

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



Steve McGeehan
Commission Chair

~Meeting Minutes~
October 15, 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 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve McGeehan-Chair, Fred Pollard-Vice Chair; Victoria Seever; Russ Moore; Tina Hilding; Amber Ziegler; Ilan Carter (Moscow High School Subcommittee)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carly Lilly; Kristin Haltinner; Kyle Steele, Staff Liaison, Manager-Environmental Services Department

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Kathryn Bonzo, City of Moscow Council Liaison; Kelli Cooper, City of Moscow Sustainability Technician; Tyler Palmer, City of Moscow Deputy City Supervisor; David Hall; Gene Gussenhoven; Kaye Gussenhoven; Mark Rud

1. Approval of minutes from September 17, 2019-Steve McGeehan

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.

Kelli is full time now with the City and hoping to do more with sustainability. The Palouse Basin Water Summit last week was very well attended. At least 240 people attended the Summit, speakers were great and there are positive things coming out of that. There was waste from the event of at least 60 pounds of compostable. Work still needs to be done to improve recyclables. Kelli has prepared an updated 2016 greenhouse gas inventory to reflect updated eGRID statistics that were released in January 2018. This update caused a drop in our 2016 inventory results from 4919 Metric Tons CO_{2e} to 4018 Metric Tons CO_{2e}, which reflects a reduction in emissions that come from our electrical production. The 2018 Greenhouse Gas Benchmark inventory results show a decrease in emissions overall, with total emissions being 3840 Metric Tons CO_{2e}. There were slight increases in emissions coming from the Water & Wastewater sector and the Building & Facilities sector compared to 2016. With an increasing population and increasing number of City buildings this is not surprising. However, the amount of the rise has been offset by the way that we are currently operating our wells and by LED lighting & energy upgrades at City facilities. Comparing across all inventories, the City has reached an 18.6% reduction since 2008. The last 2% may be achieved by replacing all City-owned street lights with LEDs.

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.

Environmental happenings have mostly been post-walk out stuff. Environmental Club is supporting senate bill 2137 which is an energy efficiency bill. The club has set up a calling campaign, to support this bill, with 5-6 calls being made to senators every week day. Ilan had a conference with Eric Walledsen, from the Sierra Club, regarding setting up a Climate Justice League under their umbrella. They are just in Boise now but he wants to form a Moscow chapter. They are hoping that Moscow will commit to being clean/renewable energy by 2035. Ilan asked if there is a prewritten letter of support for businesses to sign? Kathryn Bonzo said there is a RF100 meeting tomorrow where Ilan can go find out more information. The Environmental Club is doing as much as they can to promote the RF100 initiative. Fred Pollard asked about Moscow High School being interested in solar power. Ilan said there is not much interest in solar at the High School so far. He would like to know what the City needs to commit to 100% renewable. Tina Hilding talked about the subcommittee working on the strategic plan and invited Ilan to work on that with them. Steve McGeehan stated that it would be beneficial if the several different groups would get together to coordinate their information. Tina said that the walk out was a great event.

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

****Postponed until November****

5. Road to Energy Independence a Road to Resiliency - Gene Gussenhoven

Gene (Director, UI Utility and Engineering Services) - Presentation provides an introspective look at University of Idaho's path to energy independence through the use of a spectrum of renewable technologies and resources serving a broader vision of distributed energy sources and micro-grids. The presentation looks at UI past to present efforts in energy conservation including water to energy and the management concept of starting small with revolving investment of avoided costs and an ability of public institutions to, "SELF ESCO".

ACTION: Receive the report and provide applicable feedback

"The Road to Energy Independence, Installing Steam Micro Turbines as part of a Distributed Energy Microgrid" presentation given by Gene Gussenhoven, from the University of Idaho (U of I), explains how the University has been saving energy which ranks the U of I 6th for energy reduction and clean renewable energy sources by 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. Gene discussed the need to garner a road to energy independence and divorce ourselves from fossil fuels over time. The topics in the presentation that were covered were:

The long-term strategy for the campus microgrid.

Completing phase 2 of the Nline Turbine Project including:

- Turbine Specifications
- Energy Plant Configuration
- Connecting to the UI Grid
- Annual Savings and Costs
- Financial Incentives
- Opportunity Costs and Risks
- Benefits to the University
- Reducing the Cost of Higher Education
- General Utility Budget
- Utility Rates
- Campus Emissions
- Utility Costs and Savings:
 - Electricity
 - Steam
 - Natural Gas
 - Water
 - Other Utilities; Fuels and Solid Waste

If you would like to obtain a copy of the presentation please email the Sustainable Environment Commission at sec@ci.moscow.id.us .

6. Climate Change Strategic Plan Subcommittee– Kristin Haltinner

The Sustainable Environment Commission has established a subcommittee to examine ways to improve Moscow’s preparedness for climate change, explore opportunities for the city to mitigate climate change, and continued consideration of the RF 100 effort.

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

The sub-committee sought guidance on procedures and it was determined that there should be a training session. The difference was discussed between a brainstorming meeting and bringing those ideas back to the commission and the requirements according to following open meeting laws where the process is public and there is an agenda, decisions made and the need for minutes to be taken. Sub-committee members were encouraged to use the commission staff liaison to reach out to other City committees, commissions and other City staff as they are here to serve the commission. Amber Ziegler compiled a process for the sub-committee to follow and Victoria Seever was asked, and agreed, to help them through the process. The commission would like to hear back on November 19th and have the sub-committee provide questions to bring forward for Steve to send out.

7. Report on Farmers Market table – SEC market volunteers

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

Interaction at the Farmers Market was good. Staffing the table went well, Kathryn Bonzo passed out all of the seed packets and the chocolate was a hit. The surveys went over well and the results will be available next month. Weather was poor that day and a lot of the

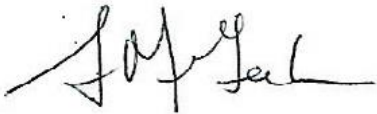
people attending the Market stated they were from out of town. Steve thanked everyone for their help.

8. Announcements/Other Business

Next meeting: Nov 19, 2019

Item for next meeting: Revisit moving meeting to an earlier time.

ADJOURN: 10:10 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve McGeehan", written over a horizontal line.

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