LA CROSSE COUNTY & CITY OF LA CROSSE
NOTICE OF MEETING

COMMITTEE OR BOARD: SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION

DATE OF MEETING: THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2019

MEETING PLACE: COUNTY ADMIN CENTER, CONF ROOM 0430
212 6th STREET N, LA CROSSE, WI 54601

TIME OF MEETING: 4:30 P.M.

PURPOSE OF MEETING: AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call/Introductions
2. Approve Minutes of March 21, 2019
3. Public Comment
4. Reports/Informational Updates:
5. Discussion on Attendance – Rick Cornforth
6. Sustainable La Crosse Commission Vacancy for Community County Representation – Rick Cornforth
7. Update on Strategic Plan Rewrite – Nick Nichols/Charlie Handy
8. Discussion on Clean Energy Program to Follow Meeting – Cathy VanMaren
9. Discussion on May Water Program for May 16, 2019 – Cynthia Shireman
10. Next Meeting: May 16, 2019, 4:30 p.m.
11. Future Agenda Items
12. Adjourn

NEWS MEDIA
La Crosse Tribune
Other Media

OTHERS (Email)
Maureen Freedland
Alysa Remsburg
Brian Tippetts
Emily Johnson
Jackie Eastwood
Jim Bagniewski
Karen Acker
Karl Green
Margot Higgins
Matt Harter
Casey Meehan
Melissa Erdman
Pat Wilson
Teri Lehrke
Dorothy Lenard

DEPARTMENTS / STAFF
County Board Chair
County Administrator
County Clerk
Facilities
Nick Nichols – County
Lewis Kuhlman - City

COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Rick Cornforth-County Elected
Mike Giese-County Elected
Cynthia Shireman-Healthcare
Rick Diermeier-Business
Justice Weaver-City Elected
Cathy VanMaren-City Community
Kim Smith-City Onalaska Elected
Carolyn Jenkins-City Education
Vacant-Community County

PUBLIC COMMENT: The Committee may receive information from the public, but the Committee reserves the right to limit the time that the public may comment and the degree to which members of the public may participate in the meeting.

MEMBERS: If unable to attend, call Alice Sorenson at 785-9563. PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES: If you need accommodations to attend this meeting, please call 785-9563 as soon as possible.

DATE POSTED: April 12, 2019
SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION  
Thursday, March 21, 2019  
Administrative Center, Conference Room 1107, 212 6th St. No  
La Crosse, WI  
4:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Rick Cornforth, Mike Giese, Cathy Van Maren, Kim Smith, Rick Diermeier, Carolyn Jenkins  
MEMBERS EXCUSED: Cinthia Shireman  
MEMBERS ABSENT: Justice Weaver  
OTHERS PRESENT: Nick Nichols, Lewis Kuhlman, Dorothy Leonard, Alice Sorenson

CALL TO ORDER  
Chair Rick Cornforth called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 21, 2019 SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION:  
MOTION by Smith/Diermeier to approve the minutes of February 21, 2019. Motion carried with one excused – Shireman; one absent - Weaver.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

