



**MINUTES**  
for the  
**City of Fitchburg**  
**Resource Conservation Commission**  
June 15, 2015 Meeting

**RCC and Staff Members Present:** Diane Streck, Chris Jimieson, Jan Kucher, Tony Hartmann, Kia Stearn, Sam Cooke, Kim Warkentin, Rick Eilertson, Erika Kluetmeier

**Others Present:** Sherrie Gruder, UW-Extension Sustainable Design Specialist

**1. Call to Order**

- Chris called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

**2. Appointment of Timekeeper**

- Diane Streck was appointed Timekeeper.

**3. Public Appearances on Non-Agenda Items**

- None

**4. Approval of Minutes from May 18, 2015 RCC Meeting**

- *Diane moved to approve the Minutes, Tony seconded.*

**5. New Business**

**5.a. Introduction of new member**

- Kim Warkentin introduced herself. She has been actively involved in the Quarry Hill Neighborhood Association, and she served as a Fitchburg representative on the former Regional Transit Authority. She is also the youth education coordinator for Wisconsin Land + Water (formerly Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association).

**5.b. MG&E's Charge to Fitchburg for Street Lamps Electricity – LED Lights**

- Fitchburg realizes a 12% cost savings for unmetered MGE-owned street lamps that have been converted to LED. Fitchburg pays actual energy costs for metered lights.
- Roughly 80% of street lights in Fitchburg are unmetered and 20% are metered.
- Fitchburg pays for unmetered, MGE-owned street lamps whether lights are working or non-working.
- Sherry Gruder recommended evaluating bulk purchasing and contracting through the State Energy Office for converting street lights to LED. Focus on Energy may be able to facilitate bulk purchasing with developers and multi-unit property owners as well.
- **Action items:**

- **Erika will check with Holly Powell on**
  - **1) LED conversion strategies following Holly's attendance at a related conference.**
  - **2) how MGE determines Fitchburg's bill for MGE-owned street lights.**
- **Erika will follow up with Sherrie Gruder on bulk purchasing opportunities through the State Energy Office**

### **5.c. Focus on Energy – Solar Grants**

- Erika reported that Focus on Energy will not be offering a second round of grants in 2015 for renewable projects under the Renewable Energy Competitive Incentive Program (RECIP).
- Sherrie Gruder suggested considering a third-party solar model, which Monona installed in 2014, where a private-sector solar company leases space from a municipality for a period of time, pays for the upfront capital costs of a solar installation and then reverts ownership to the municipality after 6-8 years. Federal tax credits of ~ 30% expire at the end of 2016; so planning for this type of project would need to be underway by early September 2015 in order for the installation to be completed before the tax credits expire.
- Community solar is another option to explore.
- **Action item:**
  - **Erika will follow up with Sherrie Gruder to find out more details about these solar options, including cost and timeline.**

### **5.d. Eco-Municipality discussion**

- Sherrie Gruder provided a quick overview of The Natural Step (TNS) framework.
- RCC members agreed that next step should be to form a Task Force (made up of business, agriculture, residents, representatives of underserved populations, city leaders and key staff) to begin a community dialogue on defining a vision for a sustainable Fitchburg and how to achieve it. Tentative timeline:
  - Summer recruitment of Task Force members with four meetings in the Fall, assuming funds are available.
  - Present resolution to Council to adopt TNS. Need to provide benefits, cost-savings and case studies.
  - Train City staff (6 meetings over 6 months, with group work on projects in-between)
  - Facilitate City staff in integrating TNS framework
  - Present results of projects
- UW-Extension can train department heads, interested elected officials and key staff who can in turn train all remaining staff. UWEX can help mentor project teams through the process.
- Tony suggested an informational presentation to a meeting of the whole Council to introduce the idea and solicit feedback.
- Tentative Operating Budget information requested by Mayor Arnold:
  - **2015 - \$2,400 – UW-Extension – Process design and facilitation services for four Task Force meetings.**

