

CITY OF MONONA
Sustainability Committee
Thursday, March 14th, 2019
MINUTES DRAFT

1. Call to Order

6:35 PM – Meeting called to order by Committee Chair, Nancy Moore

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Chair Nancy Moore, Co-Chair Chad Speight, Mark Buffat, Dan Costello, Sarah Smith, Sue Vogt

Members Absent: Pat Howell, Teresa Radermacher

Staff Present: Brad Bruun, Caitin Hartnett

Guests: None

3. Approval of February 13th Meeting Minutes

Revisions include clarifying how much renewable energy is produced by installed solar panels on municipal buildings; 7% is generated via the panels leased by Monona, and approximately 12.4% is provided via energy purchased from Monona's utility, Madison Gas and Electric, making the total amount of renewable energy as a percentage of all energy used is approximately 20%.

Motion to approve with revisions; First – Sue Vogt, Second – Mark Buffat

4. Public Appearances

5. Unfinished Business

A. Resident Survey on Energy – Staff Update

As of March 3rd, 2019, after being open for approximately two weeks, the Monona Resident Energy Survey has garnered 183 responses from community members. Preliminary analysis seem to suggest that residents are interested in pursuing renewable energy and energy efficiency projects but are concerned about excessive upfront costs of these projects and seeing savings in the long run.

The next phase of survey distribution and outreach will run up until the next Committee meeting on April 17th, 2019. While the first phase of outreach focused on creating a social media presence, the next phase will emphasize community exposure through the form of radio PSA's, tabling, and flyers. Staff requested that Committee members volunteer to record a PSA on WVMO, and post flyers at local business or organization bulletins to advertise the survey to community members not reached by social media.

a. WVMO PSA's – Volunteer Sign Up

Mark Buffat, Sarah Smith, and Sue Vogt each volunteered to record a PSA promoting the survey.

6. New Business

A. OEI Grant (Office of Energy Innovation) – Slipstream Contract

The contract with Slipstream for services outlined in the OEI Grant is under review by Monona City Attorney, William Cole, and was thus not presented to the Committee at this meeting.

B. Clean Energy Planning – Alder Moore

Committee Members Pat Howell, Teresa Radermacher have begun conversations with the Monona Grove School District to educate them on the benefits of including solar on top of the new school. Sherrie Gruder of UW Extension was also invited to discuss the green building options with the architect and contractor for the building, pushing the school to highly consider net-zero carbon initiatives and LEED Building Certification. Alder Moore mentioned funding opportunities for the school via RENEW Wisconsin grants aiming to install solar on 100 schools around Wisconsin.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Monona's utility, Madison Gas and Electric (MGE) was mentioned as a key project to consider by the Committee, as it is crucial in achieving the City's recently approved commitment to 100% clean energy by 2030. Alder Moore mentioned that there are many projects Monona homeowners can take advantage of to increase the percentage of their household energy coming from renewable sources; including MGE's Green Power Tomorrow program and shared solar projects, or by conducting a Focus on Energy Home Audit.

To ensure that the 100% Clean Energy Resolution be followed through on by the City, many Committee members have expressed interest in revising City code, building standards, and other policies pertaining to development. Sarah Smith said that she had looked into a couple of policies and could present her findings at the next Committee meeting.

C. Fleet Purchasing and Management – Alder Moore

Alder Moore discussed the options and opportunities for the municipality to reduce its carbon production by electrifying the City's fleet vehicles. After discussing with various community partners, she shared that the move to an entirely electric fleet is more feasible than ever, as other municipalities – Madison, specifically – are interested in participating in power purchasing. Additionally, Alder Moore noted that with other communities pursuing carbon reduction or carbon-free goals, they might be able to provide Monona with a roadmap to successfully electrifying their fleet.

D. Monona Water Wagon

Dan Costello reported that he and Teresa Radermacher had been in contact with Rebecca Fox-Blair of MG21 High School to discuss decorating the Monona Water Wagon. Decorating and advertising the Wagon, he said, could be a potential project for students enrolled in a sustainability course offered at the school. Costello and Radermacher also met with Utilities Foreman, Bob Jacobs, to learn more about using the wagon and potential ways to increase use throughout the community. A potential way to avoid or compensate for the barriers to use would be to implement a user-fee, as suggested by Alder Moore, to which Costello replied that MG21 may be willing to sponsor the wagon via school fundraisers.

7. Action Items

A. Approval of OEI Grant – Slipstream Contract

Tabled – Cannot approve contract until the City of Middleton approves their contract with Slipstream, as Monona's contract is contingent on its terms.

B. WVMO PSA Assignments

- Overall View / Highlights of What's Been Done – Staff
- Current Initiatives – Dan Costello
- Energy Efficiency Focus – Mark Buffat
- Renewable Energy Focus – Sarah Smith
- Transit & Vehicle Focus – Chad Speight

8. Adjournment

8:45 PM – Meeting Adjourned; First – Chad Speight, Second – Dan Costello

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 17th at 6:30 PM.

Any questions or additions please notify Brad Bruun, bbruun@ci.monona.wi.us – Thank you.