

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



Steve McGeehan
Commission Chair

~Meeting Minutes~
January 16, 2018

Kyle Steele
Staff Liaison

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<http://www.ci.moscow.id.us/commissions/Pages/sustainable-environment.aspx>

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve McGeehan, Scott Fedale, Victoria Seever, Fred Pollard, Tina Hilding, Debbie Kadlec, Tim Hatten

MEMBERS ABSENT: Carly Lilly, Brandy Sullivan (Council Liaison)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Kyle Steele, Staff Liaison; Brian Ogle; David Hall; Paul Kimmell

1. Approval of minutes from the December 19, 2017-Steve McGeehan

Result: Approved (Unanimous)

Mover: Pollard

Seconder: Seever

2. Avista's Involvement with Coal-fired Electric Plants- AVISTA Representatives

Avista owns a share in Colstrip coal-fired plant located in Montana. Paul Kimmell & Kimberly Casey will provide a short presentation and discussion on this issue.

ACTION: Receive the report and take other such action as deemed appropriate or provide staff further direction.

Kimmell gave a background and history about the Avista Corporation, including their large service territory in the Northwest up to Juneau, Alaska. He discussed the utilities power generation responsibilities and the need to balance cost, reliability, and the environment. Avista's electricity mix is diversified, with approximately 40% coming from hydropower, 35% from natural gas, and 9.5% coming from coal, with additional sources such as wind, solar, and biomass. Avista's rates are among the lowest in the country and one of the lowest emitters of carbon dioxide. He noted that Avista does integrated resource planning, which is a 20 year look into the energy future and how to balance cost, reliability, and the environment with their portfolio. With respect to reliability, they have to ensure that they can meet "peak" demands whether in the summer or during the cold winter months, so the balance between the various power sources must be taken into account. Regarding Colstrip, Avista has a 15% ownership stake in two units. It's unknown at this time how long Avista will need to rely on coal, but they as a company realize its negative effects on the environment. There was a lot of discussion and questions by the members about Avista's plans in the future. Kimmell noted that they will be making a large investment into a solar project in Washington, which will supply commercial businesses with green energy. He also noted that they are planning to retrofit street lights throughout the City with LED lights, which reduce power consumption by 50% to 60%.

3. 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.

Steele informed the members that after the lowest fuel use in over a decade in 2016, we used 3,229 fewer gallons in 2017! That is 64,580 pounds of CO2 that we saved. Steele noted that before 2011, the City was increasing its usage by about 4% per year, and have steadily declined since. We used 12,640 fewer gallons than 2011.

Our efforts to right-size our fleet, drive responsibly, plan our trips, and minimize idling have all made a big impact in our finances, our maintenance, and our impact on our environment.

4. Moscow High School Subcommittee-Mete Yuksel

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

Yuksel was not present, so the report was not given.

5. Election of SEC officers– Steve McGeehan

Call for nominations and voting for Chair and Vice-chair for 2018.

ACTION: Election of 2018 SEC officers.

After a brief discussion, the members unanimously voted to elect McGeehan as Chair and Fedale as Vice-Chair for 2018.

Result: Approved (Unanimous)

Mover: Seever

Seconder: Pollard

6. Earth Day Awards – Steve McGeehan

The City of Moscow is seeking nominations for the Mayor's 2018 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.

The members discussed the topic and agreed to come up with various nominations and categories for the awards this year for discussion at the February meeting. McGeehan noted that the categories and nominees will need to be finalized by the March meeting.

7. Letter to the City regarding solar panels on new police station- Scott Fedale

Scott has drafted a letter asking the City to consider the installation of solar power in the construction of the new city police station.

ACTION: Discuss and approve the letter or take other action as deemed appropriate.

Members discussed the topic and it was agreed to that Fedale would modify the letter for discussion at the February meeting.

8. SEC recommendations related to climate change preparedness and the Comprehensive Plan – Victoria Seever

Victoria will provide a brief update on activities and any new developments.

ACTION: Receive the report and take other such action as deemed appropriate or provide staff further direction.

Seever reported that the Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed the proposed language developed by the SEC and accepted most of it for inclusion in the revised Comprehensive Plan, with only minor formatting being needed.

9. Announcements/Other Business

McGeehan informed the members that the City is working on a Sanitation Masterplan and he will be sitting on an interview committee that will evaluate Response For Proposals from consulting firms that the City solicited for the plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.



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