

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

July 21, 2010

9:05–11:00 am

140 West Pine Street

Members Present: Marilyn Marler (chair), Ed Childers, Pam Walzer, Bob Jaffe, Dick Haines, Renee Mitchell, Ed Childers, Jon Wilkins, Stacy Rye, Lyn Hellegaard, Dave Strohmaier and Roy Houseman

Members Absent:

Others Present: Morgan Valliant, Donna Gaukler, Jackie Corday, Jason Wiener

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Approve minutes.

Minutes of July 14, 2010 minutes were approved as submitted.

II. FINAL CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS –

IV. Appoint one member to the position of a Transportation Sector representative to the Greenhouse Gas & Energy Conservation Team for the term starting immediately, and ending on July 31, 2011 ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Marty Rehbein) (Referred to committee: 06/21/10)(**REMOVE FROM AGENDA**)

Motion: the Committee recommends Council appoint Dan Daly to the position of a Transportation Sector representative to the Greenhouse Gas & Energy Conservation Team for the term starting immediately, and ending on July 31, 2011.

Interviews:

Dan Daly applied to this committee as he wants to be involved with the Missoula community. His background is in wood products and the transportation of the products throughout the northwest. He also has extensive knowledge of bio mass. He works for Roseburg which manufactures particle board. Missoula needs an active greenhouse gas plan in ensure clean air and water. He worked on the Forest Jobs for Recreation Act with Senator Tester which involved a cooperative effort between the lumber companies and the environmental groups. There are many views on climate change but he personally feels there is an urgency to reduce greenhouse gases and with the current economy there is an opportunity to move toward this goal.

Dr. Hammen has a good general knowledge of issue and works with atmospheric pollution as part of his work on a daily basis. The benefits of having a greenhouse gas plan are the first step to carbon dioxide reduction is to start at the local level. Dr. Hammond's expertise as it relates to transportation is he supports alternative energy and has been bike rider in Missoula before it became cool to ride a bike. He would like to see the committee address safety issues related to biking in Missoula. He would like to see greater use of technology as a way to reducing energy consumption. The current economy is related to energy and we need to increase energy efficiency and use or produce other technologies.

There was a brief committee discussion on the merits of both candidates as both are highly qualified. The position open is for the transportation sector which more aptly fit Mr. Daly's skill set. It was moved to appoint Dan Daly to the GGECT in the Transportation sector. Two members voted against the motion but agreed to have the item on the consent agenda.

V. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS –

1. Consider a resolution approving the Conservation Lands Management Plan ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Donna Gaukler) (Referred to committee: 06/28/10) ([Conservation Lands Plan](#)) (**Remove from agenda**)

This plan has been developed to enhance the City's ability to manage the approximately 3,800 acres, plus any additional open space lands that may be acquired through Open Space bonds or partnerships. It is extremely important that a comprehensive plan was developed for all conservation land types that are science based and acknowledging social and cultural needs and concerns. The plan includes goals, guiding principles, and policy for maintenance and

management of conservation lands in the face of growing populations and use as well as changing climate conditions specific to the Missoula Valley.

Morgan Valliant reviewed the Conservation Lands Management Plan (CLMP) chapter by chapter with the committee.

Highlights of the chapters are included in his presentation: [Conservation Plan Adoption](#).

The Plan was written with the consultant, Ecosystem Research Group, Parks staff, the technical working and citizens working groups. The process started in February 2009 and will be completed on July 26, 2010 at the public hearing.

Chapter 1: Include the introduction, purpose and needs, plan duration, current management structure, details on the public process, demographics of the Missoula valley, and benefits of conservations lands.

Chapter 2 –The relationship to other plans and while there were many existing plans, most were not management plans, except for Mt. Jumbo and 2001 vegetation management plan for select conservation lands. The CLMP would supersede these plans.

Chapter 3 – Overall management, the plan was developed by the working group with extensive public input, provides vision and desired results for the CLMP and recommended management goals and policies.

Chapter 4 – General ecology including the geology and soils in the Missoula valley, wildlife habitat descriptions, wildlife challenges facing the city, vegetation, current and historic vegetative cover, and risks to conservation lands.

There was a discussion on the dog issue as it relates to this plan. Several committee members expected the plan to have specific recommendations on the dog issue.

Dave S. suggest that once the is plan adopted that parks staff meet with animal control to make sure the recommendations in CLMP are reflected in revised ordinances.

Donna – the dog issue was addressed significantly by the group but this is only one piece of the plan. The working group has recommendations but they did not feel qualified to resolve the social issues on conservation lands. The CLMP is much broader than dogs on leash issues.

Dave – I would like to see a section on how to respond to wild land fires on conservation lands. The fire management section should go beyond vegetation treatment and deal with fire suppressant tactics on conservation lands and identify whether or not to use.

Chapter 5 – Recreation, provide an appropriate range of recreational activity and mitigates for user impacts, use lands for educational activities, manage conservation and adjoining lands cooperatively for connectivity, interpret and protect important anthropological, historical and ecological themes.

Chapter 6 – implementation strategies, action items and general recommendations for implementing goals and policies, recommendations for changes within the Conservation land management program, soils, wildlife, habitat/vegetation management policies and priorities, Recreation polices, and priorities, funding and budget analysis, capital improvement and priority projects, emphasize importance of adaptive management.

The committee thanked Morgan for all his work on the plan. The public hearing is scheduled for July 26, 2010 and the Council will vote on approval of the plan at that time.

VI. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

VII. HELD AND ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS - PER COMMITTEE CHAIR – Marilyn Marler

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 11:00 am.