

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



Steve McGeehan
Commission Chair

~Meeting Minutes~
December 17, 2019

Kyle Steele
Staff Liaison

sec@ci.moscow.id.us

208.883.7133

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:18 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Fred Pollard-Vice Chair; Victoria Seever; Russ Moore; Tina Hilding;

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carly Lilly; Steve McGeehan-Chair; Amber Ziegler; Ilan Carter (Moscow High School Subcommittee); Kristin Haltinner

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Kyle Steele, Staff Liaison, Manager-Environmental Services Department Kathryn Bonzo, City of Moscow Council Liaison; Kelli Cooper, City of Moscow Sustainability Technician; Jenifer Rossini; David Schott; Assistant Parks and Recreation Director; David Hall

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

Result: Approval postponed until January 21, 2020

Mover:

Second:

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.

There will now be plastic bag collection on the first Saturday of every month at the Moscow Recycling Center. Handouts will be available to educate residents on correct plastics that will be accepted. The first Environmental Stewardship award site visit was for One World Café. Kelli Cooper will be taking a closer look at the application for businesses that own the building versus leasing. Earth month celebrates 50th anniversary this year. Kelli Cooper would like more interactive social posts to celebrate Earth Month. Also to celebrate Earth Month there will be the official Environmental Stewardship Award rollout, and Earth Day Awards from Mayor Lambert. Kelli would also like to do a weekly theme to tie in water, energy, waste and food to the actual Earth month theme of Climate. Kelli mentioned she would like to have one large event for the actual Earth day, which is April 22nd, and to collaborate with other City Departments for these events. Tina Hilding with the Climate Action Work Group mentioned an event too for the end of April.

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.

Fred Pollard received email from Ilan Carter with the following update: Alternative Giving Market of the Palouse was successful in raising money for turtle trips, scholarships and environmental club.

4. Pesticide-free trial – David Schott

David (Assistant Parks and Recreation Director) will discuss results of the Otness and Almon Asbury Lieuallen Parks Pesticide-Free Trial Results for 2019.

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

Starting in April 2019 the Moscow Parks Department started to monitor weeds in Lillian Woodworth Otness Park and Almon Asbury Lieuallen Parks. Canadian Thistle, Dandelions and White Clover were the main focus. Bindweed was also observed later in the season along the creek at Lillian Woodworth Otness Park. One of the action items in the 2019 Parks and Recreation Master Plan update was to develop a policy and process to reduce pesticides in parks, property, and urban forestry program. Initially started as a pilot program to not spray within 25 feet of playground at Otness Park. Weeds were managed through mowing, string trimming and hand pulling in planter beds. Parks were observed around every three weeks. 360-degree photo points were taken from the North, East, South and West sections of the park. Parks weeds were rated as none, low, moderate and heavy infestation. Canadian Thistle and Bindweed are on the Idaho Noxious Weed list. The results of the observations were a slight increase in weeds, and increase in staff time to control them. Refer to presentation for monthly breakdown of observations. David would like to continue monitoring for 2020 season with concerns being Canadian Thistle and Bindweed. David also mentioned that part of this pesticide reduction program is community tolerance. He did receive one comment regarding the Canadian Thistle bulbing. Overall, he believes that the communities' tolerance is fairly high.

To receive a copy of this presentation please email the Sustainable Environment Commission at sec@ci.moscow.id.us.

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.

Tina Hilding suggested to wait until January's meeting to present the PowerPoint that Jeff Hicke had prepared. The Subcommittee has decided to change their group name to Climate Action Work Group. The Group plans to meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday at 5:30 P.M starting

in January. Jeff has volunteered to create the vulnerability assessment, which is tied to an adaptation plan. Tina described further; there are adaptation and mitigation plans. Adaptation is dealing with the changes that are going to come and mitigation is trying to prevent even more changes to come, in reference to climate change. Tina explains that they are working on the vulnerability and mitigation plan at the same time because as they include the public on this process, talking about the impacts helps people realize how important the mitigation process is. Tina says they have expanded their work group. The group sent out notes to other City commissions, such as Transportation and Parks as well as Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL). Steve McGeehan told Tina it was okay to include people that aren't on city commissions, such as the local high school, and college. Tina also mentioned the subcommittee is looking into what the City of Pullman was doing. They found out Pullman is behind Moscow in regards to their Strategic Plan, however they met with a citizen involved with CCL and she is wanting to start this process as well. They are hoping to have a plan by the end of 2020. There was also conversation in regards to City Councils involvement in the process of the plan. Kyle Steele talked about bringing a plan to City Council in regards to budgeting. There was also talk about partnering with other communities such as Latah County, and possibly Whitman County, as well as local businesses to create a working group around 10 people.

6. Announcements/Other Business

Next meeting (Jan 21, 2020)

NOTE: new meeting time of 6:00 pm

ADJOURN: 8:39 p.m.

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