



**City of Helena  
Citizens Conservation Board  
October 12, 2023 – 4:30-6:00 PM**

**Zoom Online Meeting:**

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/vEssnMZhf9mZf6J9k91I9P\\_ws-7xc-lruqUXzksuUSfgn4a2e1mL5CMaW6GTNVKx.JjnIA9u3nt9FtvmI](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/vEssnMZhf9mZf6J9k91I9P_ws-7xc-lruqUXzksuUSfgn4a2e1mL5CMaW6GTNVKx.JjnIA9u3nt9FtvmI)

**City-County Building, Room 426**

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

**(06:20:00)** 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  
Leea Anderson  
Miranda Griffis

The following members were absent: none

**Minutes**

**(06:30:00)** A. Meeting Date: September 14, 2023

Approved unanimously (Mark moved, Jason seconded)

**Public Comment**

**(6:50)** no public present



## Announcements

**(6:55)** Diana shared that DEQ circulated a press release announcing that they received 3 million dollars from EPA for a preliminary climate action plan, and the grant coordinator selected was Denise Barber (former CCB officer). On 10/23 at 3PM, there will be a ZOOM public meeting for input and the process going forward. Their preliminary plan is due at the end of March, and their intention is to meet with larger cities for input. CCB should make recommendations to the City Commission and weigh in prior. The group agreed that it would be helpful to invite Denise to the November CCB meeting to do a brief presentation.

**(9:45)** Nora-Paige arrived and introductions were made. Miranda confirmed when each members' term is up, and who could reapply for the CCB.

**(16:20)** Diana announced that there is a monthly call folks can listen to, hosted by the Climate Smart group (coordinator is at MSU, and participants are from across the state). She will send a link to the group for these meetings.

**(18:37)** Diana offered the book "All We Can Save" as a recommended reading (collection of essays about Climate Action)

**(19:28)** Diana reminded the group that we still have 2 CCB openings with a deadline to apply o

f 10/16. Members should encourage good candidates to apply.

**(20:36)** Mark shared that AERO (alternative energy resource organization) which was started in 1974 is having their annual expo 10/20 and 21. They had previously focused on regenerative agriculture and have shifted recently to local food production.

Diana and Mark were previously involved in a local Food Assessment and how the city/state can be more self-sustaining in regards to food. Diana described the 6<sup>th</sup> ward community garden and the positive outcomes it has created.

## Updates from City Staff

### **(00:30:36) A. 2022 Sustainability Report**

Miranda presented her recent report and reviewed how the data was collected.

Positive information from the report was highlighted (goal average gallons per person used)

Members made comments about xeroscaping, watering responsibly, and education opportunities for the biggest commercial users (car wash by Lowes, hospital, Carroll



College, Centennial  
Park and pool).

Recommendations from the group need to go to the  
Commission first (re: commercial

permitting, rebates, change in sod usage for stabilization to native grass mats/plugs, etc)  
Average solid waste per person per day FY22 was 2.49lbs (less than national average of 4-5 lbs). Diana asked if we are meeting the city goal, and how we could track our efforts despite our many challenges of recycling in a large rural state. More education on looking upstream could help (don't buy plastic bottles, take your own bag to the store) and a grant to assist with this was applied for from EPA. Emissions were discussed and it was noted that the data in the current report is only for city operations vs the entire community. Mark pointed out the city has goals for emissions, not just operations, so the upcoming audit will not address that portion. Miranda agreed to see about getting additional data to track progress. The report is on the city website, with links to drill down into the full report and methodology.

## Regular Items

(01:07:00)

### A. Unfinished business

1. Developing CCB recommendations for the State's Preliminary Climate Action Plan

Diana recommended the group get started on ideas to present to the Commission in January.

2. Sustainability Plan Audit contractor review and selection

Miranda reported that the top 3 contractors were interviewed and the one selected due to budget was Iconology. She agreed to share their proposal with the group for review.

3. CCB Purpose Statement

Diana noted that the purpose statement was sent forward earlier in October and Miranda will check on its status

(01:16:00)

### B. Emerging Issues/New Business

1. City Water and Wastewater Rates



Diana inquired about the city's proposed increase in water and wastewater rates, and whether any of that could be used for incentives. Leea explained any

excess needs to go back into the pot of money where it was gained. She recommended looking elsewhere for incentive monies (like the Solar for All grant which comes out of the general fund, but has an extensive waiting list currently)

2. Re-creation of the City Landfill Monitoring District  
Diana shared that the city needs to continue to monitor methane from the landfill, and those newly annexed into the city have an opportunity to disagree with this re-creation.

**(01:29:58) C. Issue Reports**

1. Water Conservation - Devon  
Devon stated the group has been working on water reduction incentives such as xeroscaping and potential rebates for best water practices
2. Energy and Transportation - Mark  
No updates or report
3. Waste Reduction - Dick  
Solid Waste Reduction Group is still deliberating and only meeting with city staff this month. No updates



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

**(01:33:00)** Next meeting is November 9, 2023

The group agreed that Diana should invite the State's new Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Coordinator to the next meeting to present

Diana has complied last year's workplans from the CCB's fall retreat and will circulate those to the group for review and discussion at next meeting

Dick will provide a review of the Ten Mile Watershed project

## **Public Communications**

**(01:32:50)** None

## **Announcements**

**(01:32:15)** Diana encouraged interested members to work on other areas of waste. Dick suggested more education on how to handle waste in your home. Zero Waste Helena is a Facebook group that offers good tips in this area. Resilient Helena also provides this education on their site.

## **Adjournment**



# City of Helena

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