

Citizen Conservation Board (CCB)

DRAFT Regular Board Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2021; 4:30 PM

Meeting held virtually via Zoom

Board Members Present (8 out of 14 members required for a quorum):

- 1) Diana Hammer, Chair
- 2) Mark Juedeman, Vice Chair
- 3) Valerie Stacey, Vice Chair
- 4) Dick Sloan
- 5) Ann Brodsky
- 6) Denise Roth Barber
- 7) Elizabeth Grant
- 8) Lucy Lantz
- 9) Makenna Sellers

Board Members Not Present:

Patricia Heiser (excused)
Brian Solan
Steven Costle
Carlin Onstad
Becca Boslough

City Staff Present:

Others Present:

Ryan Leland, Public Works Director, City of Helena
Ed Coleman, Environmental Manager, City of Helena
Dannai Clayborn, City of Helena
Emily Dean, City Commissioner
Patrick Judge, Interested Citizen
Dr. Gregory Thomas, Interested Citizen
Cora Helm, Interested Citizen
Chris Coniglia, Interested Citizen

Call to Order:

CCB Chair Diana Hammer called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm and welcomed all participants.

Minutes:

Mark Juedeman moved adoption of the June 10, 2021 minutes with edits. Dick Sloan seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously. Diana shared a clean version with the CCB.

Diana introduced the **Guest Speakers – Ryan Leland, Public Works Director, and Ed Coleman, Environmental Manager, with the City of Helena** and shared her screen, showing water use in the City and its relation to water production, underscoring the need for the City's recently-enacted Stage 3 watering restrictions and encouraging everyone to follow these guidelines.

https://www.helenamt.gov/home/all-news/news-item?tx_news_pi1%5Baction%5D=detail&tx_news_pi1%5Bcontroller%5D=News&tx_news_pi1%5Bnews%5D=133&cHash=cf6424736d1f2cd3fe8ff1e62f9b0d77

Ryan Leland, Public Works Director, and Ed Coleman, Environmental Manager

Water restrictions put in place to maintain adequate water reserves for fire suppression needs; consumption is stressing production capacity very early in the season. Need to reduce usage. Some properties such as the Capital are on well water and are not subject to water restrictions. City Parks has greatly reduced water usage. City will be in contact with those not observing water restrictions.

Public Works Department has responsibility for Engineering, Stormwater (including MS4 permits), Utilities, Maintenance, Water Treatment, Wastewater Treatment, Solid Waste (including the transfer station and collection). Missouri River and Ten Mile Water Treatment Plants; Missouri River is the 'peaking plant' and much more expensive to operate (pump upstream, additional treatment) than the year-round Ten Mile water source (flows with gravity and requires less treatment).

Ed's position is new – covers environmental permitting, including pre-treatment and MS4 permit renewals. Will also supervise the new Sustainability Coordinator. Ed is the CCB's Point of Contact. When contacting him, cc: Director Leland. Met with Pat Judge, former Sustainability Coordinator, re: his workload and on-going priorities and projects. Hiring .5 FTE Sustainability Coordinator – expect to post next week; interviews the first week of August; on board as soon as possible. CCB invited to participate in interviews. Sustainability Coordinator will be CCB's staff contact.

Water Conservation – restrictions. Improved situation; need to stay vigilant and reduce domestic use; potential for additional restrictions. Many opportunities to decrease outdoor water usage/irrigation which represents a major increase in water use in summer – 8-10 mgd used for irrigation! (4-5 mgd for domestic use + irrigation for a total of 12-16 mgd). Consider xeriscaping.

Opportunity for CCB to work with City re: a xeriscape demonstration site at the new Law and Justice Building. Water Committee agrees; Diana will work with Ed to set up a meeting with Troy Sampson, Facilities Superintendent.

Waste – Composting: Two Businesses (406 Recycling and Better Roots) currently operating in violation of the City Ordinance re: residential solid waste collection within the City limits; only City is allowed to collect the waste per City Code. Working with them; either need to change the City code or after speaking with the City Commission last night – it may be a contract with these two businesses and the City. No 'cease and desist order' – yet. Just starting the process – we'll see...

Master Plan and Strategic Plan for Waste Reduction – waste, curbside, recycling, composting, etc. All open to discussion – no bias. Will have 3rd party consultant come with recommendations re: what the City should do going forward re: solid waste. Need to develop an RFQ. CCB Waste Committee has been developing a scope for the RFQ/RFP; Ryan asked for the CCB's input; Ann will share draft with Ed and Ryan. Will develop a review committee and with this group, will review and develop a scope and cost for the Strategic Plan; plan is to have this done within a year. Expect to have the RFQ out before the new Sustainability Coordinator is on board. This will be integrated with

the Master Plan – the overall Integrated Solid Waste Master Plan (ISWMP) - that is being developed with the County.

