

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



Steve McGeehan
Commission Chair

~Meeting Minutes~
November 19, 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; Ilan Carter (Moscow High School Subcommittee); Kristin Haltinner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carly Lilly; 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; Jenifer Rossini; Stefanie Krantz; Cassandra Goodmansen; Jeff Hicke; Pat Rathmann; Mark Rud; David Hall; Al Poplawsky

1. Approval of minutes from October 15, 2019-Steve McGeehan

Result: Approved

Mover: Amber Ziegler

Seconded: 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.

Kelli Cooper showed the presentation to City Council by Tyler Palmer titled City Sustainability, available via YouTube at <https://youtu.be/HijKy6VUtU0?t=2809>. High points from Palmer's presentation include the formation of the Environmental Services Department, Greenhouse Gas Emissions tracking and history of climate concern by the City, EcoDriver program updates and next steps including an Alternative Fuels transition plan, Water system operational updates, LED bulb replacement program, Environmental Stewardship Award, Water Reclamation and Reuse updates, Pavement management program, Chemical Weed Control Alternative, and Solid Waste management. Cooper then provided an updated slide on recent greenhouse gas emission calculations and opened the floor for questions regarding specifics of that piece of Palmer's presentation.

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 reported that there is not too much going on at the high school, just some follow up from the walk out. The Environmental Club is keeping up the energy efficiency bill weekly support calls to the senators. The climate change group will be going to Washington, DC. The Soil Society is cleaning up the garden at the High School. For their work with Rotary Club they received the check they will give the group. The Human Rights Club and the Soil Society will be at the Giving Market on December 5th. You can still name a turtle for \$5.

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

****POSTPONED UNTIL DECEMBER****

- 5. 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.

Kristin, Tina Hilding, Amber Ziegler and Russ Moore have been meeting weekly to work on the strategic plan. They have learned that the strategic plan is not the first step but perhaps a latter step to the process. The subcommittee has come up with a Glossary of Terms to define what they are talking about. Terms include and define Adaptation, Resilience and Mitigation taken from the *COP 23-UN Climate Change Conference*. Keeping these definitions in mind, Kristin is talking about three different plans; Vulnerability Assessment, Climate Change Plan and the Strategic Plan for Moscow. It is meant for there to be room to grow. This document can be obtained by emailing the Sustainable Environment commission at sec@ci.moscow.id.us. Over the last month the subcommittee has met with Tyler Palmer and Kelli Cooper to learn what the City is currently doing. They have also met with Jeff Hicke from the University of Idaho to discuss possibilities for a vulnerability assessment. They feel that a Vulnerability Assessment for either the City of Moscow or Latah County is a good first step before action can be taken toward a Climate Change Plan or Strategic Plan. Tina stated that she sees these items as parallel. Fred Pollard asked what tangible things can we expect with a collaboration. Kristin hopes while the Vulnerability Study is going they can continue working with City staff to think about initiatives toward mitigation. Fred asked if the subcommittee can find assessments from other communities to find more information. The communities of White Fish, MT and Burlington, VT were chosen to look at their Strategic Plans. Kristin indicated that the biggest issue is time to complete this. She also asked Jeff to identify 3 stages of completing a Vulnerability Assessment. The subcommittee would like to partner with other commissions and interested parties including the Tree Commission, Transportation Commission, Planning & Zoning Commission, Human Rights Commission, Solid Waste Advisory Committee and the Moscow Urban Renewal Agency and establish other public and private partnerships. Kathryn Bonzo suggested writing commission and committee chairs and working with Jen Pfiffner. There has to be a series of public forums. If the subcommittee wants to work on a strategic plan, these are the steps they need to take. They need a motion to move forward to conduct the Vulnerability Assessment at the next meeting. The subcommittee also recommends the SEC move forward to support Al Poplawsky and the RF 100 campaign. Long term goals include using the vulnerability assessment and feedback from city staff to revise the strategic plan draft.

