

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION



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

Regular Meeting
~Minutes~

Kyle Steele
Staff Liaison
208-883-7133

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

Tuesday
March 18, 2025

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: Victoria Seever, Steve McGeehan, Tina Hilding, Al Poplaski, Sam Gallagher, Asaph Cousins

Council: Bryce Guests: Paul Kimmel, John Gross (via Teams) both with Avista

STAFF: Kelli Cooper

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Approval of Sustainable Environment Commission January 21, 2025 and February 18 2025 Minutes (ACTION ITEM)

Minutes presented for approval.

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

Victoria moved to approve the minutes as presented. Sam seconded.

Roll call vote: Ayes: Unanimous. 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.

1. Avista's Grid Capacity and Electric Load Growth

Paul Kimmel (Avista Business & Public Affairs, Palouse Region) will discuss plans to address electric load growth (data centers, transportation, carbon reduction policies) and grid capacity.

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

Solar energy does not show on the supply mix portfolio because it is such a small amount; 24 kilowatts.

Avista's goal is to serve customers with 100% clean electricity by 2045 and to have a carbon neutral supply of electricity by the end of 2027.

John says solar, wind and battery storage is the future.

Paul touched on building grid resiliency in the community from wildfires. They have installed fire detection cameras and weather stations across their service area. They have also partnered with local and state agencies to improve forest and landscape health.

Historically, winter has been the higher demand for electricity, however they have seen a slight change to summer months recently.

Avista has seen a growth in rooftop solar but not enough to incentivize yet.

*Complete presentation attached.

2. Community Solar

Al Poplawski will make a short, general presentation about community solar.

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

Community solar is when solar panels are put on a community building and shared by subscribers across the community. Subscribers then get a credit on their energy bill.

Part of the City of Moscow's' Climate Action Plan is community solar. This would be the first community solar project in Idaho.

There are tax credits available to help fund the project.

Al has started talks with Kelli on working to get this project active in Moscow.

*Complete presentation attached.

3. Mayor's Earth Day Awards

The SEC will discuss nominations for the Mayor's Earth Day Awards.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: discuss the awards and take action as deemed appropriate

The group discussed submitted nominations.

4. Climate Action Prioritization Tool

Tina and Kelli will continue the discussion regarding a questionnaire to help prioritize climate action planning.

PROPOSED ACTIONS: discuss and take action as deemed appropriate

CAWG did not meet this month, no report.

REPORTS

1. City Sustainability Report- Kelli Cooper

Pollinator summit was a huge hit.

Conservation Plan update should be going to Council in April.

Inland North Waste is hosting an Earth Day event on April 26th.

2. Moscow High School Subcommittee Report –

No report.

3. Climate Action Working Group – Tina Hilding

CAWG did not meet this month, no report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

UPCOMING EVENTS / MEETINGS

1. Next SEC meeting set for April 15, 2025

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM



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