REPORTS/INFORMATIONAL UPDATES:  
• BABCOCK GENETICS HEARING MARCH 14TH TOWN OF HOLLAND TOWN HALL – MIKE GIESE  
Supervisor Mike Giese summarized the March 14th public hearing that was held at the Village of Holmen Town Hall related to the reissuance of the Babcock Genetics Pollution Discharge Permit. For more than three years now there has been an exceedance in the nitrate levels in the monitoring wells for Babcock Genetics. Back in December 2018, it was learned that upon the DNR doing a draft of the renewal document, they preliminarily found that Babcock Genetics was in substantial compliance and their recommendation was to renew their permit. A special meeting of the Health & Human Services Board will be held tomorrow, Friday, March 22, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. to review provisions of public comment for the DNR Pollution Discharge Permit concerning Babcock Genetics and the Board will decide how to respond to it. Per Wis Statute 203.136(30)(c), anyone has the right to petition for termination if there is an effect on public health. Supervisor Giese will present a draft letter to the Board that advocates to exercise the clause to petition for a rejection of the renewal of the permit and if the permit is not terminated, the following is recommended:  
  o Limit the animal units to less than 1,500 (currently there are 3,400+ animal units).  
  o Require reporting of monitoring well data four times per year and that the DNR provide the data to the La Crosse County Health Department.  
  o Additional ground water monitoring.  
  o Evaluation of permanent manure storage and transfer facilities.  
• Nick Nichols updated on the collection and recycling of ag bags by Revolution Plastics. They have been collecting material in La Crosse, Houston, Trempealeau, Wabasha, and Buffalo Counties. In 2018 they collected over 1.1 million pounds of material.
SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION
Thursday, March 21, 2019
Page Two

• **WEBSITE – CATHY VAN MAREN**
  Cathy Van Maren indicated that the updates for the County Website are ready for publishing. A work order has been submitted to IT. The Volunteer Sustainability Living and ‘I am Sustainable’ Education Resources Site currently has students working on them.

**READY FOR 100 RESOLUTION**
The final draft of the Ready for 100 Resolution was distributed. Once approved by the Commission, it will go to the La Crosse County City Council for their review. **MOTION** by Giese/Jenkins to approve and endorse the Resolution and recommend its adoption by the City of La Crosse. **Motion carried with one excused – Shireman; one absent - Weaver.**

**MOTION TO APPROVE: STRATEGIC PLAN REWRITE, TIMING, FUNDING, COODINATION**
Charlie Handy and Nick Nichols gave a presentation to the Council last month on the Strategic Plan. The Plan is over ten years and needs to be updated. **MOTION** by Giese/VanMaren that the City and County commence the updating of the Strategic Plan for Sustainability. Lewis Kuhlman, City of La Crosse, indicated that it is important for someone in the County to be present at the appropriate City meetings to make sure the budgeted $50,000 stays in the capital budget for 2020. **Motion carried unanimously with one excused – Shireman; one absent - Weaver.**

**WATER COMMITTEE REPORT – CINTHIA SHIREMAN – DATES/TIMES/LOCATIONS FOR PUBLIC FORUM:**
Rick Diermeier updated on the Water Committee in Cinthia’s absence. Ideas for Public Forum topics are:
- Have a speaker talking about the phosphorous trading (case study type).
- Jen Rombalski, La Crosse County Health Director, on the nitrate water issue.
- Open discussion following.
- Held on May 16, 2019 at 5:30-6:30 p.m. (Business meeting will be 4:30-5:15 p.m.)

**ENERGY COMMITTEE REPORT – CATHY VAN MAREN – DATES/TIMES/LOCATIONS FOR PUBLIC FORUMS:**
Cathy Van Maren updated on ideas for Public Forum topics:
- Planning a forum of 3 or 4 panelists on Sustainable Energy in La Crosse - Where were we, where are we now, and where do we want to go?
- Possible speakers:
  - Anders Olson - Indicators Report
  - Casey Meehan – WTC Sustainability Institute/Empower Program
SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION  
Thursday, March 21, 2019  
Page Three

  - Center on WI Strategies – Speaking about the benefits to Wisconsin if we went to 100% in state generated renewable energy.
  - Kate Beaton – Council Member in Eau Claire who recently passed a Ready for 100 Resolution.

REVIEW CODE OF ETHICS:
All Commission members read, understand and are comfortable with the City of La Crosse Code of Ethics.

NEXT MEETING DATE: April 18, 2019, 4:30 p.m. with Public Forum following.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:
- Ready for 100 Update
- Vacancy on the Commission

ADJOURNMENT
MOTION by Giese/Smith to adjourn. Motion carried with one excused – Shireman; one absent - Weaver.

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Disclaimer: This report may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting. Alice Sorenson, Recorder