

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



Steve McGeehan
Commission Chair

~Meeting Minutes~
September 17, 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; Kristin Haltinner; Ilan Carter (Moscow High School Subcommittee)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carly Lilly; Amber Ziegler; Kelli Cooper, Moscow Sustainability Technician

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Kyle Steele, Staff Liaison, Environmental Services Group; Kathryn Bonzo, Council Liaison; David Hall; Al Poplawsky; Scott Mallard; Hank Pachnar; Connor Abajian; Logan Heflin; Jon Tester; Anne Zabala (City Council Member)

1. Approval of minutes from August 20, 2019

Result: Approved

Mover: Victoria Seever

Second: Tina 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.

No Report

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 shared that the Soil Society is planning a picnic in two weeks and the Environmental Club had volunteers for Palouse Sprint triathlon. This Friday is the Youth Climate Strike, meeting at the High School at 11:23 a.m. Extensive planning has gone into this in cooperation with Logan Heflin, who is planning the U of I event and will be joining them. There will be musicians from the high school and five speakers. Signing for the Ready for 100 petitions will be available from the Sierra Club. When asked about middle school involvement Ilan said it is difficult to get them involved because of lack of a club structure to pass information along, student age and being far away from the rally site at the park. He is not sure how many people will show up. Posters have been put up around the school and downtown. Fred asked Ilan to contact NPR and other public output venues. Tina Hilding

asked if WSU has anything and if there is a register to vote table which she offered to check on for the event. In January there is a youth lobbying event in Boise that they would like to include as many students as possible to skype into. There is talk to organize an earth day event, under the Sierra Club, using art of the future and bringing people together to make changes and change behaviors. Also, a group is being considered to make regularly scheduled ongoing calls to legislators. David Hall asked about the archeological dig and if it was affecting native plants. Ilan indicated he was not aware of any issues and they were staying away from the garden area.

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

****POSTPONED UNTIL OCTOBER****

5. "Ready For 100" campaign – Al Poplawsky

The "Ready for 100" (RF 100) campaign works with cities and municipalities to help them commit to 100% clean energy by a certain date (such as 2050). Moscow RF 100 has formed a governing committee and will provide an update on its activities.

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

The "Ready for 100" campaign is supporting the efforts of the Sierra Club to eliminate fossil fuels around the globe by the year 2050. Many communities are setting their goals as soon as 2035. They are looking for communities to commit to transitioning to 100% clean energy. Documents were sent to the Sustainable Environment Commission (SEC) this afternoon regarding climate change and their efforts to help achieve this goal. The documents, and a *2017 Case Study Report* are available by emailing sec@ci.moscow.id.us. The City of Moscow has committed to reduce its municipal operation carbon emissions by 20% by 2020. What this program is looking for is a commitment from entire communities to move to 100% clean renewal energy in all energy use sectors including electricity, transportation, heating and cooling. The way this has worked in many cities includes a statement or proclamation by a city leader in support of the goal and then the city works to adopt a binding commitment. Core element from the *Guidelines for Community Commitments to 100% Renewable Energy* were presented as well as working in collaboration with neighboring communities, such as Pullman, and negotiating with existing utility service providers. The *2017 Case Study Report* gives specific examples how these commitments can be achieved and setting a time frame to meet. Kathryn Bonzo suggested looking into the format of the strategic plan as to where this could be addressed. Steve McGeehan suggested looking at what other states and cities are doing.

6. Seed packets for Farmers Market table – Kelli Cooper

Kelli has purchased native plant seeds and is organizing a seed packing party. The seed packs will be distributed at the SEC Farmers Market table on September 28th.

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

The seed packing activity will be at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, 9.18.19, at the Water Filter Plant, 120 West A Street. Kyle Steele or Kelli Cooper will send out an email tomorrow.

Fred Pollard asked about the SEC brochure and Steve McGeehan said he will send it to Kyle to update.

7. 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: Finalize questions for the SEC to submit to the Commission Survey.

The suggested changes to the survey have been made and Victoria Seever has submitted the three questions to Amber Ziegler. The survey has to be simple.

8. Announcements/Other Business

Next meeting (October 15, 2019).

Farmers Market Table (September 28, 2019)

Anne Zabala/ Kristin Haltinner: During a council workshop it was discussed to look at updating the Strategic Plan and to address Climate Change for Moscow. They are looking for a bold goal, big scale ideas or conservation-oriented programs that the City is not already doing, that can be implemented city wide. Anne stated she would like to have a plan to take to council. Tina Hilding suggested that the Sierra Club goals of Carbon free seem to fit with this and feels that it is critical. Kristin would like meet with researchers to look at the social and economic impact to the city in many areas. The end product being a plan for Anne to present to the council. Kyle Steele, would like to go to one of the meeting to share what the City is already doing. Tina Hilding supports a proclamation and wants to be involved and supports a proclamation to the RF100 goal. Fred Pollard would also like to be involved. Steve asked the counselors how to best approach this process. Kathryn Bonzo asked them to follow the submittal process and format, prepare a presentation and meet with the proper chain of command. The sub-committee will work toward a presentation and bring it forward at the next meeting. Kyle will meet with Kristin on sub-committee meeting rules.

Kathryn Bonzo said Trex plastic collections were over 700 pounds at Moscow Charter School. She is trying to bring the UI Greek system in the collection process.

David Hall shared that there is a free showing of movie “Just Eat It” at the Kenworthy Theater.

The Palouse Basin Water Summit will be held at the SEL Events Center in Pullman on Thursday, October 10th, starting at 4:30 p.m.

Steve announced that the U of I is ranked 6th for energy reduction and clean renewable energy sources from the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE), the Sustainable Campus Index recognizes top-performing colleges and universities in 17 impact areas, as measured by the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS). U of I earned a Silver STARS rating for sustainability achievements.

ADJOURN: 9:15 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)