



Minutes - February 6, 2024

Call to Order: Chair Cullen called the hybrid Environmental Management Systems Committee meeting to order at 5:00 P.M. in Conference N1/N2.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Cullen, Zoril, and Sutterlin. Citizen representatives Susan Johnson.

Committee Members Absent: Citizen representative Pablo Toral.

Staff Members Present: Brent Sutherland, Facilities Management Director, and Duane Jorgenson, Public Works Director.

Others Present: Sup. Mary Beaver (via Zoom).

Note: Based upon a request from Sup. Zoril, Chair Cullen authorized the recording of the meeting.

Approve Agenda: Supervisor Zoril moved to approve the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Sutterlin. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements:

Approval of Minutes:

Tuesday, January 2, 2024: Supervisor Zoril moved approval of January 2, 2024 minutes, second by Supervisor Sutterlin. ADOPTED.

Review, Discussion and Possible Action:

Green Tier Legacy Communities (GTLC) Update:

Highlights from Quarterly Meeting in Fitchburg: Citizen-member Susan Johnson, Sup. RJ Sutterlin, Facilities Management Director Brent Sutherland and Assistant to County Administrator Randy Terronez attended the all-day meeting.

The morning event consisted of a tour of the Fitchburg Fire Station #3 that has a variety of energy-saving features, including solar power.

The afternoon consisted of several agency presentations on availability of energy-efficiency grant opportunities and an update from members energy- efficient activities.

The afternoon session included several municipalities and counties either in-person or via zoom.

One community noted the difficulty in getting their governing body to participate in energy-efficiency grant programs.

Overall, the attendees from Rock County felt that the County was in a good position relative to making progress on GLTC-related items.

Baseline Scorecard Update: Due to technical difficulties, this item was re-scheduled for the next meeting. Brent Sutherland noted he had submitted the document to the DNR.

Create Committee Mission Statement: Per direction from the January meeting, Chair Cullen had requested committee members to return with possible language. Citizen-member Susan Johnson shared a version via zoom:

"Rock County is committed to environmental stewardship and sustainability. Human survival and well-being depends either, directly or indirectly, on our natural environments. Healthy communities form the foundation of a sustainable and thriving economy far into the future. Actions dedicated to this mission will be guided by an evidence-based, transparent, equitable, and inclusive process to meet the goals of 100% renewable energy and carbon neutrality by 2050."

Committee discussion was held with Brent Sutherland, Facilities Management Director highlighting the differences between a 100% reduction vs. carbon neutral metric. Sup. Zoril inquired on wording of "equitable" and "inclusive".

Supervisor Zoril moved approval of the Rock County Environmental Management Systems Committee mission statement as follows, second by Citizen-member Johnson:

Rock County is committed to environmental stewardship and sustainability. Human survival and well-being depends either, directly or indirectly, on our natural environments. Healthy communities form the foundation of a sustainable and thriving economy far into the future. Actions dedicated to this mission will be guided by an evidence-based, transparent, and inclusive process to meet the goals of renewable energy and carbon neutrality by 2050.

Motion ADOPTED.

Review Committee Goals:

PSC Innovation (Carbon Neutral) Grant Application and Consultant Timeline : Brent Sutherland, Facilities Management Director shared the document with the Committee and gave highlights. The grant application is complete. Subject to the County Board adopting the funding resolution at the February 8, 2024 meeting, Brent will submit the application to the Public Service Commission. The next steps would be to await the state grant award - approximately April, 2024, submit a resolution for the consultant (Constellation) and obtain County Board approval, and conduct

a study.

Resolution for a Greener Rock County and Taxpayer Value and Amend the Budget: Brent Sutherland, Facilities Management Director, reviewed the chronology of the resolution. The resolution had not been acted upon by the Committee as Brent needed to get clarification from the state funding entity and the consultant. He received the requested information and updated the General Services Committee that approved the resolution as amended (dollars changed). The resolution before the Committee is the amended resolution approved by the General Services Committee. Committee action is requested as the resolution is on the Thursday, February 8, 2024 County Board meeting for review and approval.

Supervisor Zoril moved approval of Resolution for a Greener Rock County and Taxpayer Value and Amend the Budget, second by Citizen-member Johnson. ADOPTED

City of Beloit Communication: An email from City of Beloit City Manager Jerry Gabrieltos was distributed to the Committee. Beloit is interested in partnering with Rock County on future energy projects. The Committee members expressed support and staff will reply.

Janesville Metro Planning Organ. (JAMPO) Lo/No Emission Fleet Transition Study - Duane Jorgenson, County Public Works Director: Duane Jorgenson, County Public Works Director was present and reviewed the JAMPO grant possibility for transitioning gasoline/diesel fuel vehicles to electric/renewal energy based vehicles. It is still in the early stages and would involve the vehicle fleets of the County, City of Janesville and City of Milton.

Phase 1 of the study would be a high-level overview of the benefits of changing to energy renewable fleet with study costs grant-funded. Subject to the three local units of government agreeing to the Phase 1 report conclusions/recommendations to proceed, Phase 2 would consist of a more in-depth study, with study costs involving some type of local contribution and grant funds.

Committee consensus was favorable to proceed.

City of Janesville Sustainable Living Fair - Saturday, April 27 (Hedberg Public Library) : The committee agreed to participate and staff will submit registration.

Staff Reports: None.

Next meeting date and time:

5:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 5, 2024: Chair Cullen asked for Committee member input on future meeting times. As both Chair Cullen and Sup. Zoril have General Services Committee the same day as this committee, Chair Cullen tentatively scheduled the next meeting for 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 5, 2024 in Conference Room N1/N2. Chair Cullen will check with citizen-member Pablo Toral.

Adjournment: Supervisor Sutterlin moved to adjourn at 6:20 P.M., second by Cullen. ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Terronez
Asst. to County Administrator

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