6. Climate Vulnerability Assessment for the Nez Perce Tribe - Stefanie Krantz

Stefanie is the Climate Change Coordinator for the Nez Perce Tribe and is finishing a climate vulnerability assessment and moving into the development of an adaptation plan.

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

Stefanie prepared a presentation titled “Planning for a No-Analog Future Climate Change Planning Intro” for the SEC. The Nez Perce Tribe is already 3 years into a vulnerability assessment. There are many resources right here and there are climate scientists working on it locally. Stefanie is the only person in Idaho working on this as a full-time job.

The Coeur d’Alene Tribe is working on a vulnerability assessment process. The Upper Snake River tribes did a vulnerability assessment and plan prepared by an out of state consultant. Tribes are doing a lot of work on climate change and are leading the way. Preparing a vulnerability assessment for a City is very doable. We already know what people in Moscow care about, it is a relatively small foot print, there is a huge amount of progress on the mitigation of climate change already, the political will is available and the cultural aspect is not nearly as complex. Extreme events are increasing such as drought, floods, fires, mud slides and the effect on salmon for example. It is important to really understand the science behind these events. Tools and examples show links to help with methodology, are easy to follow and it helps to have something to look at. The Climate tool box was created right here at the U of I to show freezing points and the effects of freezing and above freezing. It also shows the heat index in summer and how it effects emissions. The science shows that Moscow will get Lewiston/Clarkston climate, Lewiston/Clarkston will get the lower Columbia Basin climate. There will be shifting from snow to rain in these areas, more severe droughts, heatwaves, heavy rainfall, and there will be less water causing agricultural changes and components of vulnerability as it relates to human health. Priority areas for coordinated action include protecting drinking water quality, preventing washouts and mitigating flood hazards and preparing for variable recreation and tourism conditions. Climate change planning includes land management and human community preparedness for wildfire and disasters, extreme precipitation, floods, and water quality and planning for agricultural and forest changes. There are a lot of things that can be done to slow and capture the water on the landscape which is a huge opportunity to have regenerative agriculture and local food systems. There also needs to be diversity in the energy system. We already know everything we need to know to fix these problems, we just need to find the money. These are both economic and social issues and climate change encourages us to think outside the box. This presentation can be obtained by emailing the Sustainable Environment Commission at sec@ci.moscow.id.us.

7. "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 Al will provide an update on its activities.

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

The Sierra Club Ready for 100 campaign and a group of local people interested in this have had 3 or 4 meetings and have established a regular meeting place on the first Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at One World Café or Café Artista if that is not available. Last meeting the group came up with Strategic Plan to implement between now and January,

2021, to commit to the goal of clean energy. The plan includes working with the SEC, gathering petition signatures, LTE campaign, a Coalition sign-on letter draft, community presentation of 15-20 minutes, Sierra Club training, a RF100 Public meeting during Earth Month 2020, meetings with the Mayor and City Councilors and a City Council RF100 resolution. These documents can be obtained by emailing the Sustainable Environment commission at sec@ci.moscow.id.us. Kathryn suggested to start with City Staff to shift this into a conversation of action. Steve McGeehan suggested using tangible terms and explanations. Fred Pollard discussed this leading to a possible paradigm change.

8. Discussion of 7:15 pm meeting time – Steve McGeehan (A)

Steve will review the reasons for the current meeting time of 7:15 and facilitate discussion of alternative times.

ACTION: Approve continuing with the current meeting time, approve changing the meeting time, or take other such action as deemed appropriate.

Steve gave historical background and the group was asked if there is a desire to move the start time of the meeting to 6:00 p.m. and to check for building availability. Tina Hilding moved, Russ Moore seconded and the motion was approved. The start date will be January 21st, 2020, if space can be identified.

9. Announcements/Other Business

Next meeting December 17, 2019

ADJOURN: 9:46 p.m.



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