

## MINUTES

Juneau Commission on Sustainability  
Saturday, January 25, 2014, 9:00 am  
Assembly Chambers

Jenni Lefing, Duff Mitchell, Darrell Wetherall, Amy Skilbred, Bob Deering, Lisa Weissler, Steve Behnke, Ben Haight, Lauren Heine and Kate Bevegni via phone. Jenni Lefing kept the minutes.

Others Present: Beth McKibben

Public: Scott Willis, AELP; Todd Bailey, SEACC Energy Coordinator

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Steve Behnke called the meeting to order at 9:12 am.

### II. AGENDA CHANGES

Discuss elections at end of meeting

### III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

#### **Scott Willis, AELP**

- Scott Willis, AELP presented information to provide background on a letter that was developed and discussed at the last JCOS meeting on adding power to the cruise ship dock system.
- He presented the Juneau Annual Load Forecast from AELP for 2013-2014, and noted that AELP is a hydro-based facility. He explained that the front load is the energy used by normal electric utility customers and that's where AELP main commitment lies, and that the goal is to make sure rates are as low as possible for firm load customers.
- He noted that AELP is studying the feasibility for rebuilding the Sheep Creek facility out the road- it's a small amount- would cover low growth for 2-3 years.
- Amy asked if AELP buys power. Scott replied yes and now, as one of the fundamental principles is to keep rates as low as possible. So if AELP buys someone's wind generation and causes us to lower our hydro, would cause us to increase rates.
- Todd Bailey, public member, asked, "Would you allow people to use the grid as a buffer so that they could put a pb ray on?"
- Scott said yes, and that at least two buildings in town that have small wind generation- NOAA and Coast Guard- that wind they generate is just lower their demand from utility.
- It was asked if banks look more favorably on cruise ships than mines. Scott said possibly- but cruise ships come and go away, and looking at a small amount of energy
- Amy stated that thee cruise ship docks are being reconstructed this year, so why not encourage them to put in electric power ... the upfront cost is probably less.
- AELP stated that the drawback is they would have to spend \$3 to 4 million for infrastructure and it may not to be used for 10 years, and could this money be used elsewhere? AELP recommends doing things- such as setting up conduit so don't have to cut up road, but not to spend money on something that wouldn't be used for 10 years.

- Bob asked what's driving your load growth?
- Scott said that general economic growth in Juneau, such as people who move to town, and new businesses.
- Bob noted that looking at other measures for reducing demand through promoting efficiency
- Ben asked what is capacity for transmission? Scott said that Snettisham has capacity for Dorothy Lake and Dorothy 2.
- Darryl stated that two cruise ships could be added today and [AEL could] meet demand, and if look to future we have talked about adding a third line- but that's a 10 year outlook.
- Scott noted that all shore power is contractually committed at this time.
- Scott will email slide to Beth to share with JCOS, and JOCS will talk about how to proceed, and may ask him to come back. Scott noted that he was happy to come back.

#### IV. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Schedule Energy Subcommittee meeting - Tuesday Jan 28 at 12 pm.

