

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



Steve McGeehan

Regular Meeting

Kyle Steele

Commission Chair

~Agenda~

Staff Liaison

<http://www.ci.moscow.id.us/551/Sustainable-Environment-Commission>

Tuesday

Mayor's Conference Room

7:15 PM

June 19, 2018

206 E 3rd Street

Call to Order

1. Approval Of Minutes

Approval of minutes from April 17 and May 15, 2018 - Steve McGeehan

Documents:

[DRAFT SEC MINUTES_APRIL 17 2018.PDF](#)

[DRAFT SEC MINUTES MAY 15 2018.PDF](#)

2. Pesticides In City Parks - Dwight Curtis

ACTION: Take action as deemed appropriate or provide staff further direction.

3. City Sustainability Report - Kelli Cooper

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

4. Moscow High School Subcommittee - Ilan Carter

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

5. Request To Use SEC Funds - Steve McGeehan

ACTION: Approve the request to use SEC funds or take other such action as deemed appropriate

6. Announcements/Other Business

Adjourn

NOTICE: Moscow City Council and committee meetings are televised, videotaped and/or recorded. Individuals attending the meeting who require special assistance to accommodate physical, hearing, or other impairments, please contact the City Clerk, at (208) 883-7015 or TDD 883-7019, as soon as possible so that arrangements may be made.

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



Steve McGeehan
Commission Chair

~Meeting Minutes~
April 17, 2018

Kyle Steele
Staff Liaison

sec@ci.moscow.id.us

208.883.7133

<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, Tina Hilding, Tim Hatten, Fred Pollard, Amber Ziegler, Ilan Carter, Sandye Crooks

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Kyle Steele, Staff Liaison; Kelli Cooper, Sustainability Technician; Brandy Sullivan, Council Liaison; David Hall, Brian Ogle

1. Approval of minutes from the March 20, 2018-Steve McGeehan

Result: Approved with an amendment to the Pesticide Question by Hatten (Unanimous)

Mover: Fedale

Seconder: 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.

Cooper informed the Commission of several upcoming events and activities happening for Earth Month. The City will have an active Earth Month messaging campaign on Facebook and other social media. The City will have a booth at Bike Fix tomorrow (April 18th). The Annual Downtown Clean up and Storm Drain Placards will take place on Friday April 20th at 10:00 a.m. The Cleanup will also serve as the National Service and Volunteer Recognition Day for the City. The City is also showing a movie, DisneyNature: Wings of Life, at the Kenworthy Performing Arts Centre on Sunday, April 22nd at 2pm to promote Wisescapes® and the importance of pollinators. The annual iCount event is also slated to take place on April 26th if Cooper can get enough volunteers to run the event.

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

Carter informed the Commission that May is Bike or Walk to School Month so the Environmental Club is working on an award system for walking/biking to school. On May 26th there is a plan for a group to bike to Troy and pick up trash. Carter also informed the Commission that the Soil Society has made progress toward removing the sand pit and they are working on an outdoor commons design project with the space. The Environmental Club is also planning on volunteering at this year's Ren Fair.

4. City Of Moscow and The Citizens' Climate Lobby-Palouse Region-Al Poplawsky and Mary Dupree

Discuss letter and resolution prepared by Citizens' Climate Lobby-Palouse Region Chapter recommending the City of Moscow join other Idaho cities in encouraging effective climate/energy legislation.

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

Dupree and Poplawsky were not in attendance. McGeehan updated the Commission. McGeehan stated that Dupree and Poplawsky have met with every Council member except for Art Bettge. So far the response has been positive. Next steps include meeting with Art Bettge, then sending the final letter and resolution to committee and a letter of support from the SEC.

5. Avista's Involvement With Coal-Fired Electric Plants (Hatten)

Tim, Tina, and Scott are working on a draft white paper on the Colstrip power Plant.

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

Hatten updated the Commission on current work in this matter. He said that they are working on a letter to Council to encourage Council to encourage AVISTA to divest from the Colstrip power plant in Montana. Next steps would be to prepare questions for AVISTA specific to the Colstrip plant and divestiture and bring them back for a second meeting as well as bring a Sierra Club representative who is familiar with the issue to a meeting to discuss how the process went in Washington and ask if any progress has been made with starting an agreement in Idaho.

6. Pesticides in City Parks – Steve McGeehan

Steve 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.

