

MINUTES

July 6, 2023

Members Present: John Kroll, Carol Lukens, Jay Coldwell, Mary Kluz, Jesse Kearns

Others Present: Brad Lenz, Andrew Lynch, Christine Martens

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

2. Public Comment

Christine Martens noted that when the committee examines alternatives to No Mow May they should look at the long-term goal. That there are many different ways of increasing the pollinators and even a combination of initiatives could be helpful.

3. Approve minutes of May 4, 2023 meeting

Motion by Lukens, second by Coldwell to approve the minutes with the amendment to add Jesse Kearns as a Member Present. Approved unanimously.

4. Updates: Green Tier Legacy, Committee Membership, Youth Representation

Lenz discussed the Green Tier Legacy scorecard that is under development by the DNR to help communities measure their progress. There is a meeting of the statewide communities that are involved in the Green Tier in Bayfield on July 31 that Lenz will attend remotely, Kroll may as well. Coldwell asked if the scorecard could be shared with the committee once it was finalized. Lynch reported that Jesse Kearns reupped on the committee and was sworn in for his second term. Ashley Lange has moved out of the city so her spot is available. Still trying to get in contact with Scott Charette who has not attended any meetings. The committee has expressed interest in having a high school student involved. Lukens has spoken with a student that is interested. Committee suggested Lukens encourage the student fill out the application for membership. Coldwell mentioned that the student wouldn't have to serve a full three year term.

5. Discussion and Possible Action: Food Resiliency and Security – Municipal support for local initiatives

Coldwell began the discussion from a handout he developed. He suggested finding the City resiliency plans to see what they cover or don't. Lenz noted that there is a Marathon County Hazard Mitigation Plan, Coldwell mentioned a Water Utility plan was discussed at the Solar Power Task Force. Lenz noted he could dig around for whatever plans the City or County may have but they are likely to be limited in scope to the particular department and not necessarily climate change focused. Kroll asked if the WLGCC would have any ideas on resiliency plans. Lynch will check on this. Lenz noted that the WLGCC is looking into the different types of plans (Climate Action, etc) and what would be appropriate for different communities. Coldwell is more focused on a livable community than necessarily carbon reduction. Kearns suggested we

find a local indicator or measure of climate change to make it more relevant to local communities. Coldwell suggested a goal is set on better utilizing local food systems. Coldwell mentioned several programs with the UW extension and NTC that could be promoted by the committee. Kluz noted that the Farmer's Market could be a good partner to work with on this issue. Lenz noted that the United Way Hunger Coalition is focused on eliminating food insecurity in the community and may be a good partner to learn from. Coldwell noted there are areas of education to the residents that could be helpful to grow competency in raising and storing food. The Hmong community would be a good example to learn from. Coldwell asked if a resolution was the best way forward. Kroll questioned what the role of the city is and feels there is some investigation that could be done to find the best home. Lenz suggested a resolution could be done in conjunction with a Climate Action Plan or Comprehensive Plan update in the future. Lynch noted that the City is a poor marketing firm and that the resolution could be used as promotion for a plan or initiative.

6. Discussion: Greenhouse Gas Resolution progress

Lynch reported that establishing a baseline of GHG use was slow going. The initial paperwork for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant was done and received. There is follow up steps to complete but we may not receive funds until January of 2024. Staff's initial attempts to get comprehensive information from WPS was not fruitful. Jean from the Mayor's office may help compile the monthly bills into a spreadsheet but that is a last resort due to the staff time involved. City has applied for the Focus On Energy Benchmarking grant that will allow comparisons between Wausau city buildings and other municipalities' buildings across the state. Staff can start working with fleet managers on fuel use across Police, Fire, Metroride, DPW, etc. The goal is still to have a baseline established by the end of the year.

7. Discussion and Possible Action: Alternatives to No Mow May for 2024

Lynch reminded the committee of their desire, expressed earlier in the year, to examine the possible alternatives to No Mow May. Included in the packet were some other alternatives that help promote pollinators. It was noted that keeping No Mow May is still an option, either alone or in combination with other initiatives. Lukens offered to begin investigating alternatives and report back to the committee at a future meeting.

8. Next meeting date: August 3

9. Adjourn

Motion/Second by Kearns/Lukens. Approved unanimously. Adjourned at 6:12pm