

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

July 22, 2009
09:00–10:00 am
140 West Pine Street

Members Present: Marilyn Marler (chair), Pam Walzer, Ed Childers, Dave Strohmaier, Stacy Rye, Bob Jaffe, Jon Wilkins, John Hendrickson, Dick Haines, Renee Mitchell, and Jason Wiener

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Ben Schmidt, James Kuffell, Alex Stokman

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Approve minutes.

Minutes of July 8, pending approval.

II. FINAL CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A. A policy statement for enhanced forest practices ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Marilyn Marler and Ben Schmidt) (Referred to committee: 02/23/09) ([Remove from Agenda](#)) ([Revised Resolution](#))

MOTION: The committee recommends Council approve a policy statement for enhanced forest practices.

Marilyn – this item was discussed earlier this year, and due to the somewhat controversial nature of the item, this committee asked the Greenhouse Gas Energy Conservation Team (GGECT) to take it back to their committee for revision.

A new policy statement from the GGECT was submitted for Council for review and approval.

Ben Schmidt- Marilyn and I met and then the GGECT met in May to revise the policy statement which is more general and shorter. Peter Kolb is here to provide more information related to the first point which is to define the word local.

Peter Kolb – the idea is to minimize transportation from remote locations and to amend the first statement to say locally produced in Montana wood products. There is a decrease in wood plants in Montana and current plants have to tap into all mills operating in Montana. Mills can only operate by buying logs where they can find. ([memo](#)) ([SAFKolb](#))

Bob – I would move to accept the policy statement with edits.

Ed – Is the goal to use Montana products or to limit the amount of transportation? If that is the case then local would be using products closer to Missoula rather than shipping in from eastern Montana.

Dave – Thanks to the committee for the revisions which makes this a more manageable document. I would propose some minor syntax/word changes to make the document consistent.

Dave's amendments were accepted into the motion by Bob.

Pam – I agree with Ed if the purpose is to reduce transportation from remote locations rather than promote Montana products then a reasonable interpretation of the word local does not mean within the city of Missoula. This would indicate product from Southern Idaho is local but Red Lodge is not due to the distance.

John – I would like to see us support the use of Montana product, but it is good to use products closer to home and I would just leave in the word local and not substitute Montana.

Dick – we have huge quantities of fire burned timber to be used in southern Montana.

Jon – I think this policy statement is lacking the promotion of our local businesses, so what are we doing locally to keep Missoulian working? We should not be shipping wood out of the country and then buying back foreign products.

Marilyn – the reference is to locally produce wood products and not just the timber industry.

Jon – I agree but would like to see this go further than just that statement.

Ed- I have an issue with Statement 4 which directs citizens to plant trees on the south side which may cause an inability to use solar energy.

Ben – shade and solar energy can both be accomplished with roof and landscape planning.

Jason – I am suggesting a new version of Statement 4 to read as follows: Promote strategic urban planting of trees with the following principles in mind: reduce cooling requirements in the summer; provide wind protection in the winter; plant diverse species of trees on public and private lands to sequester carbon dioxide; utilize “grey water” from private and public treatment systems in an environmentally-friendly manner.

Marilyn – so the motion now includes the reorganization of number 4 as submitted by Jason.

The committee then discussed changing the title of the document and eliminating the word Enhance. Jason also suggested taking out the Now, therefore in the third paragraph.

It was agreed to not specify Montana as local in the first statement as submitted by Peter Kolb.

Ed – I am still concerned about accommodating roof top energy conservation. I don’t want to eliminate the ability to have solar panels by directing where to plant trees.

James Kuffell – we planted trees to shade the building for our business but there is still ample space on the roof to provide solar panels. I don’t see the need to change the document.

Public comment – none

Dave – I would agree we don’t want to create conflicts with solar energy and trees, but doesn’t need to be in this document

Jon –I am not clear as to the benefit of this document as it is only a policy statement and not regulatory.

Ben – the statement indicates a leadership role by the City, and opportunity for education.

It was proposed to amend the motion to include "to accommodate a panel sun roof". The question was called for, the vote carried in favor of calling for the question on the proposed amendment. The vote to include "to accommodate a panel sun roof" failed.

The question was then called for on the original motion. The vote was in favor of calling for the question. The vote on the original motion to support the enhance forest practices policy statement carried unanimously.

IV. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

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

Marilyn - the referral on goal setting was also discussed earlier in the year. We had asked for the GGECT to bring to us their goals and recommendation to add more committee members.

Ben –at our team meeting we discussed goals as well as membership. The team is in favor of keeping the basic composition of the team but perhaps adding two alternates. The plan as adopted does not mention alternates and any changes would have to be done by Council.

The topics currently being discussed by the Team include:

- Recommendation for the enhanced forest practices,
- Promoting the use of energy building construction
- Development of city web page to include a sustainability page
- Educational campaign and use the city web page to promote information
- Green Tags program
- Recommend support Cash for Commuters program

Jon – under goal setting I would like to see a resource for home owners to reduce energy costs, and more information that is easily available to citizens.

Ben – that can be include in the educational campaign and use the web to make information available to citizens. Alex Stokman with Missoula in Motion is here to explain the proposal to have Council fund a Cash for Commuters program.

Alex Stokman –the program is to encourage the use of the bus passes by giving cash for commuters. The goal is to get employees to switch to using the bus for three months. Employees would log their trips and would receive cash for the trips in the form of a gift certificate. The proposed budget is \$6200 in prizes, and \$200 in marketing.

Jason – how can the program be measured?

Alex – Mountain line can determine the number by the use of badges and increase in riders. We would like to try this program for three months during the winter.

Informational item - remove from agenda.

V. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

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

- A. Discuss the ownership, licensing and permitting for Brennan's Wave ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Donna Gaukler) (Referred to committee: 09/08/08)
- B. Approve construction contracts for Phase 1 of White Pine Park Construction ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Donna Gaukler) (Referred to committee: 02/09/09)
- C. Discussion on tree pruning ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (John Hendrickson) (Referred to committee: 07/06/09)
- D. 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)

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.