

Energy & Climate Team formally (GGEC)

Meeting Minutes

January 24, 2013, 12:00-1:00 pm
140 W. Pine, City Council Chambers

Members Present: Ben Schmidt, John Freer, Brian Kerns, Dan Daly, Alexander Sievers, Molly White, Amy Cilimburg

Members Absent: Aaron Hanson, Julie Osborn

Others Present:

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

I. Announcements:

Chase Jones, Energy Conservation Coordinator stated the City Council will consider a resolution regarding the Mayors Climate Action Plan, and the public hearing is scheduled on January 28th. If it is not approved it will be returned to committee.

II. Public Comments on Items not listed on the Agenda:

None

III. Approve Meeting Minutes:

Minutes for January 10, 2013 and January 24, 2013 will be approved at the February 14th meeting.

IV. Administrative:

None

V. Non-Action Items:

None

Action Items:

A. State Legislative Bill Recommendations to City Council.

The team discussed and clarified the procedures for creating, supporting and opposing bills, and the guidelines with bill creation and procedures.

Mr. Schmidt stated Ms. White submitted two lists regarding [Bills of interest](#) and a [Bill of interest index](#) and the team will discuss the items on both lists.

The team agreed to grade the bills by using moderately, strongly, neutral support and oppose, etc.

1. HB 8 – “Renewable Resource Bonds and Loans”, the team’s recommendation is to oppose. This bill specifically names three renewable energy projects to be funded, but the projects appear to only loosely fit that definition.

Mr. Schmidt stated the coal severance tax funds are to be used towards renewable energy projects. It appears some of the projects do not meet the definition as renewable energy. Ms. Osborn submitted this bill, but she is not present to discuss it, and the team will discuss the bill when Ms. Osborn is present.

2. SB 26 – “Clarifying Renewable Portfolio Standard Provisions” This bill was listed to clarify the language.

Mr. Schmidt moved to support SB 26.

Mr. Daly seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

3. SB 31 – “Revise Definition of Eligible Renewable Resource”. Ms. Cilimburg strongly opposes this bill.

Ms. Cilimburg moved to strongly oppose SB 31.

Mr. Kerns seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. SJ 6 – “Interim Study of the Impacts of Montana’s Renewable Portfolio Standard” Mr. Schmidt stated this bill is Ms. Osborn’s recommendation to oppose. The team discussed the bill and agreed to remain neutral until further clarification.

Mr. Daly moved to remain neutral on SJ 6.

Ms. White seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

5. SB 52 – “Clarify Renewable Energy Credit Reporting Requirements” Mr. Kerns recommends voting neutral.

Mr. Kerns moved to remain neutral on SB 52.

Mr. Daly seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

6. SB 106 – “Revise Special Fuel User Permit Laws” Mr. Sievers recommends opposing SB 106 and he discussed the variances with the language.

Mr. Sievers moved to oppose SB 106 as written unless amended to remove “Fossil Fuels”, page 2, line 6 as a potential fuel source.

Ms. White seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

7. SB 45 – “Revise the Renewable Portfolio Standard Laws to include Hydro expansions”. Mr. Daly stated he researched the bill and he feels the team would not want to support it, because the team has always been opposed to hydro expansion. The team discussed the bill.

Mr. Daly moved to strongly oppose SB 45.
Mr. Sievers seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

8. SB 74 – “Require Renewable Energy Projects and USB Projects be Green Certified”.

Ms. White moved to amend the previous vote from oppose to strongly oppose SB 74.
Mr. Schmidt seconded the motion.
The motion passed unanimously.

9. SB 44 – “Eliminate Air Pollution Control Advisory Council” Mr. Schmidt stated this bill served a purpose in previous years, but it is no longer needed. The team agreed to eliminate SB 44 from the list at this time.

Ms. White asks the team to discuss at a later date, SB 41 “Prohibiting Consideration of Impacts during Subdivision Review” and SB 125 “Revising Penalties for Failure to meet Renewable Energy Requirements”.

Ms. Cilimburg suggested discussing HB 6 – “Renewable Resource Grants” and HB 7 – “Reclamation and Development Grants” at a later date, because they can provide funding for City municipalities throughout the state.

Mr. Kerns said SB 164 is not included on the list. It is an introduction from Jim Keane from Butte that exempts small utilities from RPS requirements and he suggests adding it to the February agenda.

VI. **Adjournment:**
The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Elam

Kelly Elam
City Clerk Office