

SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION

Thursday, September 22, 2011
Administrative Center, Room 3220, 400 N. 4th St.
4:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Marilyn Pedretti, Dan Bagniewski, Sharon Hampson, Wayne Olson, R. Jean Salk, Richard Swantz (4:24 p.m.), Rob Tyser

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sara Sullivan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Giese

OTHERS PRESENT: Nick Nichols, Karl Green, Brian Fukuda, Margaret Norden, Hank Koch, Jerry Severson, Tara Johnson, Amy Peterson

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 JULY 28, 2011

MOTION by Hampson/Salk to approve the Minutes of July 28, 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.** Sullivan, Swantz excused; Giese absent.

AGENCY REPORTS/INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

Nick Nichols reported on the following:

- The Living Green Expo 2011, a project that he and Wayne Olson have been working on. There will be a variety of vendors and workshops at the Lunda Center on the WTC campus on November 15, 2011, from 11:00-4:00.
- No Impact Week, which is sponsored by Viterbo, UW-L, and WTC. The author of the book *No Impact Man* will speak at UW-L on October 5. Viterbo will be showing the movie about the book on September 28. Jean Salk reported that the communities of La Crosse and Viroqua are also involved.

HUD REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY GRANT - LETTER OF SUPPORT/COMMITMENT

Brian Fukuda reported on the application that is being prepared for a \$2.23 million grant. The Mississippi River Region Sustainability Consortium is the applicant. The consortium is made up of the same nine-county member region as the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission. Fukuda also listed government entities, educational institutions, and multiple local organizations that have joined the consortium. He outlined the potential plan elements, as follows: Housing, economic development, transportation options, local food networks, energy systems, and waste management. There is a matching grant element of \$450,000 which will be mostly in-kind donations. He asked the Sustainable La Crosse Commission to become a member of the consortium. **MOTION** by Tyser/Salk to approve the Sustainable La Crosse Commission joining the Mississippi River Region Sustainability Consortium as a consortium member. **Motion carried unanimously.** Sullivan excused; Giese absent.

BASELINE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Rob Tyser presented a progress report on the indicators identified in the Strategic Plan, grouped according to city government, county government, and community. Data collected thus far includes energy, fuel, and water use, MTU ridership, solid waste, bicycle trail miles, and on-street bicycle accommodations. The data is incomplete in a number of categories, as shown below:

	No. of City Indicators	Data Collected	No. of County Indicators	Data Collected
Government Operations	7	6	7	2
Community	20	6	16	3
TOTAL	27	12	23	5

Discussion followed regarding the following:

- Who should collect the data annually? Tyser offered to work with either a County or City employee to transition responsibility for data collection.

- Where should the data be stored and how will it be accessed? It would be preferable to have both City and County IT departments work cooperatively.
- How, where and when should the data be presented to the public? There should be a body of evidence to demonstrate cost savings.

AB 146: USE OF RENEWABLE RESOURCE CREDITS TO COMPLY WITH RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARDS

Nick Nichols reported that Assembly Bill 146 proposes to amend Wis.Stat. 196.378(3)(c). The statute specifies a percentage of electricity that providers sell to customers that is derived from renewable sources (to be 25% by 2025). The proposed amendment states that renewable resource credits payable by utilities may not be used after December 31, 2011. Nichols reported that this would impact current projects such as the Gundersen Lutheran/La Crosse County Gas-to-Energy project, as well as future projects. A County resolution in opposition to the amendment is currently being drafted. Sharon Hampson asked if there was also a corresponding Senate bill, which would impact the timing of a resolution and enable addressing both bills in the resolution, and Nichols replied that there currently is not a Senate bill. The resolution and discussion will come back to the Commission.

UPDATE FROM COUNTY BOARD CHAIR ON RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEES

County Board Chair Tara Johnson spoke about the reduction in size of the County Board from 35 to 29 members, which will occur in the April, 2012, election. She stated she is looking at committees and entities where there is county representation and the levels of commitment and involvement. She welcomed feedback for a work group that will be formed to make recommendations on the best way for staff and County Board supervisors to participate.

DISCUSSION OF COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP AND STRUCTURE

Discussion was held regarding the role of the Sustainable La Crosse Commission as advisor to City and County government. Marilyn Pedretti reported that, on the County level, the Commission is advisory to the Planning, Resource, and Development Committee, although other committees, such as Public Works and Infrastructure and the Legislative Committees, may be involved. Dick Swantz stated that, at present, there is not a specific City government committee that the Commission advises. He suggested a meeting with department heads to be held at City Hall to gain their support. Consensus of the Commission was to retain a joint City-County collaboration.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- County property recycling
- County goals – 60 day review period
- AB 146 update
- Website updates, including baseline information
- Meeting times
- City progress
- Natural Step example

NEXT MEETING: OCTOBER 27, 2011

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Bagniewski/Hampson to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** Sullivan excused; Giese absent. The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Approved, October 27, 2011, Margaret Norden, Recorder