#### V. INFORMATION ITEMS

##### A. Focus for 2014

- Steve noted that JCOS has some overarching guidance (Comprehensive Plan and JCAP), but as a practical matter, we have done a variety of things over the years- from Food festival with JEDC to electric vehicles in 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade to tackling sustainability indicators. Being that JOCS is made up of volunteers and meets once a month, it makes sense to pick a couple of things to focus on.
- Each JOCS member stated what areas, from the below ideas that were sent to Beth before the retreat that JOCS should focus on this year.
  - Energy Plan –advice assistance (steering committee?).
  - *Update Sustainability Chapter in Comprehensive Plan*
  - *Accountability - checking how CBJ is auditing/measuring progress on current sustainability resolutions/plans, is there an inbuilt system to embed sustainability into CBJ current processes and know if CBJ is achieving what it states it is trying to achieve on paper. Sustainability checks should be incorporated into the CIP budgetary process as standard procedure.*
  - *Sustainability Role - CBJ should have someone who is paid to champion sustainability and start to get an Environmental Management System or at least an auditing system put in place in CBJ. An EMS is documented system to measure and manage environmental issues in an organization.*
  - *Better sustainability standards for new and existing buildings - Better sustainability standards for new and existing buildings based on independent certified building rating systems should be mandatory for CBJ buildings. The current standard is just aiming for LEED certified for new buildings.*
  - *Solid waste - discuss information gathered so far this year and discuss where we go from here on the solid waste issue.*
  - *Transport Emissions - is Juneau making any progress on reducing transport emissions - can CBJ/State start employee shuttles to reduce commuting emissions?*
  - *Advocacy and support for energy efficiency in CBJ building and operations. I think lots of CBJ staff are sympathetic and fairly well tuned in to these*

*issues, but they could be giving them a higher priority. How can we help support and encourage them? The Climate Action Plan has some specific recommendations.*

- *Do more reaching out to the public, finding out who is doing good stuff to promote sustainability in Juneau, sharing success stories and information.*
- *At least one new hand's on, fun project to promote sustainability, like EV's in the parade.*
- *Focusing on reducing cruise ship impacts by having them draw electricity tied to high altitude hydro.*
- *Consider the value of drawing energy from energy barges that could be used as energy sources in smaller communities when the cruise ships are not running.*
- *It is feasible to integrate centralized power with waste to energy to address limited landfill space in Juneau while also increasing recycling.*
- *"Green procurement" by City government can send a good signal in a community. I don't know if Juneau has a green procurement initiative but there are numerous examples we could pull from to encourage purchasing of greener chemical products (cleaning), energy efficient electronics, products without known hazardous chemicals, etc.*
- *Food sustainability in Juneau and the southeast area.*

JCOS member recommendations from the above suggestions:

- Bob stated that since the energy plan contract is in motion, (energy committee did a Scope of Work), that JCOS should focus on the Energy Plan to completion, and remain a committee.
- Amy stated that the assembly came up with 16 goals and one specific in relation to waste management, so that should be a focus.
- Bob added that a focus should be on the Sustainability Chapter in Comprehensive Plan Update.
- Jenni agreed with these three areas especially since the Comprehensive Plan seems to be more of a guiding principle to CBJ, over JCAP, so focusing on the sustainability chapter, and other sustainability pieces for JCAP. In addition, energy and solid waste are areas that JCOS started, but haven't finished.
- Lisa also agreed with these three areas, as they seem to capture all of the ideas that were sent in.
- Beth noted that there are sustainability principles throughout the entire comprehensive plan, so sustainability chapter can be used where they fit into rest of plan.
- Ben agreed that the energy plan needs to be finished and solid waste is area that we have to address and present back to assembly. He noted that sustainability is something that is pervasive throughout comprehensive plan.
- Steve stated that its not going to be up to JCOS on how the comprehensive plan is going to proceed, but JCOS can stress to the Assembly that these are things to focus on.
- Ben noted other topics being discussed on the Planning Commission, such as transit plan, district heating, and community development. He also noted that Hal Hart is focusing on community and centers of community, which involves sustainability such as district heating plans.
- Ben also stated that another area is Development of Attitude, throughout Southeast Alaska. He stated that what happens in Juneau affects Southeast

Alaska, and what happens in Southeast affects what happens in Juneau, as Juneau is a hub community and that's an important aspect of what we do here.

