

## CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

August 12, 2009

9:00–10:00 am

140 West Pine Street

**Members Present:** Marilyn Marler (chair), Ed Childers, Jon Wilkins, John Hendrickson, Dick Haines, Renee Mitchell, Pam Walzer, Jason Wiener

**Members Absent:** Dave Strohmaier, Stacy Rye, Bob Jaffe

**Others Present:** Brian Kerns, Angelique Arachy, Ashley Holtorf

### I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

#### A. Approve minutes.

No minutes were submitted for approval.

### II. FINAL CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS

### III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

### IV. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

Appoint three members; Industry Sector, Commercial/Institutional/Business Sector, and Alternate, to the Greenhouse Gas & Energy Conservation Team for the term starting August 1, 2009 through July 31, 2012 ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Kelly Elam) (Referred to committee: 07/20/09) [Interview Questions](#) (**Held In Committee**)

The committee interviewed 3 applicants for the Greenhouse Gas & Energy Conservation Team.

#### Brian Kerns

Mr. Kerns has served on the GGEC team for 3 years. He stated he was interested in continuing on the GGEC team because the team has done a lot good work, but there is a lot to still be accomplished. He said he would be interested in serving one more term to push some agendas forward in the next two year period. He said it behooves the city, the state and the nation to be proactive on this issue as there are untoward effects that are predicted to visit our planet to the degree that we don't curtail greenhouse gas emissions. The most effective efforts seem to come from the grassroots level. He would like to see aspects of the City's greenhouse gas plan come to fruition. The most issue facing the team is to mobilize to get projects up and going. The team has been in process of quantifying some potential projects, and now it's time to prioritize and implement projects. In the past, the team has had no monetary resources, but now the green tag funding source will make team more effective and be able to put more projects out there.

Kerns said his sense is that the issue of greenhouse gas emissions is a fairly urgent one. All signs point to some negative reinforcement in the climate that will drive the climate toward losing equilibrium. He said he would serve as alternate if selected as such. Jon Wilkins asked how the GGEC team would help Missoula property owners. Kerns said one way the team could help would be to establish an information clearinghouse place for citizens to find learn about energy-saving technologies like the best insulation, type of window glazing, energy-efficient remodeling and the most appropriate technologies for this area of the country. In addition, the clearinghouse would provide information to help citizens get the maximum tax benefits from energy conservation and upgrades.

Mr. Kerns asked the Committee how it values input from the GGEC team. Ms. Marler answered that the team was becoming more and more important and that many more citizens are now interested in serving on the team. The committee has plans to discuss adding two new positions to the team. Mr. Wilkins said: when I look at your committee, and I look at what they're doing for people right here in Missoula, I find it lacking. I think you can find grants to help homeowners, and I like the information on the web idea. I want the team's number one priority to be how to help Missoulians.

Mr. Childers said, in the past, the GGEC team's ability to act was limited. The team has gotten as far as it has because of quality of people on the board. He didn't expect this to be a quick fix committee, the best he hoped for that everybody would work on solutions to put forward. He said he thinks that has happened.

#### Ashley Holtorf

Ms. Holtorf said it is very important to reduce greenhouse gas emissions for water conservation, air quality and for national security. We need to minimize how much oil we need, as it is becoming an extinct option—oil is a finite resource. It is becoming a challenge internationally to allocate oil resources. It is important to dealing with it the problem now before oil becomes scarcer. She said the GGEC team is a wonderful first step and it represents the interests of the community. She has read the plan, think there are places the team can expand or go deeper, like more recycling centers and more widely promoted recycling. She said she has commercial experience as an employee at many local businesses. She understands how businesses rely on energy systems, packaging and distribution. She could see the team helping businesses switch over to more sustainable ways of doing business, and providing incentives to business to become more energy efficient.

As for important issues for the team to consider, she said more bike lanes would be beneficial and she would like to see improved bicycle/pedestrian routes to the outskirts of the City. She would advocate that school and city buses possibly convert to waste vegetable oil fuel. Missoula could become a demonstration center for renewable energy and investment in solar and wind power. Local agriculture is very important in reducing our dependence on oil, increasing our national security and ensuring the health of our city. Getting things locally that don't have to be shipped and packaged creates a more stable community here.

Holtorf said that climate change is an urgent issue; we are seeing effects all over the world in the weather. The quicker we can switch to a clean sustainable, infrastructure, the better off we will be in the long run. In answer to Mr. Wilkins question regarding the GGEC teams assistance to Missoula homeowners, Holtorf said she would recommend financial incentives to upgrade to renewable energy sources, create buildings that are power generators, and invest in technology and get in the public eye.

#### Angelique Arachy

Ms. Arachy quoted a Native American proverb that says we did not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we are just borrowing it for our children. She said her interest in serving on the team is saving what we have for our children. She said we're at a point with the research that climate change is not looking too good—we do need to start working on sustainability. She said it is important to have a plan ahead of time. Arachy said her background is in litigation and environmental management. She said the team is doing a good job, and she would like to see more education on sustainability and greater energy efficiency in services like public lighting and public transit. It is commendable that Missoula has started a GGEC plan, the issue of climate change is extremely urgent—there's no going back. Mr. Wilkins asked how she saw committee helping homeowners in Missoula save on heating and electrical costs. She said the City could encourage efficiency through citizen's pockets, as in energy credits. She thinks the group can do research on how to work with the energy companies to lower costs for energy efficient buildings. She said we have to give them financial incentive to want to do it.

The committee discussed the applicants. Ms. Walzer and Mr. Hendrickson expressed concerns that the current pool of applicants did not contain any representatives from the business sector. Mr. Wiener said that he had encouraged Ross Keogh to apply because he works in the wind energy industry thought his expertise would be valuable. Mr. Keogh was on vacation and not available to interview at this time. Ms. Marler suggested the committee fill the positions from the

applicants they had already interviewed. Ms. Walzer made a motion to appoint Brian Kerns to the commercial/institutional/business seat on the board. Discussion ensued. Mr. Hendrickson said he had a problem with filling the commercial/institutional/business seat. He was concerned that the committee no longer had business representation, and that John Freer was the only applicant from business community. He said Mr. Kerns is more than qualified but make up of committee is skewed and needs people from business community.

Ms. Marler suggested the appointments be held in committee until next week and that the committee try again to interview Mr. Keogh. Ms. Walzer withdrew her motion.

**V. NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**VI. HELD AND ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS - PER COMMITTEE CHAIR – Marilyn Marler**

**A.** Update from the Parks Department. –Regular Agenda (Donna Gaukler) (Referred to committee:11/20/06)

**B.** Greenhouse Gas Subcommittee update.—Ongoing in committee (Marilyn Marler)

**C.** Develop a list of uses for a comprehensive parks levy ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Jason Wiener)(Referred to committee: 03/03/08)

**D.** 4. Discuss the ownership, licensing and permitting for Brennan's Wave ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Donna Gaukler) (Referred to committee: 09/08/08)

**E.** 5. Goal setting with Greenhouse Gas and Energy Conservation Team ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Pam Walzer) (Referred to committee: 09/08/08)

**F.** 6. Approve program for city to market renewable energy certificates (aka —green tags||) ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Marilyn Marler, Brian Kerns and Ben Schmidt) (Referred to committee: 09/15/08)

**VII.**

**ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.