

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
December 12, 2006, 11 A.M. – 12 P.M.
MSCS Conference Room 4
Meeting Minutes

ATTENDING MEMBERS:

Mark Armstrong	Gi-Jo Gim
Steve Brady	Susan Gorin
Hanna Byun	Frank Kasimov
Chris Carrieri	Sam Pierce
Dave Erickson	Jane Rozga
Barbara Firestone	Peter Stanley
Michelle Gervais	Dell Tredinnick
Joy Gibson	Tasha Wright

Introductions: Dell Tredinnick welcomed Gi-Jo Gim, our guest chemical engineer from Korea, and introduced Hanna Byun, who will be translating complex local, state, and federal Environmental regulations from English to Korean.

Communication Outreach: Dell stated that Ben Chaqui, representing a local architectural firm, has submitted an application for Green Building certification for a project at 620 3rd Street in Santa Rosa. He also discussed Mead Clarks successes at making FSC lumbar available to local builders.

Purchasing Policy Update: Dell discussed the implementation of the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing (EPP) Policy test program at the Garage. Dell and the Project Manager Team met with the managers who do the buying and the workers there that use the very large variety of products. The policy is now very comprehensive: the Garage is making good environmental choices and changing things where they can. They have found that synthetic transmission fluid has a longer life and is cheaper in the long term, and are reducing plastic waste. The goal is that the impact of large voluntary changes in buying will be vendors supplying us with the products that we want and the subsequent benefits to the community. Dell stated that there have been many requests for the policy in its draft form.

Green Building Updates: Dell announced that he is the Regional Build It Green Public Agency Council (BIG PAC) Chair. He stated that he attended Green Building 2006 in Denver recently. Dell said that green building has taken off: last year eight thousand attended and fourteen thousand this year, the eighth session of this annual event.

Climate Protection Campaign's Citywide Energy Study Update: Dave Erickson explained that there are five sections to study in the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory, and that the major emissions are from the water/wastewater sector, principally the Laguna Treatment Plant. Analysis revealed many opportunities to reduce emissions in order to reach the target of 20% below emissions in 2000 by 2010. He said that there will be a presentation on January 18th to the Board of Public Utilities. He added that the greatest way to reduce GHG emissions is to reduce demand for water: the focus will be on the demand side.

Utilities Greenhouse Gas Study: Dave Erickson discussed the Executive Summary, a statement of the results of the study done by the CPC for the Utilities Department. He stated that the addition of the Geysers Operations Center, energy use increased 20%. Dave stated that the GHG emissions are included in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in the General Plan.

Citywide Creek Master Plan Update: Steve Brady stated that the Citywide Creek Master Plan has been out since the beginning of November. There are 90 miles of Creeks in Santa Rosa and that the mission is to preserve areas around creeks and to restore trails. The public review period extends from November 9, 2006 to January 9, 2007. He invited everyone to visit the Public Works website, and said that input is welcome and absolutely critical to the success of the Master Plan

Chicago Climate Exchanges: Chris Carrieri discussed the Chicago Climate Exchange, a voluntary, legally binding commitment to reduction of greenhouse gasses. The Exchange is centered in Illinois and was started by Chicago Foundation money. Phase two, a six percent reduction of emissions below baseline, begins in 2007 and extends thru 2010 and is a key opportunity for large businesses. They can compete better by selling credits when they exceed their commitment and purchasing credits to meet goals. Jane Rozga recommended that the committee take a look at where the City stands and define its opportunities. Dave suggested waiting for a drop in membership fees. Steve Brady stated that following the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLIE) program is advisable. Dell added that watching all regulatory bodies that govern emissions is a good course of action.

P.G.E. Billing Issues: Tasha Wright explained that the City's energy accounts are in disarray. Each Department needs to know its consumption in order to reduce it. Tasha is monitoring our accounts and working with Robin at PG&E, Cliff in Information Systems, and Accounts Payable: they will be using the standard format of Web Wizard to streamline the process.

Kiosk Update: Dell stated that the kiosk is up in the anteroom of the Municipal Services Center South lobby. It is now possible to see what the solar arrays are producing. He said that one of the goals is to have a link to all of the arrays.

Announcements:

Rohnert Park Green Building Ordinance: Chris Carrieri stated that the City of Rohnert Park Green Building Ordinance will be presented at a 2nd public hearing before the Planning Commission and before the City Council at the beginning of the year.

Environmental Focus: Susan Gorin announced that she has been assigned to the Environmental Committee.

Climate Action Plan: Dave Erickson said that the City now needs a complete Climate Action Plan, that includes Parks, pumps, the Public Works fleet, and City buses.

Biodiesel Grant: Dell discussed the grant opportunity for the City's production of biodiesel. He stated that the project includes a public/ private partnership to do the production and collection of algae, and mixing of the biofuel for use in the City fleet.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: January 8, 2007 from 11:00 A.M. to noon at MSCS in Conference Room 4.