

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



Steve McGeehan
Commission Chair

~Meeting Minutes~
February 18, 2020

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carly Lilly

STAFF/COUNCIL PRESENT: Kelli Cooper, Environmental Education and Sustainability Specialist; Jenifer Rossini, Administrative Assistant

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: David Hall; Cassandra Goodmansen; Anne Remaley; Roberta Radavich; Eric Perry; Robert Olsen

1. Approval of minutes from November 19, 2019-Steve McGeehan

Result: Approved Mover: Fred Pollard Second: Russ Moore

(No approval of December 17, 2019 and January 21, 2020 minutes as there was no quorum and they are not official minutes.)

2. Election of 2020 Chair and Vice-chair – Steve McGeehan

ACTION: Discuss and elect the SEC Chair and Vice-Chair for 2020.

McGeehan gave a brief overview of the process to elect a new Chair and Vice-chair. There was a brief discussion and Hilding nominated McGeehan and Pollard for re-election of their roles and Ziegler second. McGeehan and Pollard accepted and will be continuing their role as Chair and Vice-chair.

3. City Sustainability Report - Kelli Cooper

Kelli Cooper, City of Moscow Environmental Education and Sustainability Specialist, will update the Commission on the City's sustainability activities.

ACTION: Receive the report and provide applicable feedback to staff.

The City Council Stormwater User Fee Study Workshop is being held today. The Environmental Stewardship Award (ESA) has had a soft launch and several trial businesses are participating: One World Café and John Kimberling Insurance. Kelli is currently working

on two others for the ESA; Moscow City Hall and has the Moscow School District on schedule for the 21st. Official ESA launch will be in April to coincide with Earth Day. Motel 6 will be switching out 112, 3-gallons-per-flush toilets. Cooper also provided them with 112 low flow shower heads and low flow aerators for their rooms. Cooper also informed the group that there have been over 700 toilet fixtures replaced and 3.7 million gallons of water a year saved. Cooper will be helping to run the Pollinator Summit on Feb 26th and 27th. There will be a film at the Kenworthy Theater and a panel discussion on the 26th. The 27th will be the Summit itself. Cooper applied for and got into the climate action training with ICLEI (Internal Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) or Local Governments for Sustainability. Cooper is inviting members of the Climate Action Working Group if they would like to participate in some of the webinars. ICLEI provides greenhouse gas and climate tracking tools, trainings, and a community to communicate with other partners to work on Moscow's sustainability goals. Downtown cleanup will be April 24th from 2:30-4 p.m. and will be meeting at Friendship Square.

4. 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.

The Environmental Club would like to have an Environmental Action week the week of Earth Day. They would like to have a voter registration in the commons every morning that week. They will also be doing fundraisers to donate money to the U I Solar Program. Carter also mentioned having Piper Christian (environmentalist) come and talk to the Environmental Club and the whole High School for Earth Day. As well as possibly speak at the U I. Carter would also like to talk with her to possibly get her involved with the downtown clean-up and the climate action plan presentation. David Hall suggested integrating information about 5G into the Environmental Action week.

5. Climate Action Working Group – Kristin Haltinner

The Working Group will provide an update on the group's goals and progress. The group plans discussions with city council members (meet with them individually) to get their input regarding plans for a climate action plan and upcoming public event. Lastly, the group would like to plan a visit with board of Chamber of Commerce in April.

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

Hilding started the discussion. Group is still meeting every other Monday. Jeff Hicke is still working on a vulnerability assessment summary. The Group would like the assessment done very soon so they can meet two on two with the City Council as well as hold a public meeting April 22nd 2020 at 5:30 p.m. The Group has compiled a list of goals:

- Research the potential impact of climate change on Moscow and Latah County through conducting a vulnerability assessment.

- Research the positive, neutral and negative economic, social and environmental potentials of different actions Moscow could take to mitigate climate change.
- Research the positive, neutral and negative economic, social and environmental potentials of different actions Moscow could take to adapt to a changing climate.
- Gather public input in regards to mitigation and adaptation actions.
- Develop a climate action plan incorporating research and public input.

The complete handout is available by contacting the SEC at sec@ci.moscow.id.us. Ziegler has made talking points for when the Group talks with the Chamber.

- What is the Climate Action Working Group?
- Goals of the Group
- Climate change impacts on Moscow
- Plans for April event
- Receive feedback in regards to what the Group is working on as well as what the Council would like to see the Group work on.

