CALL TO ORDER
Mike Giese called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

APPROVE MINUTES OF MAY 19, 2015
MOTION by Tyser/Bertrand to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2015 meeting.
Motion carried unanimously with 1 excused – Rosa

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None

STAFF REPORTS/INFORMATIONAL UPDATES
Nick Nichols from Solid Waste reported on activities:
- The Solid Waste Annual Meeting was held on June 19, 2015 at the Landfill. The Landfill was ranked operationally as one of the top five landfills in the nation.
- Another half mile trail was constructed within the community forest. There is currently a mile trail and is not yet opened to the public. Hopefully it will be open to the public within the next 2-3 years.
- A bat survey was completed by Ben Johnson, Kickapoo Valley Reserve, on June 30, 2015.
- Nick Nichols was invited to be part of the new Biodiversity Group that was started in the area. Nick has asked the Executive Director of the group to attend our next meeting to give a presentation.
- The Landfill is hosting a Dirty Jobs Workshop. It will be held September 15, 2015 from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. You will learn all about what goes on at the Landfill.

Mike Giese indicated that Karl Green sent an email indicating that he’s on a family vacation this month and apologizes for not being in attendance.

CITY OF LACROSSE SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS REPORT STATUS
Mike Giese has been in communication with Amy Peterson from the City of La Crosse and she reported that the consultant who is preparing the report for the City would not be able to deliver a final report at this meeting because they have not heard back from Xcel Energy yet. Discussion ensued concerning the sustainability website and who maintains it. Chair Giese will follow-up and report to the committee. Chair Giese would also like to see the indicators, in a condensed report, presented to the legislative bodies in the community as well as the Onalaska City Council.

REPORT ON SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT’S XCEL ENERGY CONTRACT EXTENSION
Hank Koch, Director of the Solid Waste Department for La Crosse County, asked for the committee’s input concerning the La Crosse County Solid Waste System. The Solid Waste Department has a contract with Xcel for waste-to-energy that runs to 2023. Xcel has
approached Solid Waste to extend that contract to 2030. Koch highlighted the positive considerations as well as concerns as it relates to sustainability and would like to receive input from the Sustainability Commission on how the County of La Crosse proceeds. Solid Waste would like to give monthly informational updates on facts of the importance of waste-to-energy and how it will affect the system in the future. For the Sustainability La Crosse Commission as a whole to become informed and engaged in the process, the following is to be considered:

- In September/October timeframe, Solid Waste would hold a ½ day workshop where a national speaker would explain what waste-to-energy is.
- Attend various meetings concerning waste-to-energy.
- Receive an evaluation of the La Crosse County facility.
- Conduct a tour of the La Crosse County facility.

Maureen Freedland was present as a County Board Member, Chair of the Public Works & Infrastructure (oversight committee for the Landfill), and the Vice-Chair of the Solid Waste Policy Board. She oversees the contract negotiations as they proceed. She has received information on air emissions and welcomes anyone who is interested to sit down and go over the information that she has and ask questions that they may have. Discussion ensued and the committee asked Koch to keep them informed of meetings that would be helpful to better educate them on the subject.

**MATTRESS RECYCLING 7 RIVERS RECYCLING – BRIAN TIPPETTS**

La Crosse County initiated a pilot recycling program for handling mattresses. Hilltoppers and 7 Rivers Recycling have been recycling the mattresses. Brian Tippetts from 7 Rivers Recycling attended the Solid Waste Policy Board asking them to continue the program. Hank Koch is hoping to include this program in his 2016 budget. Tippetts asked for the Commission’s support in continuing the program as a sustainability issue. Hank Koch indicated that the pilot program was discussed at the Solid Waste Policy Board and got their consensus to propose in the 2015 budget that they will take all mattresses for recycling and there will be a $15-$20 charge for every mattress. The goal is to get enough money from the program to offset what it costs to have the mattresses recycled.

**MEETING SCHEDULE/NEXT MEETING DATE:** September 17, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**
- STARS Indicators Status Report
- Xcel Energy on Community Solar Gardens
- La Crosse Biodiversity Group

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** by Dorothy Lenard to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 p.m. **Motion carried unanimously with 1 excused – Rosa**

Approved September 17, 2015, Alice Sorenson, Recorder