

SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION

Thursday, November 18, 2010

Room 3220, La Crosse County Administrative Center, 400 N. 4th St., La Crosse

4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marilyn Pedretti, Dan Bagniewski, Wayne Olson, R. Jean Salk, Rob Tyser

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Mike Giese, Jai Johnson, Brad Konkel

MEMBERS ABSENT: Eric Schmidt

OTHERS PRESENT: Nick Nichols, Margaret Norden, Karl Green, Beth Piggush, Ryan Westpfahl

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Marilyn Pedretti called the meeting to order at 4:12 p.m. Nick Nichols introduced Beth Piggush, who recently moved to La Crosse after working for the Clean Energy Fund in Connecticut, and Ryan Westpfahl, who is La Crosse County's new HVAC expert.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

APPROVE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 28, 2010

MOTION by Bagniewski/Salk to approve the Minutes of October 28, 2010. **Motion carried unanimously.** Giese, Johnson, Konkel excused; Schmidt absent.

AGENCY REPORTS

None requested.

PROMOTION OF COMPOST BINS AND/OR RAIN BARRELS

Karl Green distributed informational material from Enviro World about their rain barrels and compost bins. The company is able to do truckload sales for fundraisers. Committee consensus was to make the information available to local non-profits. Green reported he could follow up with organizations such as Coulee Partners for Sustainability, Hillview Greenhouse, and the Myrick-Hixon Eco-Park.

REPORT ON PROPOSED LOCAL MARKET TO TRADE ITEMS

Wayne Olson reported on the "Really Really Free Market" movement (www.reallyreallyfree.org). There has been local discussion about conducting a free exchange of materials and services, perhaps in conjunction with the Cameron Park farmers market. Olson suggested that if there are things that cannot be re-used it would be beneficial to have the County's Household Hazardous Materials program involved so unused items could be disposed of properly. Beth Piggush provided background on similar programs, such as www.freecycle.org, and the free section on Craig's List, and suggested that links to organizations be placed on the Sustainable La Crosse website. Discussion was held regarding the Commission's possible role as partner vs. organizer. No action was taken.

BASELINE COMMITTEE REPORT

Rob Tyser, Jean Salk, and Karl Green reported that they are individually looking at the massive amount of data. There was discussion about how findings should be grouped (e.g. per building or per department), presenting the findings to the public, and future documentation of energy cost savings. Further discussion will be placed on the January 27, 2011, agenda.

INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

Nick Nichols gave the following updates:

- The Solid Waste evaluation was presented to the City of La Crosse and City of Onalaska common councils. He encouraged contacting representatives about forming a joint ad hoc committee;
- The Gas to Energy project between the County and Gundersen Lutheran is moving forward and should be operational next year;
- Solar hot water systems that were purchased through a block grant are now operational on the County Law Enforcement Center and Lakeview Health Care Center;
- The City of La Crosse approved a donation to the Rotary Lights changeover to LED lights that is being partially funded by the same block grant that La Crosse County obtained to fund solar hot water systems;

- Nichols will be doing a presentation on December 8, 2010, regarding the Green Tier program at a Sustainability in Business conference.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Facilities Department update on Sustainability Plan goals

DISCUSS YEAR-END REVIEW AND POSSIBLE RETREAT

Committee consensus was to have a year-end review at the January 27, 2011, meeting, followed by an informal meal and roundtable discussion of 2011 goals and ideas. No action will be taken during the informal discussion. It will be open to the public. Any necessary action on 2011 goals will be placed on follow-up agendas.

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 23, 2010 (DISCUSS POSSIBLE CHANGE IN DATE)

Committee consensus was not to hold a meeting in December, 2010. The next regular meeting date will be January 27, 2011.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tyser/Olson to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Giese, Johnson, Konkel excused; Schmidt absent. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Approved, January 27, 2011, Margaret Norden, Recorder