

Greenhouse Gas/Energy Conservation Team
Meeting Minutes
December 10th, 2009, 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 12:15

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

Absent: Nancy Wilson, Owen Weber

Others present: Conner Daly, Susan Anderson

III. Announcements

Mr. Kerns attended the climate countdown-global cap and trade presentation on Nov. 17th which was a well attended panel discussion. In the Q&A session, a comment was made regarding this group, "that it meets, but nothing gets done" was implied. Just wanted to advise that this perception is out there and we may want to address or take this into consideration.

Mr. Kerns referred to an article in yesterday's *Missoulian* about the Otter Creek coal project. The Land Board is scheduled to vote Dec. 21 whether to lease state land which is interspersed with another 730 million tons of privately owned coal. Burning coal for electricity emits tons of greenhouse gases and is the major contributor to global warming. He expressed this issue provides an advocacy opportunity if we weigh in. The question was asked, "how do we weigh in on timely issues, to advise City Council and gain support in this quick of a turnaround for public comment?"

Discussion ensued about how to advise City Council on timely issues. It was suggested one can express them self as a member of this team via group email to City Council on the City website. There was further discussion about having a member of this team attend council meetings to advocate during public comment on issues of concern.

Mr. Keogh asked some questions about the rules of the road. New members of the group would like the board and commission training City Clerk Marti Rehbein provides to get acquainted with how things work. Ben will send an email requesting this training be at a future meeting. Ms. Osborn expressed it not be in March as she will be absent.

Mr. Freer stated communication will be the driving force in how we are seen in the education/advocacy aspect. He suggested the group set up a social network site to get people engaged, interested in what we are doing. Mr. Keogh, Mr. Freer and Ms. Osborn will exchange ideas on this to bring back to the team.

Mr. Hall would like to circulate a document regarding removing market barriers for residential energy efficiency and renewable energy retro-fits to the group for their input. He will send it out electronically.

Mr. Schmidt is continuing to work on the draft of web content on the county site.

Mr. Keogh would like to address the issue of the elections office reducing the number of polling places and moving the voting headquarters to the Fairgrounds. He commented that the Courthouse is more centrally located and easily accessible. More people would have to drive to the Fairgrounds and this would contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and not be energy efficient as well. He has prepared a draft statement to enter into public comment for the Dec. 16th meeting. The team was in favor of supporting such a statement.

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

None

V. Approve meeting minutes of November 12th, 2009.

Mr. Kerns motioned to approve, **Mr. Keogh** seconded, all in favor.

VI. Non-Action Items

A. Student Intern Request Update (2 minutes) Brian Kerns

Mr. Kerns attended the University's internship forum which was well attended with lots of folks looking and lots of folks seeking interns/internships. As a result, we probably won't be getting an intern this time around. The team will continue to work with UM to groom a relationship for future opportunity.

Public comment: none

VII. Action Items

A. Renewable Energy Credits – Marketing Plan Development

Mr. Kerns sent an updated contract to Bruce Bender and City Attorney Nugent to review. Mr. Schmidt is working on web page content for the launch of the program. He also met with Chase Jones and Ginny Merriam to discuss names for the program. It was commented that the term "green" has public recognition. **Mr. Schmidt** made a motion to call the program Green Power Missoula (as it allows for flexibility and public recognition), **Ms. Osborn** seconded, all voted in favor.

Debate: It was explained that there is a need to keep the naming of this program energy focused; the initial intent and explanation was electricity energy orientated.

Public Comment: none

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

Mr. Freer expressed he would like to see things further defined. He would like to have a mission statement to use to determine short- and long-term goals in order to create a structure and then categorize projects to see where ideas fit in. The team liked this idea and will work on a mission statement, and categorize ideas according to education, advocacy and projects

Team members expressed they would like the opportunity to review a draft agenda and add action items as necessary. They would like to structure monthly meetings with an education component, an action item, and be working on a larger task. The meeting can be utilized to continually have updates, solicit feedback and provide input.

Comments: Mr. Kerns reported that UM is looking at developing a policy for using green cleaning products. Maybe this is an idea to be added to the list for consideration of providing input or supporting. He further reported that UM is looking into a community energy project. The University is developing their climate action plan now that the inventory has been completed. They will need to have large offset projects to achieve their goals. They are considering discussions with Montana Wind Resources, a community wind developer. The project will be different than the current Judith Gap Project which benefits local farmers in that it will be a utility scale project. The project coordinators are giving a presentation in January. Mr. Kerns asked if there is any interest in having more information presented to the team.

Discussion: Mr. Keogh expressed his not wanting to participate in this project. He does not consider it a community project as there is no community ownership. The current constraints with how the power grid is set up and how power is distributed, makes it part of a large utility. He thinks there could be better opportunity elsewhere. Mr. Kerns commented about the financial model of having institutional or large corporate investors involved for start up, and then down the road it is community directed. This model worked in North Dakota. Mr. Freer indicated he would like to hear more about this project, either here or at the forum they are going to present at in January.

Mr. Keogh expressed interest in adding the process of closing polling places and moving the voting headquarters from the County Courthouse to the Fairgrounds location as an item on next month's agenda.

VIII. Adjournment: Mr. Schmidt made a motion to adjourn, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.