



## **Greenhouse Gas Energy Conservation Team Meeting Report**

**December 8, 2011 12:00 -2:00 pm**

**City Council Chambers, 140 W. Pine**

**Missoula, Montana**

**Members:** Ben Schmidt, Chair, Ross Keogh, Dan Daly, Brian Kerns, John Freer

**Members Absent:** Julie Osborn, Alexander Sievers, Owen Weber

**Others Present:** Jill Alban

**Facilitators:** Susan Anderson (Sustainable Business Council), Kim Latrielle (Chamber of Commerce)

### **A. Announcements:**

Mr. Schmidt mentioned there are many races around the country that supports various energy projects and he has ideas to approach interested people to participate in the events.

Mr. Kerns mentioned he continues to work with the UM ticket sales department. They are currently implementing a new inventory software program, so there will be a transition period. He will contact the UM Administration before the next season for further discussion.

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

None

### **III. Approve meeting minutes:**

The minutes for November 10, 2011 were approved unanimously.

### **IV. Administrative:**

Municipal Climate Action Plan Update

Mr. Keogh stated the committee has a new Energy Core member and he is currently working with Chase Jones, Office of Planning & Grants on finalizing the strategies and processing a draft. They will meet again on December 14, 2011.

#### **IV. Non Action Items: Transition Town Overview:**

Mr. Schmidt stated there is a group that has been formed called "Transition Town" and it is a nationwide organization, and is new to the Missoula area. The group is not sure if the Missoula community will accept and adapt to their strategy.

He attended one of their meetings and he presented a Powerpoint presentation and discussed the slides that he received from that meeting. The pictures include temperature trends and statistics regarding global warming. He found the meeting interesting, and he thought the team would be interested.

He noted the group has a website that educates the public on how to positively transition a community to be a more sustainable.

He showed a graph that includes all the country's standings of renewable energy investments, and noted China is in the lead to invest in renewable energy and the U.S. ranks third.

#### **Clark Fork Coalitions Climate Wise Program**

Jill Alban, Clark Fork Coalition presented a Powerpoint presentation in regards to the Geos Institute which is a nonprofit, science-based organization dedicated to helping both human and natural communities predict and prepare for a changing climate.

Geos institute asked the Clark Fork Coalition to serve as a convening partner for the procedure of the "Climate Wise Process." The process is a community based workshop that includes people from various sectors who are invited to attend a two day workshop to discuss climate science for particular areas and create strategies for proactive action.

She said it is difficult to predict climate changes that will affect the community. There are a range of scenarios that could occur based on the scientific model. Climate changes in Missoula County can jeopardize agriculture, scenic & open space, forestry, City infrastructure, recreation and clean air & water within the next 50 to 200 years.

The workshop was held in June and she discussed the class functions.

Ms. Albin said information based from 1950 to 2004, Missoula County has experienced a warmer climate change with a 2 degree increase. More precipitation is coming in the form of rain fall rather than snow and this impacts ground water recharge, runoff severity and impacts the surface water retention.

She discussed and showed slides of several areas in Missoula County where the climate change have currently caused issues.

The workshop attendees gathered and discussed information on five major scenarios that were identified and they include:

- Local impacts from global climate change which are rising energy costs.
- Wildlife severity that is combined with development in the wild land urban interface.
- Dewatering that affects dry creek beds.
- Diminishing snowpack
- Decline and disruptions with native fish and wild life.

Other issues the group discussed includes:

- Human safety
- Air quality
- Cost
- Property damage

Ms. Albin discussed the effects on each of the issues. She said reports can be downloaded and viewed from the Missoula Clark Fork Coalition website, and she noted the report results are gathered from small groups of people, and not the whole community.

The team discussed the benefits of a City facilitator to help guide various entities with sustainability.

Mr. Kerns stated he attended and enjoyed the Climate Wise Process seminar. He asked if the Geos Institute has moved beyond the report stage and into an action plan.

Ms. Albin said Geos Institute only provides information. She is aware of one community who created a resolution, unfortunately that is the only one that she knows about. Every community is different, and it is up to each community to move forward with sustainable changes.

Mr. Schmidt stated he will be attending the January 18<sup>th</sup> City Council Conservation meeting and if the team is in agreement, he will advocate for a community wide sustainability coordinator position. He asked the team to email him with other ideas to be presented as well.

**VI. Action Items:**

None at this time

**VII. Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kelly Elam*

Kelly Elam  
City Clerk Office