numerous biomass projects being explored for the Smurfit-Stone container facility. This may be an item to consider keeping tabs on as a non-action item at this time. There was discussion as to whether a new air quality permit would need to be granted. If the project modifies the existing permit use, then yes. Mr. Schmidt indicated he will have to abstain from any comments on this topic due to a conflict of interest with his job if this item is added in the future.

Public comment: none

VII. Action Items

A. Chair and Vice Chair Elections

Mr. Schmidt indicated his desire to continue to serve as chair. No one else volunteered to serve in this capacity. **Mr. Freer** moved to approve Mr. Schmidt to serve as Chair. **Ms. Wilson** seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

It was asked who would like to be Vice Chair. Mr. Freer indicated he would serve that role. **Mr. Keogh** moved to approve Mr. Freer to serve as Vice Chair. **Ms. Osborn** seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Renewable Energy Credits – Marketing Plan Development

Mr. Kerns provided an update that the contract has been finalized and awaiting the approval process through city government. Mr. Schmidt will provide a status update to the Conservation Committee. Mr. Schmidt encouraged review of the county website content for feedback. When the contract is signed, the site will go live.

Public Comment: none

C. What Projects Should GHGEC Team Pursue –Discussion & Brain Storm

A more defined, categorized list was used to tally rating points to further define items of interest and action for the team. The team will use the list to refine the strategy and goals of the team's actions in the coming year and to identify how projects will fit into those.

The team agreed that education on CO2 and how our choices impact emissions ranked high. Buildings are an area to target for energy efficiency, use of 'green' products and technology, recycling the waste stream involved and overall better development plans. Transportation planning issues can include using density to reduce emissions, use of renewable energy, better infrastructure for non-motorized transportation and increase the use of public transportation. To meet these objectives, encourage, promote and support legislation wherever applicable.

Mr. Schmidt will work on statements regarding the education and advocacy components with conceptual explanation. The team will review the statement concept for education, determine the specifics for those high ranking items, and work on a process for determining what projects support those items.

Public comment: Pam Walzer suggested keeping the CO2 emissions tracking on the list to give support to projects others are working on and keep them in the forefront. That issue needs to be addressed and supported whether it is the City as a 'company' or as a community.

Further discussion:

Ms. Osborn reiterated that keeping conservation committee and city council updated on the process, the issue identification and the website content development is important. The team needs to look at what can the city do, what is in place, what can easily be put in place, and what can be realistically accomplished.

Mr. Schmidt will continue website development for the REC program launch and as a key educational tool to foster better communication with City Council and committees for educational opportunities.

Mr. Keogh commented that the city is in a place to do some innovative things to make buildings more efficient; it might mean more partnerships with NW Energy and the Green Blocks Program, an incentive program to make improvements, giving awards for good examples or something else. It would be good to work with the city to identify, promote and support funding mechanisms to promote energy efficiency.

Mr. Schmidt moved to pursue looking at ways for the city to encourage energy efficient building construction as an advocacy emphasis. **Mr. Keogh** seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment:

Mr. Freer has access to program comparisons, suggestions for adaptations that will work for the city and would put together a concise report.

Mr. Keogh would like to summarize why this is important and what the work will look like on this issue to keep the City Council and the Conservation Committee in the loop to encourage feedback and support.

Mr. Schmidt would like education emphasis to stem from the website. That website content include REC program content; information on global warming; information and choices on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and how building construction and design fits into that reduction strategy. The team will continue to update the Conservation Committee to meet this emphasis as well.

In regards to legislative affairs, Pam Walzer suggests to be proactive and work with possible candidates and current reps now to let them know topics of interest to find interest of someone who may draft and sponsor a bill. As the session draws nearer, work with city staff on flagging priorities.

Susan Anderson suggested having detailed analysis papers about these different topics, with perspective team members generating according to knowledge and experience. They could be a tool to provide the city for educational purposes and decision making.

VIII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.