

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



Steve McGeehan
Commission Chair

~Meeting Minutes~
May 15, 2018

Kyle Steele
Staff Liaison

sec@ci.moscow.id.us

208.883.7133

<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, Victoria Seever, Tina Hilding, Tim Hatten, Ilan Carter

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Kyle Steele, Staff Liaison; Kelli Cooper, Sustainability Technician; Brandy Sullivan, Council Liaison; David Hall, Mary Dupree, Carly Lily, Paul Kimmel

1. Approval of minutes from the April 17, 2018-Steve McGeehan

Result: Lacked a quorum, approval of April minutes tabled until June

Mover:

Second:

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.

Upon an email request from Scott Fedale, Cooper provided the commission some information on the EV. It has been in service for about 1.5 years and is primarily used by the Metering crew but may also be used for quick trips that do not require a work vehicle by anyone in Water. Cooper also provided an update on the Wisescape rebate program. So far this fiscal year (since October 1, 2017) there have been 9 completed Wisescapes with a total of 11,547.5 square feet converted at a cost of \$1350 to the City. There are still 20 pending, 2 of which are new this spring. Toilet rebates keep pouring in. Since the last update to the commission, we have had 29 new rebates (27 household, 2 commercial) changing out 39 toilets (36 household, 3 commercial). Water savings is over 2 million gallons a year for this program. Cooper also informed the commission that she was recently accepted into a training through ICLEI on community-scale green house gas inventories. By the end of the training Moscow should have a completed community inventory. She will keep the commission updated on progress. Lastly, Cooper informed the commission that recycling will be offered at the Farmer's Market very soon. The bins have been ordered and should be here by June.

3. Moscow High School 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 informed the Commission that the Ren Fair went really well. There were no incidents with the hot oil this year. The Walk/Bike to school incentive program is going really well. The water bottles are really cool and students have started cashing in for them. The school year is winding down so there is not a whole lot more happening right now. There are plans to go to Philips Farm and plant trees in June or July. Next summer there are several students are planning on participating in the WCC.

4. Avista Update - Paul Kimmel

Paul will share information about Avista's new solar project as well as more details on our proposed merger with Hydro One and the plan for our Colstrip coal generation facility

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

Kimmel began by expressing that Avista is still the same company it was a month ago and the merger with Hydro One is still moving forward. Currently Avista provides services in Washington, Oregon, and Alaska in addition to Idaho. Avista is constantly engaged in a utility generation balancing act which balances environmental effects, cost to customers and to Avista, and governmental regulations. Avista's energy portfolio currently consists of 49% Hydroelectric dams (41.5% Avista-owned, 7.5% contracted), 35% natural gas, 2% biomass (difficult to keep going as it is becoming hard to find feedstock), 4.5% wind, and 9.5% coal. Avista provides its customers with some of the lowest cost energy in the nation, largely due to the amount of hydro in the mix. Avista is also in the top 15 LOWEST emitters in the nation in power production. Kimmel also informed the commission that Avista has an Integrated Resource Plan, which is updated regularly using a Technical Advisory Committee that any member of the public can serve on. It takes a 20 year outlook to plan to meet the energy needs of the future, which includes using a diversified energy mix. Kimmel invited any interested members of the commission to consider serving on the Technical Advisory Committee. Kimmel then gave a general overview of each of the components of Avista's energy mix, including any issues with variability and how this variability is offset by other components of the mix. Kimmel also discussed Avista's various energy efficiency programs over the years, stating that use of its programs vary year to year depending on what was targeted specifically that year. Avista is also researching power storage solutions, but right now these are high cost, such as the large scale battery located at SEL. They are also working on a project in Spokane, Urbanova, that combines smart grid technology, demand response, and several other mechanisms to create a more energy efficient city. Avista recognizes that there is a growing need for flexibility. They also recognize that there are several emerging issues and trends in energy production and it is doing what it can to anticipate and respond accordingly. Some examples are broader market development, declining prices for renewables, growing amounts of distributed generation, development in battery technology, uncertainty and variability in climate policy, and customer expectations.

