

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



Steve McGeehan
Commission Chair
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Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

Kyle Steele
Staff Liaison
208-883-7133

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

Tuesday
April 18, 2023

6:00 PM

Mayors Conference Room
1st Floor City Hall
206 E. 3rd St.

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

PRESENT: Tina Hilding-Vice; Victoria Seever; Al Poplawsky; Maureen Laflin-Council Liaison; Ian Schlater; Asaph Cousins; Sam Gallaher; Sophie Gilbert

STAFF: Kelli Cooper, Sustainability Program Coordinator, Jenifer Rossini, Administrative Assistant

ABSENT: Jassen Bluto; Steve McGeehan-Chair; Gordon Wilson

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Sustainable Environment Commission March 21, 2023 Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

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

Minutes presented for approval.

Few changes to March minutes: Lee Ann Erickson is at Moscow High School not Palouse Prairie Section 3 Mayors Earth Day Award: complies when should be compiles

Victoria moved to approve the March 2023 minutes with corrections, Sam second to approve minutes as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Abstentions: Steve. **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.

No Comments.

1. Follow-up from Avista meeting

Al will discuss some of the topics presented at the Avista meeting.

Al participated in the Integrated Resource Plan for Idaho comment meeting with Avista. Al says there was mention of replacing gas generators, but nothing about the goal of clean energy by 2045. Avista does have a clean energy implementation plan and action plan on website. Part of Avista's plans are to meet the goal of clean energy by 2045 partly due to the result of new Washington laws that require Avista to provide customers with 100 carbon neutral energy by 2045. They will pursue clean energy for Idaho customers by a partition basis. Al stated that at first the plan didn't sound like they would pull clean energy from Idaho to power Washington, but later in the plan it seemed to say they would; he plans to read the plan in its entirety and clarify this. Some highlights of the plan include: energy efficiency, management peak demand, retired renewal energy credits, reacquisition of renewable energy incrementally year by year, and reusing energy credits.

The group does plan to have Paul Kimmel or an Avista representative come and explain the Clean Energy Implementation and Clean Energy Plan in greater detail.

2. City Parks Pesticide List

Sophie has done some additional literature research and will summarize her information.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Receive the report or take other action as appropriate.

According to new research Sophie provided, neonicotinoids may have an affect on mammals. Other alternatives include insecticidal soaps that she would like to recommend the City of Moscow use in the future. The European Union has banned neonicotinoids.

The group would like to discuss the garden buyer at Moscow Building Supply about getting plants not treated with neonicotinoids. And SEC would like to see information at plant stores about the effects of this pesticide for customers to become educated.

Al will have an information packet from Tim Hatten on the effects of neonicotinoids on pollinators for the June 3rd Farmers Marker Table.

3. Sustainable Solutions to the Affordable Housing Crisis

Kristin Haltinner is working with a team of researchers at UIIdaho seeking to secure NSF funding to build a pilot an ecological and affordable solution to the current affordable housing crisis and to support the expected influx of climate refugees.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: Receive the report or take other action as appropriate.

Kristin has been working with researchers at the U of I on developing technology that is a wood resin-based fire housing with 3d printing. She says the first steps would be to purchase a parcel of land then build a “utopia” community complete with green space, composting on site, garden, and a meeting space with neighbors. She is inquiring if the commission would be interested in partnering with this team. And provide a letter of support in the near future.

REPORTS

1. City Sustainability Report- Kelli Cooper

- ❖ Mayors Earth Day awards presentation was last Monday.
- ❖ Downtown cleanup is Friday 930am to 11am at Friendship Square.
- ❖ Seed packing tonight is for the University of Idaho bee event on Saturday.
- ❖ City nature challenge is next week.
- ❖ City has a post every week for Earth month on social media.
- ❖ Meeting with Paul Kimmel and talking about energy audits. Lots of grant funding available for job force training. Avista is interested in partnering with the local AmeriCorps members to do energy audits. Kelli would like to tie in water conservation with the audits.

2. Moscow High School Subcommittee Report- Ian Schalter

- ❖ Group will be selling elephant ears at Renaissance Fair first weekend of May
- ❖ Ian will be transitioning his leadership role next month.

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

Mike Ray gave a presentation last meeting on land use planning, transportation, increase density, mixed use development, and apartments above commercial buildings

Justin Goodwin is coming to next meeting to talk about encouraging electrification in buildings. Also talked about how to spread their information using Facebook posts, newspaper columns.

Kelli would like CAWG to meet 2nd Monday every month.

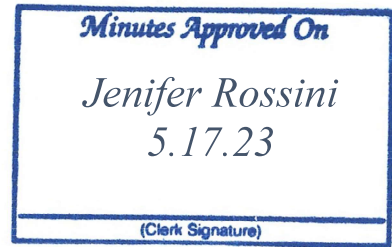
ANNOUNCEMENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

1. Next SEC meeting 5/16/2023

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM



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

Neonicotinoid Insecticide Report for Moscow Sustainable Environment Commission

April 18, 2023

Prepared and presented by Dr. Sophie Gilbert, Commission Member

Executive summary

The primary insecticide used by the City of Moscow parks staff, Imidacloprid, is not compatible with a sustainable, healthy environment. A large body of [research demonstrates](#) that it and other “neonicotinoids” in the same class of insecticide have large and harmful effects on non-target beneficial insects such as pollinators. There is also a growing body of research showing ill effects on other living things, including birds, fish, and critically, [humans](#). However, we should be careful in recommending alternatives, since some of the new insecticides coming in to replace neonicotinoids [also seem to have harmful effects](#) on beneficial insects. Promisingly, there are some effective [insecticidal soaps](#) that show promise as a substitute for our hard-working city parks staff.

