SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

Steve McGeehan
Commission Chair

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~Meeting Minutes~
February 26, 2019

Kyle Steele
Staff Liaison

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https://www.ci.moscow.id.us/581/Agendas-and-Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:17 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve McGeehan-Chair; Fred Pollard-Vice Chair; Scott Fedale; Kevin Booth (U of I); Amber Ziegler; Victoria Seever; Russ Moore; Tina Hilding; Ilan Carter (MHS)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carly Lilly, Sandye Crooks

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Kyle Steele, Staff Liaison; Kelli Cooper, AmeriCorps Sustainability Technician; Ty Thompson, City of Moscow; Katherine Bonzo, Council Liaison; Mark Heinlein; David Hall; Brian Ogle; Chris Sokol; Don Crawford; Al Popolawski

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

Result: Approved (Unanimous)
Mover: Fedale
Seconder: Seever

Approval of minutes from January 15, 2019-Steve McGeehan

Result: Approved (Unanimous)
Mover: Fedale
Seconder: Hilding

2. **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.

Plans are being developed for the City and the Palouse Basin Aquifur Committee (PBAC) to look for volunteers to take surveys on water alternatives outside grocery stores. There will be a more formal report at a future date. Cooper was asked if there was a publicity plan and said she did not think so. More information will be coming soon.

3. Moscow High School (MHS) Subcommittee-Ilan Carter
Report on sustainability activities at Moscow High School including the environmental club and soil society.

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

Carter gave report on progress over the last month regarding the collection of plastics. TREX company sent stickers and bins for collection. Carter gave a presentation on the changes and showed the City recycling video to every student at Moscow High School (MHS). He also gave an update on the new

TREX program. The MHS Subcommittee will work with Moscow Middle School (MMS) regarding their plastics. Plastic bags will be taken to Moscow Charter School for drop off. This weekend there is an all-day conference at the 1912 Center regarding small farming. Jo Bohna is paying for twelve students to go. In about three weeks, there is a Citizens' Climate Lobby Conference. Out of students that attend, some have chosen to go to Washington, DC, to work with representatives regarding climate change.

4. **Options for Solar for Hamilton-Lowe Pool-Brian Ogle**
   Brian will provide an update on the potential for solar power at the Hamilton-Lowe Aquatic Center.

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

Brian emailed information to McGeehan on how solar power works and Federal tax credit time limit for homeowners. Fedale asked for a comparison on new and existing construction (Hamilton Indoor Recreation Center (HIRC) vs New Police Station). There were questions from the Commission including; passive solar applications and uses, warranty, life span, out of warranty, extended warranty, disposal and financing. Hilding asked about snow and if solar power will heat the water in the pool. Steele said Parks and Recreation will do a report for the 2020 budget to analyze the feasibility of solar power in the City. He provided some solar potentials for the pool and/or the HIRC

5. **Chemical free weed control alternative: Weedtechnic SW800 saturated steam equipment-Ty Thompson**

After exploring the potential to shift away from ubiquitous chemical weed control, the City of Moscow Public Works Department has purchased a Weedtechnics SW800 unit that uses only water in the form of saturated steam to kill unwanted vegetation in the public rights of way. Recent difficulty securing a reliable chemical weed control contractor, the growing environmental and human health concerns over the use of chemical herbicides, and the financial practicality made this a sensible option for the department. Staff will discuss the recent purchase and the potential beneficial uses for the City.

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

Thompson presented background information about the Public Works Department's chemical weed control program, including the scope (public rights of way), past practices and issues with securing bids from outside contractors, and the plan moving forward with the saturated steam equipment. The equipment will allow the department to reduce chemical exposure to both humans and the environment. The equipment will be used for localized application to control weeds mainly in hardscapes such as cracks in pavement and the curb line. Thompson mentioned that there may still be the need for some chemical herbicide use, but street department staff will attempt to use the steam unit wherever feasible. It is not intended to be used over large areas, such as turf, since the type of steam application Public Works plans to use will kill all plants. The Weedtechnics SW800 was chosen over other equipment because it uses only water to kill weeds and was about 1/3 the cost of units that use steam with foam. A positive endorsement from The University of Colorado – Boulder helped with the decision to purchase the SW800. It is a cost effective option that will allow Public Works to break even over the next two years, and begin to realize savings of around $6700 in FY2021.

6. **Pesticides in City Parks-Steve McGeehan**
   Report on activities regarding pesticide use and land management in city parks.

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

Sub-committee formed with the Parks and Recreation Commission. Will meet before the next SEC meeting. No other update at this time.

7. **Environmental Stewardship Award- Kelli Cooper**

The Environmental Stewardship Award is designed to recognize and reward local businesses who have taken steps to reduce their environmental impacts. It is an extension of existing City of Moscow programs such as the Fats, Oils and Grease reduction program, and Water Conservation program as well as several City of Moscow ordinances regarding environmental regulations. At the same time, the program is meant to encourage and support future actions by providing information on additional steps that can be taken and the resources to help businesses make those changes.

ACTION: Receive the report and provide a letter of support for the program.

Result: Approved (Unanimous)
Mover: Moore
Seconder: Hilding

Cooper provided the Commission with a summary of the Environmental Stewardship Program. The award was born out of a need to incentivize compliance with the Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) program. As it evolved, it was clear that a platform of this nature could also be used for other Environmental Services programs such as Water Conservation, Stormwater, Backflow ordinance, and others. Cooper then gave a brief overview of the application process and certification levels that the ESA will involve. Cooper then answered several questions asked by Commission members. Cooper then requested a letter of support from the commission regarding the program.

8. **Earth Day Awards – Steve McGeehan**

The City of Moscow is seeking nominations for the Mayor's 2019 Earth Day Awards. The awards recognize Moscow residents for activities conducive to environmental sustainability.

ACTION: SEC members and guests will prepare nominations for individuals and organizations. The SEC will also organize nominations received from Moscow community members. A final list of nominees will be forwarded to the Mayor for consideration.

Start looking for nominees and bring the information to the next scheduled meeting. City will send out a press release to solicit public nominations.

9. **Announcements/Other Business**

David Hall-On March 19th, Bill Cadwallader will be providing a public presentation at the 1912 from 6-7 p.m. 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. Public presentation/recommendations to city practices

Kelli Cooper announced that the movie "Divide in Concord" will be shown at the Kenworthy Theater, 7:00 p.m. on February 27, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Minutes Approved On

MAR 19 2019

Clerk/Deputy Signature

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