

CITY OF WAUSAU SUSTAINABILITY, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Time and Date: The Sustainability, Energy and Environment Committee met on Wednesday, May 29, 2019 at 4:00 p.m. in the Maple Room of Wausau City Hall.

Members Present: Pat Peckham, Claire Meney, Lisa Siewert, Benjamin Lee, Ralph Fischer

Others Present: Brad Sippel, Eric Lindman

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and transmitted to the *Wausau Daily Herald* in the proper manner.

Welcome and introductions

Sippel called the meeting to order in absence of a chair at 6:06 p.m. Everyone present introduced themselves.

Discussion and possible action on the selection of a committee chairperson

Sippel and Peckham summarized the responsibilities of the chairperson. Siewert indicated she has served as chair of committees in the UW system and would be willing.

Motion by Peckham/Meney to nominate Siewert as chair of the committee. Motion approved unanimously. Motion by Siewert/Meney to nominate Peckham as vice chair. Motion approved unanimously.

Discussion and possible action on establishing regular meeting dates and times

The committee discussed potential meeting times. Sippel will send out another Doodle poll.

Discussion and possible action on water treatment and wastewater treatment plant upgrades

Lindman overviewed the potential energy efficiency upgrades to the wastewater treatment and water treatment facilities. Lindman discussed previous upgrades to the wastewater plant, including the capture and use of methane to generate electricity, as well as potential for solar energy generation on these projects, given the large amount of energy use. The committee discussed working with Bluestem to look at potential energy projects for the City. The committee discussed a previous assessment of photovoltaic potential on existing City buildings, and the top two buildings were the water treatment plant and the wastewater treatment plant. Lindman discussed other ways they are looking at generating electricity and reducing waste products for these upgrades. Meney asked if it would be appropriate for the committee to have input on sustainable design for these two buildings, and Lindman said absolutely. They are in the early stages of design now.

Motion by Peckham/Meney to support efforts using solar energy and explore high efficiency buildings for the water treatment and wastewater treatment plant projects.

Discuss sustainability achievements

Sippel overviewed some of the past and upcoming projects that have improved energy efficiency. Sippel discussed the OEI Grant the City received to upgrade the lighting in the mall parking ramps. Sippel overviewed other lighting projects that were done previously, such as replacement of streetlamps with LED lighting that is remotely controllable with a ROAM system. The energy team will discuss achievements at a meeting in May. Sippel and Peckham mentioned some other previous achievements, including a waste oil burning heater in the Public Works garage. The committee discussed ways to talk about the achievements and to make that information more public. The committee discussed lighting, energy efficiency and light pollution.

Discuss 2019 ideas and priorities

The committee discussed potential projects for 2019. Meney said she thinks it is important to do an assessment or plan to determine the key areas where they should focus their efforts. Sippel mentioned that we are working with Bluestem to do an energy assessment of City buildings, which should help with direction. Peckham discussed the focus on energy assessment of our buildings. Lee asked about incentives to encourage people to do things like install solar. There was a discussion about other potential initiatives or incentives the committee could head up on local food, community gardens and composting. Lee said he would do some research on other communities regarding incentive programs. Fischer asked if citizen behavior is something the committee will get involved in, and talked about groundwater pollution from asphalt treatment that is primarily cosmetic. Meney asked if there were products or practices that could be recommended as best practices. Siewert left at 7:12pm. Peckham mentioned having department heads reporting on energy usage so that the City can track how much energy we do use and how energy use changes over time. Lee said he would put something together with information on initiatives he has seen other communities doing.

Future items for consideration

Sippel said he would place 2019 ideas and previous accomplishments onto the next agenda. Peckham talked about fleet vehicle purchases and needing to account for long term costs and environmental impacts of City purchasing decisions. Meney mentioned having recommended criteria might be something to discuss for purchasing decisions, similar to the points system for RFPs. Sippel mentioned Pergolski was willing to discuss lighting projects and talk about the ROAM system. Lee asked if the committee needs to provide input on lighting, because it seems like the City has a handle on improving lights. Lee said we could propose using the money saved through energy efficiency upgrades to invest in other upgrades. The committee discussed including the Grow Solar Central Wisconsin solar group purchasing program on a future agenda.

Future meeting date

Sippel will send out a Doodle Poll to set up the next meeting.

Adjourn

Motion by Peckham/Meney to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

