

**CITY OF MENASHA
SUSTAINABILITY BOARD
Third Floor Council Chambers
140 Main Street, Menasha**

**Tuesday, May 17, 2011
6:30 PM**

MINUTES

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 by Roger Kanitz.

B. ROLL CALL

1. **Present:** Becky Bauer (7:00), Chris Bohne, Roger Kanitz, Ed Kassel, Sadie Schroeder, Paul Van de Sand
2. **Excused:** Mike Dillon, Chairperson Linda Stoll, Kathy Thunes
3. **Also Present:** Principal Planner Amy Kester and Superintendent Tim Jacobson.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments.

D. MINUTES TO APPROVE

Paul Van de Sand made and Sadie Schroeder seconded a motion to approve the minutes from the March 15, 2011 Sustainability Board meeting. The motion passed.

E. COMMUNICATIONS

1. **Earth Week Flyer**
This communication was carried over from the last agenda.
2. **ECOS Fox Valley – Planning for Groundwater Resources**
Roger Kanitz included this communication regarding the June 2 ECOS meeting.

F. REPORTS

1. **One-2-Five Report**
Paul Van de Sand presented an overview and distributed handouts relating to the city's One-2-Five Report. The report was completed in December of 2010 and provided an analysis of the city's sustainability efforts. It was recommended that the analysis be conducted again in one year and that Paul present the report findings to the Common Council. The full report is available for review at the Community Development Department.

G. DISCUSSION

1. Propane Fuel Vehicles

Tim Jacobson presented a proposal to retrofit the city's vehicles to utilize twin tanks for both gasoline and propane fuels. Costs for retrofitting is estimated to be just under \$200,000, including 34 vehicles, fuel distribution tanks, and other upgrades and requirements. Propane fuel is cleaner, creates less pollution, has lower maintenance costs, and provides significant annual cost savings. It was recommended that Tim come back to the board with a written proposal which could be reviewed and recommended to the Common Council.

2. Urban Forestry Program

PP Kester distributed Menasha Utilities' tree planting program information. Board members discussed the city's tree planting program and the idea of incorporating fruit tree and native planting standards. It was agreed that staff will gather additional information and invite the City Forester to attend the next meeting.

3. Public Transportation

Roger Kanitz reported that he and Greg had met with downtown business owners and that there was interest in running a trolley for a special event. Roger also reported that he will be transitioning off of the Valley Transit Board through July 2.

4. Complete Streets

This item will be included on the next meeting agenda.

5. Hydropower and Charging Stations

Ed Kassel explained that he has been researching the feasibility of implementing a demonstration hydro-powered charging station for electric vehicles. Small generators are available that can be placed directly into the river stream and that are capable of powering a free-standing power station. Ed will continue research and bring back more information at the next meeting.

6. Urban Agriculture

This item will be included on the next meeting agenda.

H. ACTION ITEMS

1. Resolution in Support of Restoring Recycling Grants to the 2011-2013 Biennial Budget

Board members discussed the proposed recycling resolution sponsored by Mayor Merkes. There was discussion regarding privatization of recycling, market viability of recycled materials, and the city's need for state financial aid to operate its recycling program. Becky Bauer made and Sadie Schroeder seconded a motion to recommend approval of the resolution. The motion passed.

2. 2011-2012 Sustainability Plan

PP Kester explained that the plan document had been revised to reflect changes recommended by board members. Paul Van de Sand made and Chris Bohne seconded a motion to approve the 2011-2012 Sustainability Plan. The motion passed.

3. Farm Fresh Market Standards for Local Produce

Sadie Schroeder explained that some local farmers are being undersold by vendors buying produce at auction to sell at farm markets. She is investigating methods to ensure that vendors in the city's Farm Fresh Market actually operate their own local farms. Options include requiring self-certification on the application, providing proof of at least \$2 million in farm insurance, or requiring a site visit to the local farm. There was also discussion about hiring an intern to help manage the market. It was agreed that Sadie should talk further with Kristin Sewall who administers the city's market to determine how to best address the issues.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Paul Van de Sand made and Sadie Schroeder seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:20 pm. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Amy Kester, Principal Planner.