



OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

of a meeting of a City Board, Commission, Department Committee, Agency, Corporation, Quasi-Municipal Corporation, or Sub-unit thereof.

Meeting:	SUSTAINABILITY, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Members:	John Kroll (C), Carol Lukens, Scott Charette, Jay Coldwell, Mary Kluz, Ashley Lange
Location:	Board Room of Wausau City Hall, 407 Grant Street.
Date/Time:	Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Public comment
3. Approve minutes of July 14, 2022 meeting
4. Presentation by Scott Coenen – Executive Director of Wisconsin Conservative Energy Forum – 30 minutes
5. Discussion and possible action on draft City of Wausau Strategic Plan – 5 minutes
6. Discuss possible resolution and presentation on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions – 30 minutes
7. Updates and information – No action required
 - Inflation Reduction Act
 - Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program
8. Next meeting date
9. Adjourn

It is likely that members of, and a quorum of the Council and/or members of other committees of the Common Council of the City of Wausau will be in attendance at the abovementioned meeting to gather information. **No action will be taken by any such groups.**

Questions regarding this agenda may be directed to the City Planning Office @ (715) 261-6760.

This Notice was posted at City Hall and emailed to the Media on 8/19/2022

Any person wishing to offer public comment may email City Clerk Kaitlyn Bernarde at clerk@ci.wausau.wi.us with "SEEC comment" in the subject line prior to the meeting start. All public comment, either by email or in person, will be limited to items on the agenda at this time. The messages related to agenda items received prior to the start of the meeting will be provided to the Chair.

Other Distribution: Media, Alderpersons, Mayor, City Departments

CITY OF WAUSAU SUSTAINABILITY, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Time and Date: The Sustainability, Energy and Environment Committee met on Thursday, July 14, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room of Wausau City Hall
Members Present: John Kroll (C), Jay Coldwell, Mary Kluz, Carol Lukens
Others Present: Andrew Lynch, Brad Lenz

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and transmitted to the Wausau Daily Herald in the proper manner.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Chair Kroll called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Introductions were made.

2. Elect a committee chairperson and vice-chairperson

Chair – John Kroll was nominated by Kluz, seconded by Carol and the motion carried unanimously.
Vice Chair – Mary Kluz was nominated by Lukens, seconded by Coldwell, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Public Comment

No public comment.

4. Approval of Minutes from previous meetings

Kluz made a motion to approve the minutes of April 13, 2022. Kroll seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

5. Discussion and possible action on sustainability awards

The committee had previously developed an application for the award. Aspirus was awarded but no nominations since then. The frequency of the award was every 6 months but it could be changed. Kluz suggested always accepting nominations and not setting a rigid timeline. Coldwell suggested that an award go to a smaller organization or individual since it may be difficult to match a large company like Aspirus. Committee was encouraged to gather information on potential awardees. City staff will work on updating the nomination form which can be found on the city website.

6. Recap of No Mow May

Lenz reported that this year was a different approach. Registration was not required, the ordinance for cutting lawns was not enforced for May. Additional yard signs were available, about 50 were distributed. No major issues were reported. Next year the ordinance holiday will have to be reauthorized by Council. The committee discussed methods of measuring participation or impact.

7. Discuss possible resolution and presentation on the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

Kroll discusses and reviews a presentation for City Council on the GHG reduction resolution. Committee provided feedback. Also presenting to the Marathon County Board was discussed. Kroll would like to present to Council in September or later in the year.

8. Updates and information

- Green Tier Legacy Communities scorecard
 - City is working with DNR to test their new scorecard. Currently waiting on DNR for information and new scoresheet.
- Climate driven migration webinar
 - Webinar from DNR presented a few weeks previous. Report noted northern WI and MN will face minimal change due to climate change and could see influx of climate refugees. This may take many years to see effects of and allows communities to prepare.
- Grow Solar Central Wisconsin
 - Grow Solar reached out to City for municipal partners in promoting solar seminars to create group buys and lower the cost of home solar. City will continue to promote events to residents.
- Wisconsin Local Government Climate Coalition
 - No update.
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program
 - A program from the BIL administered by the Dept of Energy would provide funding for planning documents much like is suggested by the GHG Resolution proposal. Also available are efficiency upgrades, program creation, bike lanes, traffic signals, zoning changes. Funding notice is available in the 4th quarter of 2022.

