

SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION

Thursday, July 22, 2010

La Crosse County Administrative Center, Room 3220

4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marilyn Pedretti, Dan Bagniewski, Mike Giese (4:05), Wayne Olson, R. Jean Salk, Eric Schmidt, Rob Tyser

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jai Johnson, Brad Konkel

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Nick Nichols, Karl Green, Margaret Norden, Jerry Severson, Erica Black, Steve O'Malley, Leanne Hedberg Carlson, Emmy Carlson

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Marilyn Pedretti called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

APPROVE MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2010

MOTION by Tyser/Bagniewski to approve the Minutes of June 24, 2010. **Motion carried unanimously.** Giese, Johnson, Konkel excused; Schmidt abstained.

AGENCY REPORTS

Leanne Hedberg Carlson, with Emmy Carlson, owner of The Root Note café, reported on La Crosse Food Future at the Hillview Greenhouse Life Center. The greenhouse serves the elderly community by growing fresh, organic produce. She stated that the organization is in a transition phase, and is writing a strategic plan, which includes establishing an urban agriculture center. One of their goals is to educate low income people on growing high yield plants in small spaces. She reported on cooperation and support from City of La Crosse Zoning, UW-La Crosse, Western Technical College, Coulee Partners for Sustainability, and Gundersen Lutheran. She answered questions regarding partnerships, grant funding, and timelines.

BASELINE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Rob Tyser reported that the goal of the committee is to document and monitor gas and electric use for the City and County and show how it has been decreased with sustainable practices. Xcel Energy provided two spreadsheet files for a year of consumption history data. The committee is assessing the data for quality and completeness. Discussion followed regarding the complexity of the information, and the need for storing data. Wayne Olson requested committee endorsement to talk to the County Finance and/or Information Technology Departments about a data repository to store and protect original information, which could then be accessed for various studies and comparisons. **MOTION** by Giese/Tyser to authorize a representative from the Baseline Committee to approach one or more La Crosse County departments to explore opportunities to create a database and review account numbers. **Motion carried unanimously.** Johnson, Konkel excused.

GREEN CERTIFICATION POLICY UPDATE

Rob Tyser reported that preliminary work has been done. A full report was referred to the August 26, 2010, meeting.

WEBSITE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Karl Green stated they are working on the website front page. He stated that the web designer, Michelle Jensen, is looking for graphics and subsets.

SCHEDULE DATE TO TOUR LA CROSSE COUNTY LANDFILL AND FACILITIES

It was the consensus of the committee to hold its August 26, 2010, meeting at the Solid Waste Department with a tour of the landfill facility immediately following the meeting.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

Nick Nichols reported that the Solid Waste Department's Gas to Energy project was presented to the County Board at its planning meeting, and was well received.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No items requested. Chair Pedretti stated that future meetings of sub-committees will require an agenda, per Corporation Counsel.

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 26, 2010, AT 4:00 P.M., AT THE COUNTY SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Schmidt/Giese to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Johnson, Konkel excused. Meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Approved, August 26, 2010, Margaret Norden, Recorder