

**LA CROSSE COUNTY & CITY OF LA CROSSE
NOTICE OF MEETING**

COMMITTEE OR BOARD: SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION
DATE OF MEETING: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020
MEETING PLACE: COUNTY ADMIN CENTER, CONF ROOM 1107
212 6th STREET N, LA CROSSE, WI 54601
TIME OF MEETING: 4:00 P.M. (NOTE TIME CHANGE)
PURPOSE OF MEETING: AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call/Introductions
2. Public Comment
3. Approve Minutes of January 16, 2020
4. Approval of Greenhouse Gas Inventory Request for Proposal – Lewis Kuhlman
5. Grow Solar La Crosse, MREA Group Buy Request for Proposal – Lewis Kuhlman
6. Consideration of Past Performance of the Sustainable La Crosse Commission and a Plan for Updating the City and the County Sustainability Plans – Facilitated by Karl Green, Community Development Educator, UW-Extension
7. Next Meeting: March 16, 2020
8. Future Agenda Items:
 - a. Ready for 100 Resolution
 - b. "Solutionary" Rail Electrification Proposal
9. Adjourn

NEWS MEDIA

La Crosse Tribune
Other Media

OTHERS (Email)

Maureen Freedland
Alysa Remsburg
Brian Tippetts
Emily Johnson
Jackie Eastwood
Jim Bagniewski
Karen Acker
Karl Green
Margot Higgins
Matt Harter
Casey Meehan
Melissa Erdman
Pat Wilson
Teri Lehrke
Dorothy Lenard

DEPARTMENTS / STAFF

County Board Chair
County Administrator
County Clerk
Facilities
Lewis Kuhlman - City

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Rick Cornforth-County Elected
Mike Giese-County Elected
Cynthia Shireman-Healthcare
Rick Diermeier-Business
Larry Sleznikow-City Elected
Cathy Van Maren-City Comm
Kim Smith-City Onalaska Elected
Carolyn Jenkins-City Education
Vacant-Community County

PUBLIC COMMENT: The Committee may receive information from the public, but the Committee reserves the right to limit the time that the public may comment and the degree to which members of the public may participate in the meeting.

MEMBERS: If unable to attend, call Alice Sorenson at 785-9563.

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: If you need accommodations to attend this meeting, please call 785-9563 as soon as possible.

DATE POSTED: February 14, 2020

SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION

Thursday, January 16, 2020

Administrative Center, Conference Room 1107, 212 6th St. No

La Crosse, WI

4:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Acting Chair Mike Giese, Cathy Van Maren, Carolyn Jenkins, Cinthia Shireman, Larry Sleznikow, Kim Smith
MEMBERS EXCUSED:	Rick Cornforth, Rick Diermeier
MEMBERS ABSENT:	None
OTHERS PRESENT:	Charlie Handy, Karl Green, Lewis Kuhlman, Aaron Benson, Alice Sorenson

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Mike Giese called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 19, 2019 SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION:

MOTION by Smith/Van Maren to approve the minutes of December 19, 2019.

Motion carried with two excused – Cornforth, Diermeier.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Aaron Benson introduced himself and stated that he is at the meeting because of his interest in agenda topics relating to his work at Mathy Construction. Mathy recently acquired a solar installation company in Rochester, MN and has been working on implementing that business in Western Wisconsin as well.

REPORTS/INFORMATIONAL UPDATES:**a. Energy and Water Teams:**

- Energy Update: No report
- Water Team: Cindy Shireman distributed a handout with water topic updates that were discussed by the Water Team:
 - Water Pollution Water Notification Act. Assembly Bill 700 introduced December 23rd and Public Hearing was January 16, 2020. The bill would require the DNR to notify counties within 7 days when a water discharge permit-holder has violated groundwater quality standards.
 - Speaker's Task Force on Water Quality released a report outlining recommendations for dealing with Wisconsin's drinking water crisis. Three of the most frequent and consistent recommendations voiced by citizens throughout the hearing process were increased funding for lead service line replacement; the adoption of state standards for PFAS contamination; and adequate enforcement and regulation of concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) were not incorporated into any of the new legislative proposals.
 - Water Lobby Day: Thursday January 30, 2020 at the Madison Concourse Hotel, 12:30 – 5:30 p.m.
 - PFAS Bills were introduced December 12, 2019. The bills require the WDNR to establish and enforce various standards for toxic PFAS chemical for a variety of mediums including soil, surface water and ground water.

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- o Grant, Iowa and LaFayette Counties Southwest Wisconsin Groundwater and Geology Study. A study started in 2018 and the first phase tested private wells for bacteria and nitrates. The first round of test found 42% of wells exceeded health standards, while the second round found 27% were contaminated.

- b. Ready for 100 Resolution:**
Mike Giese asked the commission about whether to bring the resolution before the Planning Resources and Development (PRD) Committee for approval. **MOTION** by Van Maren/Jenkins to bring forward to the PRD Committee the Ready for 100 Resolution for the February meeting cycle. Discussion ensued. **Motion carried with two excused – Cornforth, Diermeier.**

- c. “Solutionary” Rail Electrification Proposal:**
Lewis Kuhlman edited the resolution based on feedback from the last Commission meeting and will be working on finalizing it. The County will work on a draft resolution and then bring it back to the committee for review.

STRATEGIC PLAN RE-WRITE – CHARLIE HANDY

Charlie Handy gave the Commission the SoleSmart Bronze Designation plaque that the County received. Congratulations to the City who received a Silver Designation.

Handy recommended that any more work on the Strategic Plan be deferred until discussion has taken place about where the Commission is going in the future with regard to the organizational structure of the commission. Extensive discussion ensued. The Commission agreed that they dedicate the February meeting to address the issue of how the commission can best serve the needs of the City of La Crosse, City of Onalaska, and the County of La Crosse by the organizational/operational structure of the Sustainable La Crosse Commission as a facilitated discussion. Karl Green will be asked to facilitate that meeting.

SOLAR GROUP BUY: MIDWEST RENEWABLE ENERGY ASSOCIATION RFP – LEWIS KUHLMAN

Lewis Kuhlman asked the commission if they would serve as the Advisory Committee for the Midwest Renewable Energy Association RFP. Tasks of the Advisory Committee would be to guide contractor selection and program promotions. Kuhlman also requested that the Advisory Committee meet in early February to set up the RFP. A doodle poll will be sent out with possible dates.

CITY OF LA CROSSE CODE OF ETHICS

Chair Giese printed out the Code of Ethics from the City of La Crosse that is reviewed annually. Chair Giese will sign off and send it onto the City Clerk.

NEXT MEETING DATE: February 20, 2020, 4:30 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Discussion on the organizational nature of the Commission as a facilitated discussion.

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ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Shireman/Jenkins to adjourn. **Motion carried with two excused – Cornforth, Diermeier.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Disclaimer: This report may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting. Alice Sorenson, Recorder