- **2016** - ~\$16,000-\$17,000 – UW-Extension Sustainable Designer – Train city staff and elected officials in understanding and using TNS, integrate TNS into city operations, build capacity in designated staff for leadership and subsequent training of all city staff, mentor and facilitate project teams using TNS (six meetings over six months), coach staff on design, implementation and reporting measurable results on projects.
- **2016** - ~\$2,300 – Dane County UW-Extension to assist with Community Study Circle facilitation.
- **2016** - TBD – UW-Extension – two additional Task Force meetings.
- **Action item:**
  - **Chris, Rick, and Erika will discuss with Mayor Arnold.**

#### **5.e. Review/Provide Recommendations for 2016 RCC Operating Budget Requests**

- Chris will solicit input from members.

### **6. Unfinished Business**

#### **6.a. Retrocommissioning Update**

- Sam, Erika and Kevin are in the process of setting up a meeting time in the next two weeks in order to forward any potential projects for consideration in the 2016 Operating Budget.

#### **6b. Fitchburg Star Articles**

- *Fitchburg Star* is planning to publish Tony's article on battery recycling in July and Kia's article on recycling in apartments in August.

#### **6.c Community Outreach Subcommittee**

##### **● Summer Event**

- The RCC Summer Event will be held at the Boys & Girls Club on Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup> from 10:00-11:30 a.m., focusing on fun events to increase awareness of recycling
- The tentative plan is to break out in three groups of 20 students (ages 9-13) and rotate them through three stations. Tentative focus is:
  - 1) Watch and discuss a video about the reasons to recycle and display items that are made out of recyclable materials;
  - 2) Decorate reusable grocery bags;
  - 3) Conduct a facility and trash audit to identify what is recyclable.
- Erika mentioned that the Boys & Girls Club invited us back to train staff on recycling this Fall.

##### **● Other initiative**

- Ryan Fralish is leading an effort to reduce plastic bag use and improve reuse and recycling. He is evaluating the use of a small utility-type flag to secure plastic bags emptied after yard waste collection.

##### **● Action items:**

- **Solicit donations for the Boys & Girls Club event – Erika**

- **Provide information to the Senior Center on the process for disabled/senior residents to get assistance with wheeling refuse and recycling carts to/from the curb for pickup – Rick**

## **7. Council Update**

- Tony reported that the Council is in the process of hiring the City's next Administrator.
- Council completed first discussion on CIP.
- Public involvement for the Lacy Rd reconstruction will be starting soon.
- Diane mentioned that Mayor Arnold was appointed to Capitol Area Regional Planning Commission.

## **8. Staff Update**

### **8.a. Solid Waste Update**

- Rick shared photos of Brat Fest's Zero Waste operations.
- Dane County's Construction & Demolition Transfer Station will be shutting down on June 15<sup>th</sup> to begin construction of a new construction and demolition processing and recycling facility. Any waste they receive will be placed in the landfill until the new facility is open in January. Rick mentioned there are other interim recycling options for C&D waste including Pellitteri and Royal. Felipe and Erika will promote these changes on our website.
- Deposits are prorated if contractors don't meet CDRR requirements.

### **8.b. Stormwater Update**

- Rick provided an overview of the Nine Springs E-Way Bike Tour featuring stormwater facilities.

### **8.c. Sustainability Update**

- Erika shared information about a new Energy Task Force under the Green Tier Legacy Community program the purpose of which is to share knowledge and resources to develop a consistent energy tracking system among participating communities and complete a pilot project using the PACE funding mechanism.
- Erika reported that Fitchburg's Bike Week Commuter Station was very busy with ~100 riders stopping by for food, bike tune-ups, and conversation and that she received many compliments on Fitchburg's station.
- Erika created a utility bill stuffer focusing on lawn care and water conservation for June bills.

## **9. Next Meeting**

- RCC will meet on Monday, July 20, 2015 from 6:30-9:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room.

## **10. Adjournment – 9:19 p.m.**