LA CROSSE COUNTY & CITY OF LA CROSSE
NOTICE OF MEETING

COMMITTEE OR BOARD: SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION

DATE OF MEETING: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

MEETING PLACE: COUNTY ADMIN CENTER, CONF ROOM 1107
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. Public Comment
3. Approve Minutes of August 22, 2019
4. Reports/Informational Updates
5. Ready for 100 Resolution
6. Strategic Plan Re-Write
7. SMART Bus Electric Buses Implementation
8. Next Meeting: October 17, 2019, 4:30 p.m.
9. Future Agenda Items
10. 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
Cinthia Shireman-Healthcare
Rick Diermeier-Business
Larry Sleznikow-City Elected
Cathy Van Maren-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: September 18, 2019
CALL TO ORDER
Acting Chair Mike Giese called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JULY 18, 2019 SUSTAINABLE LA CROSSE COMMISSION:
MOTION by Smith/Van Maren to approve the minutes of July 18, 2019. Motion carried with three excused – Cornforth/Diermeier/Shireman.

REPORTS/INFORMATIONAL UPDATES:
• Nick Nichols updated on the following:
  o Governor Tony Evers signed an Executive Order relating to Clean Energy in Wisconsin by instructing the Department of Administration to create an Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy. This office, in partnership with other state agencies and state utilities, will achieve a goal of ensuring all electricity contained within the State of Wisconsin is 100 percent carbon-free by 2050.
  o Olson Solar Energy is having a Grand Opening Celebration, Saturday, August 24, 2019, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., 1009 Riders Club Road.
  o An Electric Vehicle Ride and Drive Event – Trends, planning considerations, and funding resources to get on the fuel efficiency fast track will be held Wed, September 11, 2019, 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Radisson Hotel La Crosse.
  o The Inspiring Sustainability Awards are being sponsored by the Western Sustainability Institute, Tuesday, September 24, 2019, 4:30 – 6:00 p.m., at Western’s Lunda Center. Superior Fresh, the industry leading aquaponics facility specializing in leafy greens, Atlantic salmon, and Steelhead, will be recognized.
• Charlie Handy updated on the following:
  o The County is continuing their application for SolSmart Certification. If you go to the County’s Solid Waste website, there is a SolSmart tab on the bottom right and that is meant to specifically help those applying for permits to put solar on their homes. The County does not do permitting. It is done by each municipality. La Crosse County expects to get SolSmart Bronze Certification in 2019 and then go for further certification.
  o A meeting is scheduled next Thursday, August 29, 2019 with Phoenix Motors out of California, who is acting as the Administrator for the
SMRT Bus, along with the State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation (Transit Section), Xcel Energy, and La Crosse County. La Crosse County was awarded two mid-sized electric buses (24 passenger). Phoenix Motors has looked at the routes and will be giving the county a design of where these two buses could work. Two charging stations will accompany the buses along with infrastructure. The county has requested that Phoenix Motors put a universal charging connector on the bus so that the charging stations can be for anyone. Financial help will be needed for the local match.

AUTHORIZATION TO SURVEY ALL DEPARTMENTS ON THE STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE – CHARLIE HANDY AND NICK NICHOLS
Charlie Handy corrected the wording of this agenda item clarifying that the request to survey all departments on the Strategic Plan update goes to Steve O’Malley, County Administrator, and he authorizes it. This is strictly a work item for the Sustainability Commission.

Nick Nichols and Charlie Handy have discussed going through the Strategic Plan to identify each of the Department’s goals/tasks and list the actions that have been taken as well as create a list of questions for more information. A sample document was passed around for review covering the Facilities Department’s action items.

DISCUSS COUNTY READY FOR 100 RESOLUTION
Charlie Handy explained the process for drafting and adopting a resolution at the County level as follows:
• Rough draft created by the Sustainable Commission.
• Rough draft then goes to Corporation Counsel for final revision.
• Final resolution is placed on the Planning, Resources & Development (PRD) Committee agenda for approval (Sustainable Commission reports to PRD).
• Once approved by PRD, the resolution goes to the full County Board for final approval.

Handy explained that the Ready for 100 draft resolution was created using the resolution that Lewis Kuhlman, City of La Crosse, created and was adopted by the City, as well as the resolution that Eau Claire County adopted, and created the draft that’s before the Commission for review. Supervisor Giese asked for any observations, corrections, additions, or comments on the draft. Discussion ensued with the following suggested changes and additional WHEREAS clauses to the draft:
1. Change the last BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED clause to a FISCAL NOTE including $25,000 in the 2020 budget for sustainability planning and projects.
2. Emphasis on the Sustainable La Crosse Commission’s savings in past years (Nick Nichols will draft the WHEREAS clause).
3. Make reference to Governor Evers’ Executive Order #38.