9. Next meeting date

Time changed to 5pm on a Thursday to provide opportunities for better committee attendance.
August 25, 2022 at 5pm

10. Adjourn

INNOVATIVE PUBLIC SERVICES

Strategic Goal

Create and implement practices, policies, and procedures to enhance and optimize public services for our community.

Current State

In recent years the City has placed a premium on innovation, with department leadership empowering employees to look for ways to improve and modernize the processes and systems that are used to provide services and programming to the community. Even with this positive thrust the City is still recovering from the Great Recession of 2008 and is now grappling with the impacts of the Great Resignation and the massive re-location that occurred during the pandemic. The City is challenged with finding adequate staffing to fill vacancies and retaining skilled employees in an increasing competitive job market.

Future State

The City delivers exceptional service by working to understand the challenges facing customers, residents and community and incorporating sustainability and resiliency into the core functions of all City departments. City staff are innovative problem-solvers and continuously improve their work processes and practices so City departments can respond rapidly to changing customer needs and demands. The City provides an environment where employees feel engaged and encouraged and have opportunities for growth. Staff and managers have effective tools and templates to work efficiently and operating processes and procedures are designed to focus on what customer's value to the City delivers the right services when and where needed. As part of the City's efforts to maintain its workforce the City has created a focus on professional development that increases the engagement of employees at all levels and results in employees who stay with the City, preserving institutional knowledge.



Objectives

1. Implement creative strategies for service delivery to meet the needs and expectations of our changing community.
2. Attract and retain a City excellent workforce to maintain and increase public service.
3. Maintain and enhance City support at public activities/events so that those events remain safe and efficient.
4. Invest in solutions to ensure environmental sustainability for generations to come.
5. Streamline City processes so new and/or existing businesses operating in Wausau have a set of clear expectations.

Performance Measures

- % increase in business that feel the quality of services provided to businesses by the City meets or exceed their expectations (business survey – establish baseline and trend over time)
- Employee retention rate (tracked annually and trended over time)
- % increase in residents who safe and welcomed at community events (community survey – establish baseline and trend over time)
- % increase in residents who agree that the City is doing a good job of creating a healthy natural environment that sustains the community for current and future generations (establish baseline and trend over time)
- Identify sustainability goals and develop a plan to achieve them (for example: reduction in City facility energy usage, landfill diversion rate, water usage per capita)



STRONG REGIONAL ALLIANCES

Strategic Goal

Organize and lead a regional collaboration with local municipalities to create a common message and destination plan for Wausau and the region.

Current State

While there is renewed interest and effort to collaborate on tourism and mental health services across municipalities in within Marathon County, regional communication and collaboration has been poor historically. Communities within the County have competed against each other for businesses and they market themselves individually rather than as an entire region, and there is no cohesive approach to economic development and marketing. Residents in Wausau are demanding increased transit from MetroRide, and it has been difficult to achieve the level of cooperation that would allow expansion of bus routes and schedules within the city and the towns immediately outside the city's boundaries.

Future State

Wausau will strengthen and expand its cooperative activities with all governments in the region, resulting in an open spirit of cooperation with other cities and the county, increased levels of service to Wausau residents and a cooperative approach to expanding, retaining, and recruiting new businesses and industries to the area. MetroRide services are expanded, serving the needs of Wausau and the surrounding towns and villages. The communities in the region work together to promote sustainable practices that protect our natural environment to ensure a sustainable legacy for future generations and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Residents will regard the natural environment as one of Wausau's most valuable and defining characteristics and visitors will enjoy the ease of access and proximity to natural areas and the community's many recreational opportunities.



