

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



Steve McGeehan
Commission Chair
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Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

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

Tuesday
December 12, 2023

6:00 PM

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m.

PRESENT: Steve McGeehan; Jassen Bluto; Gordon Wilson; Sam Gallaher; Victoria Seever; Al Poplawski; Tina Hilding; Maureen Laflin (Council Member)

STAFF: Kelli Cooper

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Sustainable Environment Commission September 19, 2023 Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Minutes presented for approval.

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

Al moved to approve the September 2023 minutes, and Sam second to approve minutes as presented.

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

Tina added one comment; Nick will be providing more info on proposed proclamation.

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.

Nick (University of Idaho) would like for the City of Moscow to claim a climate and ecological emergency. He also believes there are a lot of “holes” in the Climate Action Plan. Nick expressed that it was important for the younger generation and people with different ethnic backgrounds to be involved in Moscow’s commission; as there currently isn’t.

3. Water Summit Follow-up

Discussion of the highlights from the 2023 Water Summit.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: discuss and take action as deemed appropriate.

Erica Gies, author of Water Always Wins, was the keynote speaker. Her main message is that no matter what you do to divert or control water, it always finds a way to its correct, natural path. Al talked about the natural path of our own Paradise Creek, and how some of the creek is quite unnaturally straight and farmers farm right up to the creek. But he also says there are sections of the creek that meander and allow space for beavers. Group talked about different ways the City tries to control the beavers and where they build their dams.

At the summit there wasn't much talk about the water alternatives that are being discussed. SEC would like for the PBAC (Palouse Basin Aquifer Committee) director to do a presentation for them soon.

4. Potential Topics for Future SEC meetings

SEC members are asked to submit and discuss potential topics for 2024 SEC meetings.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: discuss and take action as deemed appropriate.

- Alternative water sources.
- Curbside composting
- Food waste into compost program
- Invite U of I to discuss a large grant that was awarded to help with agricultural sustainable issues
- Inviting SEL to talk about their new building

REPORTS

1. City Sustainability Report- Kelli Cooper

Mayors of Pullman and Moscow are participating in the Wyland Foundation Mayors Challenge for water conservation. There will be a friendly competition between the two towns on who can save more water.

Pullman and Moscow are working together on a regional water conservation plan. Kelli says they would like to involve the counties and universities in on the plan.

U of I has started a water conservation working group.

Kelli is working on updating the greenhouse gas emissions data.

2. Moscow High School Subcommittee Report- Mia Heinlein

No report.

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

They are starting to work on an implementation plan.

CAWG is working on a letter to Home Depot regarding their upcoming build. SEC would need to approve the letter before moving up to Council for final approval. Tina says the letter would be to encourage sustainable building practices.

CAWG is in talks with U of I on starting a community solar project.

WSU Has started a new sustainable committee.

The latest newspaper column highlighted resiliency and the next will be on induction stoves.

December 13th League of Women's Voters will be talking about climate change.

Mary Dupree recommended home energy audits. Avista preforms them, but it is around a 6 month wait.

The group is talking about giving away low-cost energy saving products instead of or with handing out seeds next year at farmers market.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

1. Next SEC meeting set for January 16, 2024

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at



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