



**City of Helena  
Citizens Conservation Board  
November 16, 2023 – 4:30-6:00 PM**

**Zoom Online Meeting:**

**[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/Wc\\_dOxpCZaVs1Netd1jL5XLI2vsI2VGGvR2BKHiggSP2HWxOLw7qvfr7DH72UxNv.Smwrc6PrTGLOBcc1](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/Wc_dOxpCZaVs1Netd1jL5XLI2vsI2VGGvR2BKHiggSP2HWxOLw7qvfr7DH72UxNv.Smwrc6PrTGLOBcc1)**

**City-County Building, Room 426**

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

**(01:30:00)** The following responded present, either via zoom or in person:

Diana Hammer	Devon Malizia	
Mark Juedeman	Lori FitzGerald	Dick Sloan
Nora-Paige McFadden	Jason Selong	

Jackie Pierson  
Miranda Griffis  
Cora Helm (public)  
Jesse Theiran (public)

The following members were absent: none

**Minutes**

**(02:07:00)** A. Meeting Date: October 12, 2023

Approved unanimously

**Public Comment**

**(2:29)** none noted

## Special Presentation

**(02:45)** Diana introduced Denis Roth Barber, who is DEQ's Coordinator for the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant that the state received.

**(07:25-21:53)** Denise provided her presentation (slides attached). The key goal for the grant is to fund state plans that significantly reduce greenhouse gasses within a 5 year timeframe. State plans are due to the EPA by March 1 and implementation grant applications are due April 1. Any and all groups or individuals are encouraged to provide input via the DEQ's online survey by January 5, 2024.

The group had questions regarding public outreach that is happening, the potential for partial funding, opportunity for subawards, and what input has been received thus far. Miranda was asked if the city was planning to pursue any funding and she stated they were evaluating options internally at this time. Diana and Mark offered that the CCB could provide input to those ideas and support them during its presentation to the Commission in January, so collaboration between city staff and the CCB would be key prior to that presentation.

**(33:10)** Jesse Therien (member of public) introduced himself as a representative of Yellowstone Teton Clean Cities, which is funded in part by the Dept of Energy and covers MT, WY and ID. He reported that his group works on grants like these all the time and has many ideas to share, and would be willing to work on projects.

## Discussion

**(36:00)** Diana summarized that the CCB has a lot of work to do and many deadlines looming. Ideas for the PCAP due Jan 5, report to Commission due Jan 10, and multiple holidays in between. Lori suggested brainstorming, with a separate additional meeting to distill down our top 5 ideas. Diana asked for sustainability ideas from the group.

**(38:44)** Jesse Therien presented two ideas regarding transportation, namely keeping renewable diesel in the state, and incentivising semi companies to add aerodynamic wings to trailers.

**(46:45 - 51:25)** Mark shared a large list of ideas that have come out of the Energy Commission, namely E bike incentives, protected bike lanes, charging stations, EV fleet vehicles, electrifying buildings, funding zero interest loans for solar, conservation easements, and many others.

**(52:50)** Devon suggested looking at habitat restoration which could encompass many other topics (for example planting more native grasses, and resulting reduction in water use). She also mentioned the city's mobile water station for city events that Miranda is working on, to reduce water bottle purchases.

Other topics from the group included improvements in sprinkler systems and watering practices, lush and lean alternatives policy for city developments, rules on reduced vehicle idling in parking lots, ways to increase recycling.



Diana noted that it is difficult for the CCB to advise or provide valuable input to the Commission, without feedback from the city on what is important to them, or what they are working on. The group definitely wants to assist, but feels they are in an information vacuum. Members agreed that there are many obstacles to assisting the city with meeting its climate action goals, and that is frustrating.

Lori suggested that a Google poll be created, so that members can identify their top priorities and then those can be further discussed at a separate work meeting. Diana agreed to create this poll.

## Regular Items

(01:07:30)

### A. Unfinished business

1. Ten Mile Watershed presentation (Dick Sloan)  
Diana recommended that this presentation be placed on hold for now, due to time constraints. Dick will be prepared to present it at the January meeting
2. Update from the Integrated Solid Waste Master Plan group - Dick reviewed the recent survey results, but noted that the group is still in the process of finalizing the report.

The survey had a 11% response from the county and 9% response from the city. The committee's ultimate recommendation is for universal curbside recycling, using a single stream for the biggest diversion rate. More information is needed to assess shipping recycling out of state (as there are no processing facilities in Montana), versus building some local facilities. Best case would be to ship all of it to one facility and have them separate, but that is not likely cost effective

Diana will share the Steering Committee's recommendations with the CCB members, and encouraged any comments to be sent to Dick via email as soon as possible.



## **Updates from City Staff**

### **(01:16:33) A. Sustainability Audit**

Miranda reported that the SA will be conducted November 27 - 30. The city will require that the data be compiled and presented in March. Diana noted this will not be in time for the PCAP deadline and potential funding opportunities.

Mark noted that the City did not renew its ICLEI membership and asked if the city is looking for another company to monitor greenhouse gasses in the community, since the contract with Ickley has expired. Miranda reported that other companies were being looked at that should provide comparable data. Mark noted that for the city to meet their goal of 100% clean electricity by 2030, and its interim goal of 80% by 2025, this information is critical and will be needed.

Diana formally asked if the CCB could work with Public Works to advise on their climate action plans and funding opportunities. To accomplish this, members would likely need to meet with the City Manager to gain better direction.

**(01:25:30)**

### **B. Emerging Issues/New Business**



1. Members agreed we need to hold a special meeting to line out climate action priorities. It would be best to address those ideas that reduce emissions, and are ready to go. The dates of December 4 or 5 were considered as options.

### **Member Communications/Proposals for Next Agenda**

**(01:33:00)** Next regular meeting is December 14, 2023

An additional work meeting will be scheduled for December 4 or 5

Diana will create a Google poll document for the group's climate action priorities. She will share the waste survey report PPT, the national report link regarding climate action concerns.

Diana will request a meeting with the City Manager in an attempt to gain more information and give the CCB better direction on how to advise and assist the Commission.

Dick will provide a review of the Ten Mile Watershed project at the January meeting

### **Public Communications**



**(01:30:31)** Jesse Thenen commented that he was impressed with the City's Sustainability Report and reductions noted in that, and wished that other cities would evaluate their data similarly.

### **Announcements**

**(01:31:29)** None

### **Adjournment**

**(01:34:35)** There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 06:02 pm.