

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



Steve McGeehan
Commission Chair

~Meeting Minutes~
August 20, 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 7:15 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve McGeehan-Chair, Fred Pollard-Vice Chair; Victoria Seever; Russ Moore; Tina Hilding; Amber Ziegler. Kristin Haltinner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kyle Steele, Staff Liaison; Carly Lilly; Kevyn Boothe (University of Idaho College Seat); Ilan Carter (Moscow High School Subcommittee)

ALSOIN ATTENDANCE: Kathryn Bonzo, Council Liaison; Kelli Cooper, Moscow Sustainability Technician; Ty Thompson, City of Moscow Compliance Coordinator, Environmental Services Group; Pat Rathmann; Dan Rathmann; Margaret Dibble; Jeanne Leffingwell; David Hall; Eric Willadsen; Al Poplawsky

1. Approval of minutes from July 16, 2019

Result: Approved

Mover: Fred Pollard

Second: Victoria Seever

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.

The Palouse bike week will be September 16th through the 21st. There are events planned for every day including Vandals Ride Your Bike to the Market and Ride Your Bike to the Home Vandal Game that Saturday. The new water wheel chairs were rolled out at the HIRC. October 10th is the Palouse Basin Water Summit as well as the Pullman-Moscow Airport ribbon cutting ceremony.

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.

Ilan was not in attendance.

4. Fracking Issues in Idaho – Shelley Brock (via Skype)

****POSTPONED UNTIL SEPT****

Shelley Brock of the Citizens Allied for Integrity and Accountability (CAIA) will discuss the status of fracking in Idaho including challenges to the process used by Idaho's Department of Lands to force landowners to lease their mineral rights to oil and gas companies.

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

5. Sierra Club "Ready For 100" campaign – Al Poplawsky and Eric Willadsen

Eric Willadsen from the Sierra Club will present a "Ready For 100" campaign which works with cities and municipalities to help them commit to 100% clean energy by a certain date (such as 2050). The City of Boise recently made such a commitment.

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

Eric Willadsen, from the Idaho Chapter of the Sierra Club, shared his qualifications and invited the committee and audience to ask questions and participate. The Sierra Club has 3.2 million members and supporters with 64 chapters around the world. They bring people together and coordinate actions to address issues. Eric stated that they are primarily a land conservation organization although the national board voted to make climate change, and its effects on the earth, as their main focus. There is a Palouse group in Moscow and the Treasure Valley Board in the Boise area which are both run by volunteers. The "Ready For 100" campaign, which started in 2016, is specifically to address climate change by working with local governments to obtain commitments to be 100 percent carbon free. The Sierra Club is looking to municipalities for their support which looks different for every city. He explained that carbon free means electricity is not coming from any source that produces carbon or greenhouse gas emissions. Russ Moore asked about the agricultural community. Eric shared information about solar power being sold by farmers. He talked about working with communities they are targeting at this point, additional campaigns and about future possibilities in Moscow and what would be the benefit of a resolution. Eric said he would send a resolution template. The question of when a city makes a commitment to go 100% clean how do they work with a power company? Kathryn Bonzo asked Eric to contact other committees/commissions in the City as well as Paul Kimmell at Avista. There was discussion regarding are we already doing the things we need to garner the attention it should. Ty Thompson explained what the City of Moscow Environmental Services Group (ESG) does for the City. The next steps in moving forward could include opening communication lines, making recommendations to the city, sending Sierra Club volunteers to provide support. Items to discuss further could include policy questions, talking points, providing facts to show how these actions and commitments will benefit Moscow's local population and economy including outreach to other municipalities. These items will be added to a future agenda for further discussion.

6. Climate Survey for the Farmers Market Table – Amber Ziegler

Amber volunteered to assemble the survey and would like to have a short conversation about what kind of information we would like to gather.

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

Amber Ziegler solicited questions for the survey from the Commission to weigh what the public sees as important issues. It was suggested to keep the survey short (5-8 questions), a place for comments, a Survey Monkey link and put the SEC mission statement at the top. The commission will email using Reply All to discuss questions and send them to Amber. Fred Pollard asked that the Climate Change commission have input for the survey questions. Subjects that were suggested for the questionnaire include electricity, transportation, and agriculture. Submit by August 31, 2019. Steve will send an email.

7. Seed packets for Farmers Market table – Kelli Cooper

Kelli will purchase native plant seeds and organize a seed packing group. The seed packs will be distributed at the SEC Farmers Market table on Sept. 28th.

ACTION: Approve the use of SEC funds to purchase the seeds or take other action as deemed appropriate.

Kelli Cooper has asked for \$150.00 to fund the seed packets. Steve will bring chocolate and Fred has a table mounted wheel to spin for a variety of items. Ty Thompson will provide the video demonstrating the Weed Steamer. A vote was held on Kristen Haltinner's motion, Tina Hilding's Second, a vote was held and the request was approved.

8. Commission Survey questions – Steve McGeehan

The City is seeking questions for the 2019 Commission Survey. This survey is designed to provide an opportunity for Commissions to ask questions of the general public regarding their mission or services.

ACTION: Discuss and approve questions for the SEC to submit for the Commission Survey.

Kyle Snyder, City of Moscow Intern, has asked that Commission Survey questions be put together by Russ Moore and Victoria Seever. Tina Hilding asked about the 100% clean energy question on this survey. David Hall stated that more public education needs to be done before presenting a clean energy question and Steve McGeehan agreed. The Commission will email finalize only 4 to 5 proposed questions. Steve reviewed current questions and a discussion ensued on how to prioritize and present the questions to highlight critical issues and get the most information back. Amber Ziegler brought up Public Health questions, for example smoke events. Kristin Haltinner offered information on a survey she is working on. Steve asked Russ and Victoria to revamp the questions. The demographic will be different between this and the Farmers Market Survey. The due date for the questions to be submitted is August 31st, 2019.

9. Presentation to City Council – Steve McGeehan

Steve presented a summary of SEC activities and accomplishments to City Council on August 5.

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

This report is done every year. Kathryn Bonzo and Victoria Seever both said Steve McGeehan's report was very well done and it was good to highlight how the SEC works with other Commissions.

10. Announcements/Other Business

Next meeting (Sept 17, 2019).

Farmers Market Table (September 28, 2019)

David Hall asked for update from Kathryn Bonzo on TREX, collection and possible presentation.

ADJOURN: 9:22 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve McGeehan', written in a cursive style.

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