McGeehan informed the Commission that the Edible forest land swap is moving forward. He also informed the Commission that the Parks department wants to go pesticide-free and will continue working with the SEC. They will likely try somewhere else first since the edible park

will take some time to establish. McGeehan will suggest that the easiest way to start is to set up a no-spray zone.

7. City Of Moscow Commission Training (McGeehan)

The City will be hosting a Commission Member training session on May 8 at 6:30 p.m. Gary Riedner, City Supervisor will lead the training, with input from Jen Pfiffner, Assistant City Supervisor, Laurie Hopkins, City Clerk and Mia Vowels, City Attorney. Topics to be covered will include: Commission Types & Responsibilities, Commission, Staff Liaison, Council Liaison Roles, Idaho Open Meeting Laws, Agendas and Minutes Processes and Updates, and Commission Orientation Processes.

8. Announcements/Other Business

The City is currently soliciting nominations for Service to Commissions awards.

This Saturday at the Kenworthy @ 7:00 p.m., there will be a Rendezvous in the Park “Battle of the Bands competition.”

Pathways Commission is sponsoring a Bike to Work Day on May 11th and they will have coffee and treats available at certain locations from 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Next meeting will be May 15th.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

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

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



Steve McGeehan
Commission Chair

~Meeting Minutes~
May 15, 2018

Kyle Steele
Staff Liaison

sec@ci.moscow.id.us

208.883.7133

<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, Tina Hilding, Tim Hatten, Ilan Carter

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Kyle Steele, Staff Liaison; Kelli Cooper, Sustainability Technician; Brandy Sullivan, Council Liaison; David Hall, Mary Dupree, Carly Lily, Paul Kimmel

1. Approval of minutes from the April 17, 2018-Steve McGeehan

Result: Lacked a quorum, approval of April minutes tabled until June

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.

Upon an email request from Scott Fedale, Cooper provided the commission some information on the EV. It has been in service for about 1.5 years and is primarily used by the Metering crew but may also be used for quick trips that do not require a work vehicle by anyone in Water. Cooper also provided an update on the Wisescape rebate program. So far this fiscal year (since October 1, 2017) there have been 9 completed Wisescapes with a total of 11,547.5 square feet converted at a cost of \$1350 to the City. There are still 20 pending, 2 of which are new this spring. Toilet rebates keep pouring in. Since the last update to the commission, we have had 29 new rebates (27 household, 2 commercial) changing out 39 toilets (36 household, 3 commercial). Water savings is over 2 million gallons a year for this program. Cooper also informed the commission that she was recently accepted into a training through ICLEI on community-scale green house gas inventories. By the end of the training Moscow should have a completed community inventory. She will keep the commission updated on progress. Lastly, Cooper informed the commission that recycling will be offered at the Farmer's Market very soon. The bins have been ordered and should be here by June.

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

Carter informed the Commission that the Ren Fair went really well. There were no incidents with the hot oil this year. The Walk/Bike to school incentive program is going really well. The water bottles are really cool and students have started cashing in for them. The school year is winding down so there is not a whole lot more happening right now. There are plans to go to Philips Farm and plant trees in June or July. Next summer there are several students are planning on participating in the WCC.

4. Avista Update - Paul Kimmel

Paul will share information about Avista's new solar project as well as more details on our proposed merger with Hydro One and the plan for our Colstrip coal generation facility

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

Kimmel began by expressing that Avista is still the same company it was a month ago and the merger with Hydro One is still moving forward. Currently Avista provides services in Washington, Oregon, and Alaska in addition to Idaho. Avista is constantly engaged in a utility generation balancing act which balances environmental effects, cost to customers and to Avista, and governmental regulations. Avista's energy portfolio currently consists of 49% Hydroelectric dams (41.5% Avista-owned, 7.5% contracted), 35% natural gas, 2% biomass (difficult to keep going as it is becoming hard to find feedstock), 4.5% wind, and 9.5% coal. Avista provides its customers with some of the lowest cost energy in the nation, largely due to the amount of hydro in the mix. Avista is also in the top 15 LOWEST emitters in the nation in power production. Kimmel also informed the commission that Avista has an Integrated Resource Plan, which is updated regularly using a Technical Advisory Committee that any member of the public can serve on. It takes a 20 year outlook to plan to meet the energy needs of the future, which includes using a diversified energy mix. Kimmel invited any interested members of the commission to consider serving on the Technical Advisory Committee. Kimmel then gave a general overview of each of the components of Avista's energy mix, including any issues with variability and how this variability is offset by other components of the mix. Kimmel also discussed Avista's various energy efficiency programs over the years, stating that use of its programs vary year to year depending on what was targeted specifically that year. Avista is also researching power storage solutions, but right now these are high cost, such as the large scale battery located at SEL. They are also working on a project in Spokane, Urbanova, that combines smart grid technology, demand response, and several other mechanisms to create a more energy efficient city. Avista recognizes that there is a growing need for flexibility. They also recognize that there are several emerging issues and trends in energy production and it is doing what it can to anticipate and respond accordingly. Some examples are broader market development, declining prices for renewables, growing amounts of distributed generation, development in battery technology, uncertainty and variability in climate policy, and customer expectations.

