

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



Steve McGeehan
Commission Chair

~Meeting Minutes~
January 15, 2018

Kyle Steele
Staff Liaison

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<http://www.ci.moscow.id.us/commissions/Pages/sustainable-environment.aspx>

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve McGeehan, Scott Fedale, Fred Pollard, Kevin Booth, Amber Ziegler, Victoria Seever, Russ Moore, Tina Hilding, Ilan Carter (MHS)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carly Lily

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Kelli Cooper, AmeriCorps Sustainability Technician; Kathryn Bonzo, Council Liaison; David Hall

1. Approval of minutes from the October 16, 2018-Steve McGeehan

Result: Tabled for approval next month

Mover:

Second:

2. Election of 2019 Chair and Vice-Chair- Steve McGeehan

ACTION: Elect the Chair and Vice-Chair for 2019

McGeehan started with a description of the job duties of both the Chair and Vice-Chair positions for those members who are new or who do not know. The Chair sets the agenda and sends it out every month, tracks potential agenda items, gives presentations to Council if needed, serves as liaison to other commissions and the press as necessary, and runs the monthly meeting. The Vice-Chair performs these duties in the Chair's absence.

Result:

Vice Chair- Fred Pollard

Mover: Scott Fedale

Second: Russ Moore

Result: Unanimously approved

Chair-Steve McGeehan

Mover: Fred Pollard

Second: Scott Fedale

Result: Unanimously approved

3. City Sustainability Report-Kelli Cooper

Kelli Cooper, City of Moscow Sustainability Technician, will update the Commission on the City's sustainability activities.

ACTION: Receive the report and provide applicable feedback to staff.

Cooper shared with the Commission the new video on the recent changes to curbside recycling that was released by the City earlier this afternoon. An extensive discussion of the Trex plastic films recycling program took place. Kathryn Bonzo provided data from Moscow Charter's collection for the Commission to review. Russ Moore provided some information on where the entire process as well. Several new bins have been ordered and shipped so that collection sites can be established throughout the City at willing locations. The question was raised on where the nearest Trex distributor was located. It was also suggested that film recycling should be included in any recommendations we make in regards to the new recycling center.

Cooper updated the Commission members on the Water Conservation Rebate program as of the end of fiscal year 2018. Since October 1, 2018 (beginning of fiscal year 2019) we have had 2 commercial and 22 residential properties participate in the program, which is a bit higher than this same time last year. Cooper also informed the Commission that the City is seeking a grant funded by Idaho's portion of the Volkswagon settlement to purchase and install electric vehicle charging stations. The City is also working on a new program for local businesses: the Environmental Stewardship Award program. We have gotten the art done and will be forming a focus group in the next couple weeks to work out the last details. We hope to pilot the program this spring, possibly in April to coincide with Earth Month. Cooper suggested a timeline for the SEC regarding the Mayor's Earth Day Awards. She suggested that a press release go out following the February meeting with a deadline before the March meeting so that all nominees could be reviewed at the March meeting and submitted to the Mayor at that point. Cooper also informed the Commission of the passing of the Climate Change and Carbon Fee Resolution (Resolution 2018-23) at the December 17, 2018 Council meeting for those who don't already know. Cooper informed the commission that she has made some additional adjustments to the 2016 Greenhouse Gas inventory that she would like to share with the commission at a future meeting. The City has also invested in a new hot water weed control technology for our Streets weed control operations. More information will be presented at a later date. Lastly, Cooper gave a quick update regarding the Public Information and Education (PIE) program. So far this year, we have served over 300 students with this program.

4. Moscow High School Subcommittee- Ilan Carter

Report on sustainability activities at Moscow High School including environmental club and soil society.

ACTION: Receive the report and take other such action as deemed appropriate.

Carter informed the Commission members that the Trex recycling program is in progress at the high school. There was also a Phillips farm work day last Saturday where several trees were moved. The Soil Society has designed some Pergolas for the outdoor commons. The Solar Project is on-going as well.

5. Northwest Climate Conference Report- Amber Ziegler Report on Northwest Climate Conference.

ACTION: Receive the report and take other such action as deemed appropriate

McGeehan sent out a written report to all members via email previously. Ziegler gave a brief report on the big take-aways from the Conference. A variety of ways of understanding climate change were presented throughout the Conference. Impacts of climate change were also covered, including

impacts to worker productivity. There is a need for equitable climate change actions, but positive shifts are happening. There are also opportunities for collaborative efforts such as the Bees to Bears Climate Adaptation Project in Northern Idaho, a collaboration between the Idaho Fish and Game and the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative. Hawaii's aggressive climate policies were also included. Hawaii has pledged to be on 100% renewables by 2045 and not only are they on track but they are ahead of schedule. Steve Burgos, Public Works Director for the City of Boise, was a key note speaker as well. He talked about Boise's efforts to use an integrated water approach to water management. Boise also has the 1st net zero building in the state, have signed on to the Carbon neutral City Alliance, and includes climate considerations in all major project decisions. Scott Fedale asked if the climate migrant situation was discussed at all at the conference. Ziegler responded that it was not really covered. Russ Moore asked about how the balance between mitigation and adaptation was presented. Ziegler said that conversations revolved around actions being both mitigating and adaptive. Adaptation only goes so far before mitigation also has to be part of the conversation. However, the balance varies from community to community.

6. CCL Climate Resolution – Steve McGeehan

Report on the Climate Change Resolution passed by City Council

ACTION: Receive the report and take other such action as deemed appropriate

McGeehan gave a brief history of this topic for those who are new on the commission. The resolution was passed by City Council on December 17, 2018. Council talked about the resolution but never actually said what it was before it was passed and word didn't really get out about it after the fact. Several members expressed a desire to remedy this some how.

7. Alternative Power Sources For Hamilton-Lowe Pool- Steve McGeehan

Report on action by Dwight Curtis, City of Moscow Parks and Recreation Director, to pursue funding in the Fiscal Year 2020 budget for consulting services for a comprehensive study/report on alternative power source opportunities.

ACTION: Receive the report and take other action as deemed appropriate.

Anne Zabala asked Dwight Curtis about this and Dwight said he would look into it. Members thought it might be a good idea to invite Brian Ogle back again to provide an updated solar presentation and invite Dwight to that meeting.

9. Announcements/Other Business

1. Pesticide subcommittee will meet before the next SEC meeting
2. On December 6, 2018 Washington Utilities Commission rejected Avista merger with Hydro One
3. On March 6, 2019 Bill Cadwallader, an Electromagnetic Radiation Specialist, will be providing a presentation at the 1912 Center from 6-7pm. He could be added to the SEC agenda for the March meeting toward the end of the meeting if SEC is interested in having him there. His book Exposed is available at the library.
4. Take Back Your Power film at the Kenworthy February 25th

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Steve McGeehan, Chair (or stamped by Deputy City Clerk)

Minutes Approved On

FEB 26 2019
Hayle Remyman
Clerk/Deputy Signature