Complete handout available by contacting the SEC at: sec@ci.moscow.id.us. The Group is also planning on meeting with the Chamber of Commerce to gather input and fill the Council in on what they are working on. Hilding stated that at the February 22nd public meeting they will present the vulnerability assessment and presentations from the college students, and opportunities for public input. There was a discussion about doing an economic assessment along with the vulnerability assessment. Ziegler stated they would probably have to hire out for that. The following are the commissions that are participating in the subcommittee: Reverend Elizabeth Stephens from UUCP Church, and with Human Rights Commission, Judy Meuth from Citizens Climate Lobby, Mary DuPree from Transportation Commission, Robby Copper from Parks and Recreation Commission, Debbie Kadlec from Trees, Planning and Zoning Commission, Al Poplawsky from Sierra Club, Jeanine Mathison from University of Idaho Sustainability, Cassandra Goodmansen and Ilan Carter from Moscow High School. Jonathan Gradin with Pathways and Fair Housing commissions will come when he can. It was recommended to talk to the press before the open house.

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

Shelley Brock of 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.

****POSTPONED UNTIL MARCH****

7. Earth Day Awards – Steve McGeehan

The City of Moscow is seeking nominations for the Mayor's 2020 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

McGeehan explained that the Sustainable Environmental Commission (SEC) is the clearing house for the Mayor's Earth Day awards. The SEC generally generates the nominations within the commission. McGeehan said nominees should be groups, people, businesses, etc. Nominations need to be sent to Steve with a short summary explaining why they are deserving of the award. March meeting will have list of nominees ready. McGeehan will send out a list of previous nominees to commission members.

8. 5G in Moscow– Steve McGeehan

Continued discussion of the proposed changes to regulating small cell/5G transmission facilities that the Moscow Planning Department is working on.

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

Cooper shared handouts from George Bedirian. Pollard summarized the last Sustainable Environment Commission meeting on 5G as well as Martin Paul's presentation on 5G. Hilding mentioned a handout from George in regards to an ordinance from Mill Valley, California created for the upcoming 5G; she asked what the role of the SEC is in these types of situations. Steve stated that the job of the SEC is to collect facts, listen to the public, and to do their own research; the SEC will then decide whether they want to make recommendations to the City Council and he advises all to not take that lightly. The SEC has a small part in the total decision and it may take awhile for an ordinance to come to pass. Steve then asked the visitors their opinions on 5G. Roberta Radavich talked about her concern over not being able to control 5G beaming into her house and how that may disrupt her sleep patterns. There was also discussion about when 5G will be installed in Moscow and neighboring towns. Robert Olsen (PhD, WSU School of Electrical Engineering) asked the group to ask themselves what they think is unique about 5G that they oppose, if they oppose. He also made a statement that 5G will decrease exposure to small cell waves. Switzerland and UK have documents that show evidence of less exposure. Bob referenced the ICNIRP website for more information and publications on 5G. Kristin Haltinner also thought the Group should look at different other aspects of 5G e.g. effects on middle class families, climate change impacts on changing infrastructure frequently, etc. There was also talk about how different providers have different frequencies and waves. To receive a copy of any of the handouts mentioned please email the SEC at sec@ci.moscow.id.us.

9. Commission table at Farmers Market – Steve McGeehan

If the SEC plans to table at the Moscow Farmers Market, we need to submit a registration form before May.

ACTION: Discuss and select date for tabling at the Farmers Market

Amanda Argona, Community Events Manager, needs to know whether the SEC is interested in having a commission table at the Farmers Market this season. Argona sent available dates to McGeehan and he will forward to members. Deadline to respond will be in a week or two. There was a slight discussion in regards to what topics they would like to display at the table.

10. Farmer's Market left over seed packets Steve McGeehan

Would the SEC want to donate the remaining packets to the Pollinator summit?

ACTION: Discuss and take such action as deemed appropriate.

Cooper suggested donating the seeds to the Pollinator event. Haltinner motioned to use the seeds at the Pollinator event. Moore seconded. McGeehan said the SEC can buy more seeds for the Farmer's Market, if needed.

11. Announcements/Other Business

Next meeting (March 24th, 2020)

The Moscow High School Environmental Club needs volunteers for their food booth at the Moscow Renaissance Fair May 2nd and 3rd. The money goes to turtle trip, ecology trip, model UN, and Phillip's farm etc.

Cassandra Goodmansen suggested holding a public event demystifying solar panels and other sustainable methods.

U I approved financing for solar and steam to electricity generators

David has DVD of last Martin Pall presentation he can loan out. Robert Olsen and Martin Pall will speak February 22nd at Gonzaga University in Spokane, WA.

February 26th ^{UI} Professor Richard Seaman will talk at the Moscow League of Women Voters meeting at the 1912 Center about legal aspects of 5G.

Dean Parella is suggesting Moscow to become a bee city.

ADJOURN: 8:04 p.m.



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