City has a composting program – chips branches, yard waste. Materials collected at the Transfer Station; Composting done at the Landfill. Combine with bio-solids and takes about 8 months; generates ~ 5,000 tons of compost/year; been doing this since 1994. Compost used either for reclamation at the Landfill or for City can use. Parks also composts (grass clippings, trees, etc.).

Q: Waste Audit? Waste Audit is part of the Master Plan; thinking may break out and do a separate Waste Audit. Looking at early fall to begin Waste Audit.

Q: Why looking at going with a contract and not just changing City Code? Much more complicated to change City Code; quicker and simpler to enter into a contract with those two businesses. TBD.

Q: Is PSC involved in regulating solid waste collection? City unsure; getting a legal opinion.

Q: Direction from the City Commission meeting last night re: Composting? City will look into possible contracting with the two companies. Short-term fix. Integrate with the Solid Waste Master Plan. Initial interest in a Code change but then direction was to look at a stop-gap measure rather than changing the City code; consider with Master Plan.

Q: What is the situation with glass recycling? Is sending it to SLC a temporary situation? One of the main reasons Ash Grove is not accepting glass is due to the ‘flow restrictors’ (e.g., soy sauce or olive oil) not being removed from glass; perfect size to plug up their furnace system. Ryan asked the CCB to help get the message out to remove the ‘flow restrictors’ and get us back to sending glass to Ash Grove. City looking into getting a pre-crusher and then send crushed glass to Ash Grove. Ryan to share image of ‘flow restrictors’; City to start public educational campaign. Public education is key.

Q: EV chargers – what is the status? Troy Sampson, Facilities Superintendent, is putting together a contract.

Discussion – should the CCB draft a Recommendation to the City Commission to extend the CCB by January 2023?

The CCB decided to move forward with this Recommendation. Val Stacey to draft; Makenna Sellers to help. A draft will be shared with the CCB for discussion at the August meeting – Agenda item.

Tree Planting Team: Diana reported that the Team is working with the City’s Urban Forestry Program and Growing Friends; holding off temporarily due to the heat, watering restrictions?

Outreach & Education Committee: Liz reported that the Committee is working on a Communications Policy; looking into Community-based Social Marketing; Outreach opportunities. Facebook? Instagram? My Helena app? Setting up a calendar of events. Would CCB members be willing to sign up to post periodically – share the workload? Collaborate with City? Purpose to education and cross-pollinate with other groups e.g., Resilient Helena and Sleeping Giant Citizens Council (SGCC). Look for opportunities to build upon existing efforts. FB page: Zero Waste Helena.

Dannai advised working with City PIO Jake Garcin. Use BeHeard Helena. Emily Dean added that MyHelena app is being widely used and encourages us to work with the PIO. Jake is developing a Communications Plan for the City.

Water Committee: Val reported the Committee is working with the City to finalize the WaterWise Helena brochure ASAP; printing funded by the Lewis and Clark Water Quality Protection District. Editing workshop videos for posting; designing a WaterWise Garden Tour (virtual and in-person).

Waste & Recycling Committee: Denise reported a good meeting with St. Peter's Health's Environmental Services Division (Rose Frank and Bruce Tyler) re: opportunities for hospital waste (*not* medical waste) reduction. Working with Chris Caniglia. Include Liz Grant in future discussions.

Energy & Transportation Committee: Mark reported that they welcomed Patrick Judge as a new member. 😊 Welcome new members. Met last week re: status and priorities e.g, EV chargers, solar system, 50 kW solar system. Pursuing fleet electrification. Makenna reported re: SGCC and its 'Solarize' campaign. Working with Solar Montana for installations – lots of interest; Going very well.

Q: How much money remains in the City's revolving solar loan program? \$23,000 plus the new \$60,000 added in the FY22 Budget.

Emerging Issues/Other Business:

Makenna heard there is interest re: implementation of the 100% clean energy by 2030; opportunities for public engagement. Suggested that the CCB might take the lead (E & T Cmte).

Announcements:

Diana asked Board members to consider whether the 2nd Thursday at 4:30 pm is still a good time. Diana announced that she, Ann, and Denise would be meeting with the City Manager, the Director of Public Works and Ed Coleman next week, primarily re: waste reduction. Diana also announced that the WaterWise brochure will be shared with the CCB as soon as it's available.

Public Comment:

Diana invited anyone on the call, including the public, to share any other comments or questions they might have. There was no public comment.

Next Meeting:

Diana announced that the next regular CCB meeting will take place Thursday, August 12 at 4:30 pm in person and via Zoom. No plans for speakers; will discuss the draft letter recommending the CCB be extended. Please contact her with any agenda items and let her know if you cannot attend.

Adjourn:

With no further comment from the board, staff, or public, Diana adjourned the meeting at 6:01 pm.

Minutes prepared by Diana Hammer.