Objectives

1. Create and lead a municipal regional coalition so that resources are optimized.
2. Explore the development of regional collaboration so a regional identity is established and a common shared vision and message is established and used.
3. Host waterfront activities such as parties and events to showcase regional unity through a natural resource.
4. Support and lead in green and eco-friendly efforts and initiatives for a cleaner, healthier, and sustainable environment.
5. Develop a plan for economic alignment for the region to build a skilled and available workforce.

Performance Measures

- Number and type of regional initiatives and partnerships with shared resources
- Regional branding and identity plan is completed and implementation progress is measured
- Increase in waterfront activities offered



Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Summary: Climate and Energy Provisions

From the Bipartisan Policy Center

Full summary is available [here](#)

Text of the bill is available [here](#)

Community Investment and Energy Justice

Environmental and Climate Justice Block Grants

- \$2.8 million to the EPA for grants and \$200 million for technical assistance.
- 3-year grants are available for projects related to climate change and air pollution, including air pollution monitoring, extreme heat risk mitigation, resiliency and adaptation, indoor pollution reduction, and community engagement.
- Tribes, local governments, and universities in partnership with community-based non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are eligible, as well as individual or groups of community-based NGOs.

Neighborhood Access and Equity Grants

- \$3 billion, with \$1.1 billion set aside for disadvantaged communities, to the FHA for grants to improve transportation access and mitigate negative safety or environmental impacts in underserved communities.
- Grants may be used for improvements to reduce air pollution and GHG emissions, manage stormwater run-off, address urban heat islands, and to monitor air quality, transportation related GHG emissions and pollution, and gaps in tree canopy coverage.
- State, local, territory, and Tribal government entities are eligible.
- Federal cost share of a project in a disadvantaged or underserved community may be up to 100%.

Grants to Reduce Air Pollution at Ports^{20,21}

- \$3 billion to the EPA to award rebates and grants to port authorities, state, regional, local, or Tribal agencies, air pollution control agencies, or private entities for the purchase or installation of zero-emission port equipment, for associated planning, and to develop climate action plans.
- \$750 million set aside for ports located in nonattainment areas (areas with high air pollution).

Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles^{22,23}

- \$1 billion, with \$400 million set aside for communities located in nonattainment areas, for grants and rebates for up to 100% of costs for clean heavy-duty vehicles (e.g., school buses and garbage trucks) as well as associated maintenance, workforce training, and planning.
- States, municipalities, Tribes, and nonprofit school transportation associations are eligible.

Low Emissions Electricity Program

- \$68 million in total to the EPA, including \$17 million for education, \$17 million for technical assistance, and \$17 million for partnerships within low-income and disadvantaged communities related to GHG emissions reductions.
- An additional \$18 million appropriated to carry out activities of the program and ensure GHG emissions reductions are achieved from domestic electricity generation and use.

Energy Credit for Solar and Wind in Low-Income Communities

- Creates a 40% investment tax credit for solar or wind projects located in a low-income community or on Tribal land and 20% for facilities part of low-income residential housing or low-income economic benefit projects.

USDA Assistance for Rural Electric Cooperatives

- \$9.7 billion to the Department of Agriculture (USDA) until 2031 for financial assistance (including loans) to improve resiliency, reliability, and affordability of rural electric systems, including:
 - Purchase of renewable energy and renewable energy systems, zero-emission systems, or carbon capture and storage systems;
 - Deployment of these systems;
 - Improvements to electric generation and transmission systems.
- Maximum award is \$970 million and must not exceed 25% of the total project cost.

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

Provides financial assistance for adoption of clean energy technologies in rural communities.

- \$2 billion for the USDA REAP program until 2031 to provide competitive grants and loan guarantees to farmers, ranchers, and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or energy efficiency improvements.
- More than \$300 million is set aside to provide grants and loans to provide financial & technical assistance for “underutilized renewable energy technologies” that are not as widely adopted.
- Federal cost share for grants is raised from 25% to a maximum of 50%.