MOTION by Sleznikow/Smith to recommend that the Commission approve this resolution as amended and that it be referred to the Planning, Resources & Development Committee with a request that the resolution go to the full County Board for final approval. Motion carried with three excused – Cornforth/Diermeier/Shireman.

NEXT MEETING DATE: September 19, 2019, 4:30 p.m.
FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:
- Possible presentation in October from Clean Wisconsin for a ban on coal tar based asphalt sealants.
- Xcel Energy presentation on electric SMRT buses/sustainable energy.

ADJOURNMENT
MOTION by Sleznikow/Jenkins to adjourn. Motion carried with three excused – Cornforth/Diermeier/Shireman.

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.
Resolution adopting sustainability goals transitioning to carbon neutrality and 100% renewable energy by 2050.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, local climate change impacts will likely continue to include excessive flooding, worsening heat waves, increasingly severe and more frequent droughts, diebacks of native tree species, reduced winter sports opportunities, increased presence of algal blooms on area lakes and ponds, and loss of suitable trout stream habitat in Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has determined limiting the increase in global average temperatures to 1.5°C (2.7°F) above pre-industrial levels to be the best feasible scenario in managing climate change impacts (such as extreme weather events and sea level rise) that threaten public safety, infrastructure, private property, and economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, essential goals toward staying under 1.5°C locally would include carbon neutrality and 100% of energy coming from renewable sources by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the February 4, 2019 The Center Council on Wisconsin Strategies report, “Wisconsin Opportunity in Domestic Energy Production: The Economic and Health Benefits of 100% In-State Energy Production,” concludes that producing 100% of the state’s energy needs by instate renewable sources would result in a statewide economic benefit of more than $28 billion plus addition of more than 160,000 jobs and social, environmental, and health benefits of decreased pollution and carbon emissions; and

WHEREAS, these recommendations align with the County Board’s core value of “judicious investment in public resources and protection of natural and cultural resources”; and

WHEREAS, Governor Evers has signed Executive Order #38 in August of 2019 relating to Clean Energy in Wisconsin, and

WHEREAS, these recommendations superseded the County’s 2009 Strategic Plan for Sustainability commitment of 25% renewable electricity and transportation fuels by 2025; and

WHEREAS, The City of La Crosse passed a 100% Renewable Energy and Carbon Neutrality Resolution in July 2019 to achieve these goals locally, and

WHEREAS, the County envisions a climate and energy planning process that will reflect community values and promote stakeholder participation to develop low-carbon means to reach these goals. Stakeholders include residents, low-income and minority populations, large and small businesses, local utilities, the educational community, institutions, the building and construction sector, transportation providers, waste companies and many others; and

WHEREAS, the process to achieve these ambitious goals represents a journey that needs to be realistic and sensitive to unintended impacts. Careful and ongoing planning is necessary to understand what is practical in the short term while emphasizing efforts in the mid and long-term target ranges, where technological advancements occur and costs decline;

WHEREAS, Wisconsin pays an estimated $14 billion dollars to states with fossil fuel resources and is last in per capita workforce in the clean energy economy in Midwestern States. Pursuing these goals
will reduce monetary flows out of state, recycle dollars in the local economy, spur local economic
development and create jobs; and,

WHEREAS, La Crosse County has documented within the annual sustainability indicators report
a budget savings of more than $1.45 million dollars within County budgets by implementing sustainable
practices as discussed above.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the La Crosse County Board, that it adopts the following sustainability goals:

1) Achieve municipality and community carbon neutrality by 2050 with incremental drawdown targets of 5% by 2020, 20% by 2025, 30% by 2030, 45% by 2035, 60% by 2040, 80% by 2045, and 100% by 2050.

2) Obtain 100% renewable energy by 2050 for the municipality and County, utilizing all available economic incentives and technical assistance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a 2015 greenhouse gas baseline will be used to evaluate progress.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that La Crosse County will continue to collaborate with the sustainable La Crosse Commission, PACE Wisconsin, UWL, Western, Viterbo, La Crosse County Schools, and all County Municipalities and encourage participation, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County will undertake planning and action initiatives to assist the municipalities and communities in achieving these sustainability goals. County staff will provide a status report to the County Board on each of the above target dates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that La Crosse County will continue to evaluate and incorporate new sustainable technologies and practices into future management decisions, purchases and construction projects, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED FISCAL NOTE that La Crosse County will propose inserting $25,000 in the 2020 budget for sustainability planning and projects.

Should we also include:

- Green Tier resolution
- Purchasing resolution
- Others?