MEMBERS PRESENT: R. Jean Salk, Rob Tyser, Wayne Olson, Sara Sullivan, Dan Bagniewski
MEMBERS EXCUSED: Marilyn Pedretti, Dick Swantz, Diane Wulf
MEMBERS ABSENT: Sharon Hampson,
OTHERS PRESENT: Amy Peterson, Karl Green, Nick Nichols, Beth Piggush, Jacob LaRow, Glen Jenkins

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL
   Vice-Chair Sullivan called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM

2. PUBLIC COMMENT
   • Glen Jenkins, Coulee Partners for Sustainability is sponsoring a program called “Switch” at Viterbo University, University of Wisconsin – La Crosse and Western Technical College. The five-year old program has created a documentary highlighting the pluses and minuses of different forms of energy and how they will impact the future.

3. APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2013
   • MOTION by Salk/Tyser to approve the minutes of January 24, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

4. STAFF REPORTS / INFORMATIONAL UPDATES
   • La Crosse County Landfill Burn (Nichols) – The County is planning a 29 acre controlled burn at the Landfill with the intent to eliminate invasive species. No firm date has been set as the burn will largely depend on the weather. The Wisconsin Department of Transportation is being consulted on the potential effects of smoke on transit. The burn will be promoted as an educational piece that would involve interested parties such as the Solid Waste Department.
   • Nelson Institute Presentation, February 27, 2013 - @ University of Wisconsin – Madison (Nichols) – Nichols did a presentation on the Gundersen Lutheran Gas to Energy program. Other topics included a biodigester at the Oshkosh campus. The Oshkosh project utilizes state-of-the-art equipment from a German company, Biofirm that digests mostly food waste and some gas from the wastewater treatment plant.
   • Wisconsin Integrated Resource Management Conference, February 20 – 22 – Green Bay, WI (Nichols) – Nichols, along with Hank Koch and Randy Nedrelo attended. Koch and Nichols took a certification class on construction, demolition and recycling. The conference also included a tour of the state’s largest privately-owned farm that has incorporated aspects of sustainability such as having their own digester.
   • Legacy Communities Meeting (Peterson) – Peterson informed the Commission that the next Green Tier Legacy Communities Meeting will be in Bayside on March 25, 2013; if anyone on the Board is interested in attending, please contact her.

5. NWEI National Conference sponsorship – Glen Jenkins
   • July 18th – July 21st, 2013 the Northwest Earth Institute will hold their Biannual Conference at the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse. Coulee Partners for Sustainability is a sister
organization and they are seeking some help with financing in the amount of $1000.00 to help with costs in setting up field trips to local businesses, the landfill, and other locations. A venture capital group named Echoing Green offers money for big ideas that change the world will host a half-day workshop, among others. The main focus of the conference is on university students with an emphasis on community-based leadership and the idea that people don’t need a title to be leaders.

- **MOTION** by Tyser/Bagniewski to approve funding the Conference in the amount of $1000, if funding is available. **Motion carried unanimously.**
- Nichols will talk with Pedretti to see what funding may be available to the Commission. Peterson will research on the City side as well.

6. **Baseline Group update – Tyser/Salk**
   - Karl Green – Has data water use, gasoline use, etc, but there is a need to consolidate. Tyser will meet with Nate Patros, City Planning on March 1 in the afternoon to join the City and County indicator data. March 3 is the goal to get all the data together and uploaded, March 17 for a draft report and review and March 24 for completing the process.

7. **Partnering with Valley View Mall for Earth Week**
   - Nichols received an email from the marketing director of the mall indicating that they are looking forward to working with the Sustainable La Crosse Commission on Earth Week.

8. **Sustainable Week at City and County Buildings – Baseline Group**
   - Tyser discussed the idea of a poster demonstration that would be displayed in the lobby of City Hall with information pertaining to the building and its energy usage. The group does not have any charts of particular information lined up yet. Poster demonstrations would also be displayed at County buildings as well and Sustainable Week would most likely coincide with Earth Week.

9. **LMOP Award Update – Nichols**
   - Landfill Methane Outreach Program. The La Crosse County Landfill and Gundersen Heath System won a national LMOP award on January 30, 2013 for their “Gas to Energy” project from the EPA.

10. **Idle Policy – Nichols/Peterson**
    - Peterson identified the first step is to bring in City and County Department heads and some members of the Sustainable La Crosse Commission to discuss a policy. Possible outreach to the School District and then to the greater community could follow thereafter. The Commission was in support of moving forward and Hampson and Swantz will participate in the meeting.

11. **EPA Portfolio Manager Update - Peterson**
    - Beth Piggush has been imputing City Data from 2011 in to the EPA Portfolio in March and then will train Nate Patros on the program so he can input 2012 data. Piggush has been trying to determine what data is missing, holes in data or non-functioning data so the program can be up and running by summer. Ideally after the program is running that it can be used to talk to department heads about how useful it is to track energy use.
12. Update on Green Teams – Peterson/ Nichols
   • Peterson informed the Commission that the idea Green Teams will be discussed with the next mayor, as it is listed as an initiative of the mayor in the Sustainable La Crosse Plan.

13. Strategic Plan Update process – Nichols
   • Nichols mentioned that the Solid Waste Department has recent information, but the process is on hold until input from other departments is received.

14. Midwest Solar Consortium/ Letter of commitment – Peterson
   • The Wisconsin Department of Administration is applying for a Department of Energy “Sun Shot Grant” and is looking for local communities that are willing to participate. Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota would coordinate to build strong solar industry in the Midwest. Focus would be on improving the process for zoning, permitting and inspection of solar facilities including providing training on permitting, model zoning ordinances and solar ready checklists for developers and make connections with potential financial opportunities. The Department of Administration is looking for a letter of commitment from the City of La Crosse to work through this process and if funded attend at least one meeting on the grant and work with the Midwest Solar Consortium to determine the solar capacity within the community.
   • **MOTION** by Tyser/Salk to endorse the letter of commitment and deliver to the Mayor for his signature. **Motion carried unanimously.**

15. Sustainability in Theatre Set Design & Construction
   • Peterson was contacted by Beth Cherne with the Theatre Department at the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse. They are going to bring in a speaker to talk about sustainable set design and they are looking for financial support. No action was taken by the Commission on this item.

16. Future agenda item
   • Commission policy for giving money and discussion on funding sources/budget
   • Baseline report
   • Kwik Trip – Dave ring – LEED AP Discussion
   • Brewery Primary Methane – Jeff Ridge or Tom Thompson with Gundersen Lutheran
   • Letter of Congratulations for Summit Elementary for National Green Ribbon Schools award for environmental education.

17. Next Meeting: March 28, 2013

18. **Motion to adjourn** by Salk/Oliver. **Motion carried unanimously.** Vice-Chair Sullivan adjourned the meeting at 4:50 PM.

Approved