

Energy and Environment Subcommittee

September 17, 2021
10:00 – 12:00
200 College Room 310

Attendees: Sybil Tate, Michael Frue, Nate Pennington, Jeremiah LeRoy, Ashley Featherstone, Mike Mace, Jennifer Harrison, Terri Wells, Brownie Newman, Parker Sloan, Lena Hanson, Maggie Ullman, Meg Jamison

10:05 – Meeting called to order

No public has joined, no public comment

Introductions

Bylaws

- Terms will be 2 terms of 3 years each.
- Discussed the “appearance of conflict.” Change was suggested to be more direct and explain what a conflict actually is.

Top 5 Priorities Presentation

- Water Quality – We need to identify the gaps in our services. How can the County engage?
 - Water Quality Task Force – get all of the county partners together to holistically discuss our key water quality challenges and put together a plan to address them
- Open Space and Conserved Lands – How are we going to get to 30% conserved? Comp Plan will help set the goals based on what the residents want to see. Do we have the same goal of 30%?
 - Need to center people into our environmental goals
- Climate Resiliency – Send the LOS assessment document to the committee.
 - Hope the County will issue a Climate Resilience Plan to highlight our opportunities for preparedness – We are, through the Comp Plan and the Land of Sky Regional Resilience Assessment
 - This subcommittee is not taking on things like transportation, zoning/land use policies as its core duty. Of course some of our discussions will include these issues
- Renewable Transition
 - Revolving energy fund – we had one but we got rid of it. Should explore bringing it back
 - Would like a tour of the Woodfin solar facility when it gets going for this group (groundbreaking ceremony)
 - How are we addressing the increase in electricity usage with all of the EVs? This is something that will be address next fiscal year in the plan. There are many opportunities for creative solutions to this
- Clean Energy Financing will be at next meeting

Solar RFP

- CIP this year has 2 projects: library and firing range
- Partnering with Black Mountain, COA and UNCA to piggyback on our purchasing
- Partnering with the schools
- Have cash in the budget approved for our 2 projects so we are not asking for financing
- Brownie shared a potential resolution to say round one RFP was great but there are more opportunities with our public schools
- Sustainability is a department of one. When are we going to have a conversation of expanding those resources to help carry this load?
 - There is a plan to ask for a position in FY23 – should perhaps ask for 2 – there are benefits to contracting some of the work
 - General Services added a staff position to assist with the construction and maintenance phases of these projects
- There are a significant number of schools that heat with natural gas. Not aware of push for electrification of buildings. Need to create a strategy to get schools electrified. “Take measures to power schools with 100% renewable energy” Should be a separate action
- Motion to approve the resolution: Terri Wells, second – Maggie Ullman; motion passed unanimously on vote

Make PACE discussion an item on next meeting’s agenda

Reviewed the resolution discussed at last meeting around supporting EV policy

- Is asking the Commission to approve two resolutions too much?
- The Commission is aware of this current policy
- Motion to approve the resolution: Terri Wells, Second: Meg Jamison; motion passed on unanimous vote
- Next briefing meeting both resolutions will be discussed
- October 5th Commission Meeting agenda will offer Solar RFP for vote

Motion to adjourn: Maggie Ullman, second: Terri Wells

Next meeting agenda

- Finish Clean Energy Financing
- PACE discussion