Kimmel also took this opportunity to update the commission on the new community solar array being installed in Lind, Washington. They are working with Strata Solar to build the array and

the energy that will be produced by it was offered to large commercial and industrial electric customers in Washington as a way to meet their sustainability and emission reductions goals. The system itself is a 28 MW system consisting of roughly 80,000 panels over 180 acres. In other words, it will produce enough electricity to power roughly 4,000 homes. The cost of the project is about \$30 million, and will also bring many local jobs to rural Lind. The groundbreaking takes place next Thursday.

Kimmel also updated the commission on Avista's Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure project. Two chargers have been installed in Pullman, one fast charger (20 min) and one level 2 charger (3-6 hours). There is now a charger located about every 35 miles between Clarkston and Spokane, with the goal to now begin moving west toward Othello.

Kimmel then discussed coal generation. He said that power companies across the nation plan to shutter 10 big coal plants this year, with most being replaced by natural gas, but some solar and wind is being added as well. The reality is that other sectors need to get onboard with emissions reductions as power generators have made great strides in reducing emissions. Kimmel then talked specifically about Colstrip. For a coal mine, emissions are smaller than most since it is a mine to mouth operation. The coal is mined close by and then brought directly to the plant. Avista owns 15% of units 3 and 4 and is one of six owners. This means any decision regarding Colstrip is a joint decision. Avista has agreed to accelerate the retirement of units 3 & 4 to December of 2027 (previous target retirement dates were 2034 for unit 3 and 2036 for unit 4) for its 15%.

At this point, Kimmel took questions from the commission. Carly Lily asked about solar customers who lose their credits at the end of the year and whether or not Avista has considered a separate rate class for solar customers. Kimmel said that Avista recognizes this as an issue with residential solar, and it is working to find a solution to this. Mary Dupree asked if Avista has a stance on a carbon tax to which Kimmel replied that Avista does not have a firm policy in place at this time.

5. Avista's Involvement With Coal-Fired Electric Plants (Hatten)

Tim, Tina, and Scott are working on a draft white paper on the Colstrip power Plant.

ACTION: Receive the report and take other such action as deemed appropriate or provide staff further direction.

Tim Hatten provided a quick background on the letter that the subcommittee has been working on. He informed the commission that a settlement agreement for Idaho has been proposed since the April meeting. Several interested parties were also able to convince the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to hold their meeting on the merger agreement in Moscow on June 12th. It will be held at the 1912 Center.

6. City of Moscow and the Citizen's Climate Lobby-Palouse Region- Mary Dupree

Discuss letter and resolution prepared by Citizens' Climate Lobby-Palouse region Chapter recommending the City of Moscow join other Idaho cities in encouraging effective climate/energy legislation.

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

Dupree informed the commission that all City Council members have been met with. The proposal is waiting to go forward at this time. The Mayor has requested more information so Dupree and Al Poplawsky will meet with him at a later date to go over climate change and its impacts in general. There are also a few political concerns that the CCL cannot address.

7. Pesticides in City Parks – Steve McGeehan

Steve will provide a brief update on activities and any new developments.

ACTION: Receive the report and take other such action as deemed appropriate or provide staff further direction.

There have been several lengthy meetings on pesticides. Dwight Curtis has agreed to a demo park, specifically Otness park. At this time there are many questions left to answer such as how do we assist in marketing the park as pesticide free? Is there a management plan in place in order for the demo to be successful? Seever brought up Hogg Creek as a possible source of weed invasion and pesticide contamination as the banks within the park are routinely covered in weeds and if those are sprayed the pesticides may end up in the playground anyway. We need to have Dwight come back for further discussion on management, possibly at the next meeting.

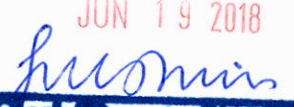
8. Announcements/Other Business

The SEC will be tabling at the Farmer's Market on June 30th and September 22nd. Please be aware of this as McGeehan will be looking for volunteers to fill these time slots soon. Kelli Cooper and Carly Lily will be working on some display items to use.

Next meeting will be June 19th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes Approved On

JUN 19 2018

Clerk/Deputy Signature

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