

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



Steve McGeehan
Commission Chair
sec@ci.moscow.id.us

Regular Meeting
~Agenda~

Kyle Steele
Staff Liaison
208-883-7133

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

Tuesday
July 19, 2022

6:00 PM

Council Chambers
2nd Floor City Hall
206 E. 3rd St.

WELCOME AND ATTENDANCE

REGULAR AGENDA

1. **Introduction of new SEC member - Ian Schlater**
2. **Approval of Sustainable Environment Commission May 17, 2022 and June 21, 2022 Minutes (ACTION ITEM)**
Minutes presented for approval.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the May and June minutes as presented; approve the minutes with amendments; or provide staff further direction.

3. **Public Comment and Response to Previous Comments (limited to 10 minutes)**
Members of the public may speak to the Commission regarding matters NOT on the agenda or currently pending before the Commission. Please state your name and city of residence for the record and limit your remarks to three (3) minutes.
4. **Energy Efficient Construction Methods**
Omar Al-Hassawi (architecture professor at WSU) will present on a new program at WSU on carbon conscious construction.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Receive the report.

5. **Composting on the Palouse**

Stevie Steely-Johnson, Chief Administrative Officer for Inland Northwest will discuss implementation of a food scrap composting system.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Receive the report.

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REPORTS

1. City Sustainability Report- Kelli Cooper
2. Moscow High School Subcommittee Report- Ian Schlater
3. Climate Action Working Group – Tina Hilding

ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

1. Next SEC meeting August 16, 2022

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.

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SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



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Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

Kyle Steele
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Tuesday
May 17th, 2022

6:00 PM

Council Chambers
2nd Floor City Hall
206 E. 3rd St

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

PRESENT: Steve McGeehan-Chair; Tina Hilding-Vice; Victoria Seever; Olivia Weibe; Sophie Gilbert; Al Poplawsky; Gordon Wilson; Nicole Xiao

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

OTHERS: David Hall; Ian Schlater; Mia Rognstad; Julia Parker

ABSENT: Marley Pankratz; Jassen Bluto; Jamal Lyskett; Asaph Cousins;

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Sustainable Environment Commission April 19, 2022 Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Minutes presented for approval.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the April minutes as presented; approve minutes with amendments; or provide staff further direction.

Al moved to approve April 19, 2022 minutes, Victoria second to approve minutes as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous Nays: None. Abstentions: None. Motion carried.

2. Public Comment and Response to Previous Comments (limited to 10 minutes)

Members of the public may speak to the Commission regarding matters NOT on the agenda or currently pending before the Commission. Please state your name and city of residence for the record and limit your remarks to three (3) minutes.

None.

3. Tabling opportunity at the Moscow Farmers Market

The SEC is currently signed up for to staff a table at the June 4 Moscow Farmers Market. We will discuss outreach activities including seed packet handouts and a survey.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Receive the report and take action as deemed appropriate.

Tina talked about possibly having a trivia game. Other ideas were; a subscription to the new scooters coming to Moscow, a bike tune up station, and possibly bee houses or seeds as a raffle grand prize. Also, to make sure there are kid's friendly questions as well. Steve will send out sign-up sheet for a SEC member to be there.

4. Composting considerations for the Palouse region

Mia Rognstad, a recent graduate of the Landscape Architecture master's program, brought the new Whitman County landfill to our attention and is interested in exploring composting options for the Palouse region.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Receive the report and take action as deemed appropriate.

The U of I is looking to apply for a food reduction grant.

Tina talked about how residents in Zurich, Switzerland pick up food waste to be composted.

Olivia asked about the constraints for a compost program in Moscow. SEC suggested talking with Tim Davis, City of Moscow Sanitation Manager. Kelli says a big component that makes it difficult would be having another bin in the streets and pick-up logistics.

Latah Sanitation does do composting with the WRRF biosolids and yard waste from the recycling center.

Tina suggested a possible pilot or volunteer program. Maybe starting with restaurants.

Olivia says the students at the U of I are very interested in composting and would love to work with the City on a compost program moving forward.

Steve will invite Tim from the City and Stevie from Inland NorthWaste to speak with SEC about how to move forward with this concept.

Sophie suggested asking resident about a possible compost concept at the Farmers market table.

Julia also mentioned homeowners could do their own composting bins.

REPORTS

1. City Sustainability Report- Kelli Cooper

Consideration of the Climate Action Plan has been pushed back to July. Latest draft will be posted online soon.

City Conservation Department will be offering free irrigation audits to consumers in the City this summer.

Whitman County won the Nature Challenge.

2. Moscow High School Subcommittee Report- Nicole Xiao

Nicole will be leaving for college this fall so she is recommending Ian Schlater to replace her.

3. Climate Action Working Group (CAWG)-Tina Hilding

Continued discussion on the urgency of the climate action plan.