- Lisa stated that those points may be something we bring in to the comp plan (ATTITUDE Regionalism)
- Darryl: Energy Plan, especially since it's funded. A number of the other ideas can be lumped together as CBJ Policies/Plan. He stated that he added the food sustainability topic especially around sport fishing, since Southeast as a whole is being affected, and this is a big part of quality of life. King crab, Dungeness crab and shrimping have all been permanently closed.
- Todd Bailey, public, stated that one way to be involved with these issues is to serve on fish and game local advisory committees, encourage more participation and having an advocate for sustainability.
- Bob suggested that JCOS draft a letter and show support sustainability of fisheries.
- Duff asked if this [fisheries] can this be taken up in comprehensive plan chapter.
- Amy noted that another goal of the assembly- is the development of economic development plan, which is being led by McDowell Group along with Barb Sheinberg.
- Jenni asked if we can find ways to give our input into sustainability pieces of the economic development plan, or at least request that the assembly think of sustainability issues in this plan.
- Lauren stated that all of these ideas sound good to her, and they should all be put in a revised comprehensive plan. She also expressed interest in the cruise ship issue and alternative energy sources for ships (such as plugging into barges- that are used in Germany)
- Kate B: Accountability- for CBJ section (copied below):
  - *Checking how CBJ is auditing/measuring progress on current sustainability resolutions/plans, is there an inbuilt system to embed sustainability into CBJ current processes and know if CBJ is achieving what it states it is trying to achieve on paper. Sustainability checks should be incorporated into the CIP budgetary process as standard procedure.*
- Steve: Energy Plan, solid waste makes a lot of sense. And like getting ahead on comprehensive plan
- Beth: Don't get a vote, but thinks that the energy plan and solid waste should continue to be areas.
- Bob: concerned that comprehensive plan is a catch all, not going to be able to zero in on everything. Ex. Permitting- what does that mean exactly?

Three priorities emerged from these discussions:

1. Energy Plan to completion
2. Solid Waste/Bio Solids
3. Sustainability Chapter/ Comp Plan Update

#### B. ELECTIONS:

Chair- Lisa Weissler

Vice Chair- Steve

Secretary- Lauren

At the next JCOS meeting, these members will be officially voted for these positions.

#### *Committees and Members*

#### **Solid Waste Sub Committee**

- Bob Doll- chair
- Kate B.
- Amy
- Duff Mitchell
- Darryl

### **Energy Plan Sub Committee**

- Duff Mitchell -chair
- Bob Doll
- Steve

### **Comprehensive Plan Sub Committee**

- Lisa- chair
- Jenni
- Lauren
- Duff (light)

### *Committee Guidelines*

- It was suggested that each committee build a plan for a year with goals and objectives. Beth reminded members that when you want to schedule your meetings go through Beth, so she can give proper notice. Meeting spaces have to be accessible to public (include handicap accessible).
- Each committee should think about how communicate to public (so not outreach committee). One way is by tabling at community events such as Earth Day and Energy Plan. JCOS could ask former commission members to volunteer.
- Fourth Wednesday of the month is already booked from 5:30- 7 pm if any committee wants to meet at that time.

### C. Attendance

- Sheet for the year was handed out. JCOS is unique in that the Planning Commission and Assembly members count for a quorum.

### D. Annual Report – due June 2014

Needs to be approved April or May. Steve will take the lead for this year.

### E. Future Presentations

- February/March – Rich Ritter, CBJ, Energy efficiency and City projects
- March/April – Greg Smith –CBJ building maintenance upgrades
- Scott Willis
- Food security
  - Sara Lewis- Cooperative Extension/Food Security
  - Leia Heifwitz- food
- Jim Calvin, McDowell Group- Economic Development Plan
- SEACC – energy plan
- Solid Waste Staff
- Comprehensive Plan Overview: Ben Lyman

F. Misc.

- Quarterly Brown bag Lunches with lunchtime speaker. This would enable JCOS to get the word out to the public more- so a subcommittee can invite someone who is part of the issue- speakers on topics we are working on-
- Options of visiting sites, it was discussed whether that was possible

VI. ADJOURNMENT 11:45 am

Future Meetings

- Next regular meeting is Feb 12- formal elections, talk about letter.
- Sub Committee meeting will be 14 days after that.