



City of La Crosse, Wisconsin

City Hall
400 La Crosse Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Meeting Minutes

Sustainable La Crosse Commission

Thursday, February 15, 2018

4:30 PM

5th Floor Conference Room

Call to Order

Giese called the meeting to order at 4:31 pm.

Roll Call

Present: 5 - Mike Giese, Harvey Bertrand, Tom Thompson, Dorothy Lenard, Cathy Van Maren
Excused: 2 - Rob Tyser, Rick Diermeier
Absent: 1 - Rick Cornforth

Approval of Minutes

The minutes were approved by a voice vote.

Notices and Discussions

Staff met with Niels Wolter on 2/14; will request action from SLC at future meeting. Nichols went to Renewable Energy Summit on 1/18, and shared that Green Tier review of Landfill went very well. Van Maren shared Sierra Club clean cars event 2/20. Kathy Allen shared Climate Action Fair 3/3.

Agenda Items:

[18-0286](#)

Presentation on Local Govt./Utility Partnerships to Advance Clean Energy - Michael Vickerman, Renew Wisconsin

Attachments: [Slideshow](#)

Vickerman presented. Xcel has goal of 40% renewable by 2021, so SLC should at least match that. Madison had examples of solar arrays at airport and bus barn. The Sustainable Madison Commission drafted the energy plan and supportive aldermen championed it and the memorandum of understanding (MOU) through council approval. The Minneapolis MOU was different than Madison, but Vickerman has worked with Xcel. Renew Wisconsin is funded through foundations, individuals & businesses (in renewable energy sector), and fundraising events. Tracking municipality energy use is easier than community-wide, but public service commission determines a lot in community use; a clean energy district is possible. \$250,000 for Madison study was funded with tax dollars. With Xcel, more than half of the renewable energy comes from out of state.

[17-0600](#)

Alternative Transportation Policy Recommendations

Attachments: [Notes from Previous Meetings](#)
[GTLC Scorecard - Transportation](#)
[11/16 Discussion Outline - Draft](#)

Giese lamented missing daytime bus service in Onalaska. Van Maren mentioned providing more public information on bus service and making fares easier. Giese brought up idea of adding people to work group, including members of the public.

Bertrand made a motion, Thompson seconded, to promote and facilitate alternative transportation in the region, using MTU ridership as a measure of success. The motion carried by voice vote.

[17-1349](#)

Recycling Policy Recommendations

Attachments: [GTLC Scorecard - Waste](#)
[Recycling by Municipality](#)

Nichols is compiling data for solid waste policy board and can share report. Hillview Urban Agriculture Center is spearheading residential food waste collection; an EPA education grant application is in the works.

[18-0288](#)

Capital Improvement Program Requests for Sustainability Projects (Due 4/15)

Staff requested SLC consider projects to suggest at next meeting.

Next Meeting Date / Agenda Items

The next meeting will be 3/15 @ 4:30 pm. Agenda items may include a discussion of phase one site for Wolter.

Adjournment

Bertrand made a motion, Van Maren seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 pm. The motion carried by a voice vote.

Notice is further given that members of other governmental bodies may be present at the above scheduled meeting to gather information about a subject over which they have decision-making responsibility.

NOTICE TO PERSONS WITH A DISABILITY

Requests from persons with a disability who need assistance to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk's office at (608) 789-7510 or send an email to ADAcityclerk@cityoflacrosse.org, with as much advance notice as possible.