Starting discussion with contractors on new buildings requirements; to be more carbon neutral. Omar starting up a Carbon Conscious degree program at WSU. Possibly meeting with SEC in July.

Steve Austin worked with City of Wenatchee's to develop a landscape code to be more climate friendly. He is open to work with Moscow.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Palouse Basic Aquifer Committee is meeting on Thursday. The basin size has been redrawn.

The Co-op has a donation program called Change for Good that supports sustainable choices at the Co-op. They are also charging a .20 cost for paper bags.

Friday is bike to work day.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

1. Next SEC meeting June 21, 2022

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:12

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

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Regular Meeting
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Tuesday
June 21, 2022

6:00 PM

Council Chambers
2nd Floor City Hall
206 E. 3rd St

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

PRESENT: Steve McGeehan-Chair; Tina Hilding-Vice; Victoria Seever; Sophie Gilbert; Jassen Bluto

STAFF: Kelli Cooper, Environmental Education and Sustainability Specialist

OTHERS: Elizabeth Landis, Jason Holm, Nancy Chaney, Maureen Laughlin, Von Walden, Brandon Mitchell, Dan Schoenberg, Greg Landis, Seth Bloomsburg

ABSENT: Jamal Lyskett; Asaph Cousins; Jenifer Rossini, Administrative Assistant; Olivia Weibe; Gordon Wilson

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Introduction of new SEC member - Ian Schlater

Ian was not able to attend this meeting.

2. Approval of Sustainable Environment Commission May 17, 2022 Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Minutes presented for approval.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Approve the April minutes as presented; approve minutes with amendments; or provide staff further direction.

Minutes will be approved at July meeting. Committee was unable to review May minutes.

3. Public Comment and Response to Previous Comments (limited to 10 minutes)

Members of the public may speak to the Commission regarding matters NOT on the agenda or currently pending before the Commission. Please state your name and city of residence for the record and limit your remarks to three (3) minutes.

None.

4. 100% Energy Clarity

Elizabeth Landis, M.A. (The Ohio State University), Jason Holm (Operations Planning Manager for AMSOI), and Greg Landis, O.D. (Indiana University) will provide a presentation behind the clean energy curtain, in order that we as a city and its citizens might make the best-informed decision with the many options before us.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Receive the report.

Jason states that each wind turbines contains 300 gallons of oil, and Tesla also needs oil for lubrication.

He also believes fear is a big motivator to convince people of climate change. And the government has a hidden agenda to their motives.

Talked about electric cars and the environmental impacts mining for the battery's metals are causing. He also brought up the Texas polar storm in 2020. (See attached handout)

Jason believes that in order for Moscow to be 100% clean energy they need to be ready for the following:

- Power outages
- Need to add baseline infrastructure to supply the grid at a moment's notice.
- Exceptionally high electric costs.

Al pointed out that as technology is constantly changing, and in ten years the chances of us using lithium batteries for electric vehicles may be slim.

5. Climate and Energy

Von Walden is a professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Laboratory for Atmospheric Research at WSU. He conducts research in the polar regions, where he studies infrared radiation and the greenhouse effect. He has taught courses on climate change since the late 1980s.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Receive the report.

Von started by saying climate change is not a belief system, it is a science. And as long as we keep putting carbon dioxide into the atmosphere the temperature around the globe will continue to go up. Scientist from various countries have all signed and agreed on the wording from reports generated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Von believes two things need to happen to our energy systems:

- 1) We need to stop and reverse biomass burning. Ten percent of the problem with rising CO2 is biomass burning.
- 2) Switch from fossil fuels to renewables. Maintain use of nuclear.

Von says renewable are cheap, dependable and will work great for our small county. The investment in equipment and in the operation of renewables remain cheap for about 15 years.

REPORTS

1. City Sustainability Report- Kelli Cooper

Last week was Artwalk.

Nichole Baker will be leaving the City July 1, 2022.

2. Moscow High School Subcommittee Report- Ian Schlater

Received grants to purchase 11 set of educational solar panels; project is called Solar Bears. Moscow Environmental club is going to present about the EPA electric school bus rebate program.

He is in discussion with district about installing solar panels on district buildings.

3. Climate Action Working Group (CAWG)-Tina Hilding

CAWG did not meet this past month.

Idaho Department of Transportation is holding a meeting about electric vehicle infrastructure in Idaho on July 26th at the Lewiston Library at noon.

For July's SEC meeting, Omar will be there to talk about a degree program in the works called Carbon Conscious Construction. The program is to teach how to lower CO2 emissions and meet Washington demands.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nancy says District 6 representative, David Nelson, successfully co-sponsored a bill that will allow Idaho schools to receive funding for electric school buses.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

1. Farmers Market Table – July 2
2. Next SEC meeting July 19, 2022

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

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