Kimmel also took this opportunity to update the commission on the new community solar array being installed in Lind, Washington. They are working with Strata Solar to build the array and

the energy that will be produced by it was offered to large commercial and industrial electric customers in Washington as a way to meet their sustainability and emission reductions goals. The system itself is a 28 MW system consisting of roughly 80,000 panels over 180 acres. In other words, it will produce enough electricity to power roughly 4,000 homes. The cost of the project is about \$30 million, and will also bring many local jobs to rural Lind. The groundbreaking takes place next Thursday.

Kimmel also updated the commission on Avista's Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure project. Two chargers have been installed in Pullman, one fast charger (20 min) and one level 2 charger (3-6 hours). There is now a charger located about every 35 miles between Clarkston and Spokane, with the goal to now begin moving west toward Othello.

Kimmel then discussed coal generation. He said that power companies across the nation plan to shutter 10 big coal plants this year, with most being replaced by natural gas, but some solar and wind is being added as well. The reality is that other sectors need to get onboard with emissions reductions as power generators have made great strides in reducing emissions. Kimmel then talked specifically about Colstrip. For a coal mine, emissions are smaller than most since it is a mine to mouth operation. The coal is mined close by and then brought directly to the plant. Avista owns 15% of units 3 and 4 and is one of six owners. This means any decision regarding Colstrip is a joint decision. Avista has agreed to accelerate the retirement of units 3 & 4 to December of 2027 (previous target retirement dates were 2034 for unit 3 and 2036 for unit 4) for its 15%.

At this point, Kimmel took questions from the commission. Carly Lily asked about solar customers who lose their credits at the end of the year and whether or not Avista has considered a separate rate class for solar customers. Kimmel said that Avista recognizes this as an issue with residential solar, and it is working to find a solution to this. Mary Dupree asked if Avista has a stance on a carbon tax to which Kimmel replied that Avista does not have a firm policy in place at this time.

5. Avista's Involvement With Coal-Fired Electric Plants (Hatten)

Tim, Tina, and Scott are working on a draft white paper on the Colstrip power Plant.

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

Tim Hatten provided a quick background on the letter that the subcommittee has been working on. He informed the commission that a settlement agreement for Idaho has been proposed since the April meeting. Several interested parties were also able to convince the Idaho Public Utilities Commission to hold their meeting on the merger agreement in Moscow on June 12th. It will be held at the 1912 Center.

6. City of Moscow and the Citizen's Climate Lobby-Palouse Region- Mary Dupree

Discuss letter and resolution prepared by Citizens' Climate Lobby-Palouse region Chapter recommending the City of Moscow join other Idaho cities in encouraging effective climate/energy legislation.

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

Dupree informed the commission that all City Council members have been met with. The proposal is waiting to go forward at this time. The Mayor has requested more information so Dupree and Al Poplawsky will meet with him at a later date to go over climate change and its impacts in general. There are also a few political concerns that the CCL cannot address.

7. Pesticides in City Parks – Steve McGeehan

Steve 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.

There have been several lengthy meetings on pesticides. Dwight Curtis has agreed to a demo park, specifically Otness park. At this time there are many questions left to answer such as how do we assist in marketing the park as pesticide free? Is there a management plan in place in order for the demo to be successful? Seever brought up Hogg Creek as a possible source of weed invasion and pesticide contamination as the banks within the park are routinely covered in weeds and if those are sprayed the pesticides may end up in the playground anyway. We need to have Dwight come back for further discussion on management, possibly at the next meeting.

8. Announcements/Other Business

The SEC will be tabling at the Farmer's Market on June 30th and September 22nd. Please be aware of this as McGeehan will be looking for volunteers to fill these time slots soon. Kelli Cooper and Carly Lily will be working on some display items to use.

Next meeting will be June 19th.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

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