Background and need for sustainability assessment

The City of Moscow uses a number of pesticides and herbicides to help it manage parks and public spaces (see table at the end of the document). These include a number of herbicides with a range of specificities/targets and ways of acting, a fungicide, and an insecticide. The insecticide (Imidacloprid, brand-name Mallet 75 WSP) is of particular concern from the perspective of a sustainable environment because it is the family known as “neonicotinoids,” which are the most commonly used class of insecticides in the US, and act to kill a wide range of insects, including beneficial insects such as pollinators and predators of common insect pests. Research also indicates that neonicotinoids are linked to [declines in bird populations](#), as well as [negative impacts to fish and aquatic ecosystems](#), and recently, to [birth defects in white-tailed deer](#). There is also a small but growing body of research showing human health concerns from neonicotinoids. As a result of these impacts to beneficial insects, neonicotinoids [have been banned in the European Union](#).

Why are neonicotinoids so popular?

Neonicotinoids are popular for a reason- for a long time, they were thought to be not very toxic to mammals, including humans, and are very effective at controlling hard-to-kill insects, including those in soil that can eat seeds and young plants. They can even be pre-

applied to crop seeds, allowing them to protect plants from early predation by insects. But they can also be applied to leaves and stems to stop pests such as aphids, which is what the City of Moscow uses them for. They are also long-lasting, and can continue to kill insects for several weeks after application. From the point of view of a city such as Moscow, treating areas where people and pets are likely to be exposed, Neonicotinoids' reputation for low toxicity for mammals and long-lasting efficacy is very appealing. But given how neonicotinoids work, and an increasing body of research on the negative effects they have on a wide array of living things, this reputation for safety is being questioned (see above for links to research on the negative effects of neonicotinoids).

How do neonicotinoids work?

Neonicotinoids are neurotoxins, permanently binding to insect nerve cells, then overstimulating and eventually destroying them, resulting in paralysis and death. They are called neonicotinoids (greek for “new nicotine-like substance”) because, like nicotine (a natural chemical found in tobacco and other plant leaves), they bind to nicotinic acetylcholine (nACh). Troublingly, nACh receptors are also found in human brain cells, where they play a critical role in helping us learn, remember, regulate mood, and sense and process our environments. [Studies have demonstrated](#) links between neonicotinoid exposure, including Imidacloprid, to brain development issues, [autism](#), [heart defects](#), and other developmental abnormalities, although these studies are small in size and more research is needed. In animal models (e.g., rats), neonicotinoids have been linked to reductions in sperm quality ([this study](#) and others).

Table 1. 2023 Parks and Pesticides List, City of Moscow

2023 Parks Pesticide List Inventory			
Category	Brand Name	Active Ingredient	Target
Broad Spectrum Non-Selective Herbicides	Round Up Pro Max	glyphosate: N-(phosphonomethyl) glycine	All plants
	Glystar	glyphosate: N-(phosphonomethyl) glycine	All plants
	Ranger Pro	glyphosate: N-(phosphonomethyl) glycine	All plants
	Aqua Star	glyphosate: N-(phosphonomethyl) glycine	All plants
Selective Herbicides	Basecamp Amine 4	2,4 Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid	Any broadleaf
	Weedar 64	2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid	Any broadleaf
	SP 3Way	2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, Dimethylamine salt of MCPA, Dimethylamine salt of Dicamba	Any broadleaf
	Fusilade II	Fluazip-P-butyl	Grass under roses
Surfactant	TurfGro Spreader Sticker	Alkylphenol Ethoxylate, Propylene Glycol, Tall Fatty Acid, Dimethylpolysiloxane	Any broadleaf
	R-11	Alkylphenol Ethoxylate, butyl alcohol, Dimethylpolysiloxane	Any broadleaf
	TriCure Soil Surfactant	Dihydrooxirane, epihydrin	Hydrophobic soil
	Spray Wet	Alkylphenol Ethoxylate, Pizopylene Glycol, Tall Oil Fatty Acids	Any broadleaf
Pre-Emergent Herbicides	Oryzalin 4	Oryzalin: 3,5 dinitro-N4N4-dipropylsulfanilamide	All plants
	Surflan	Oryzalin: 3,5 dinitro-N4N4-dipropylsulfanilamide	All plants
	Caseron 4G	2,6 Dichlorobenzonitrile	All plants
	SureGuard SC	flumioxazin	All plants
Turf Growth Management Herbicides	Podium	Trinexapac-ethyl	All plants
Systemic Insecticide	Mallet 75 WSP	Imidacloprid: 1-[[6-chloro-3-pyridinyl)methyl]-N-nitro-2-imidazolidinimine	Aphids
Dutch Elm Disease	Arbotect 20-S	Thiabendazole	Dutch Elm Disease
Fungicide	Heritage fungicide	Azoxystrobin methyl	Fairy rings