

Meeting Highlights:

- I. **SAB subcommittees continue research on their priority areas – energy efficiency, water conservation, and land use planning.**
 - II. **The Board heard from Renee Whaley in the Utilities dept. to learn more about nutrient removal and the water treatment process.**
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Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) MINUTES July 8, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Sharon Ashworth, Jackie Carroll, Michael Morley, Dale Nimz, Adam Ritchie, Ian Spomer, Scott White

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Lewis, Daniel Poull

STAFF PRESENT: Tammy Bennett

PUBLIC PRESENT: Penny Von Achen, Renee Whaley

- I. The meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM.
- II. Motion and second to approve the June 10, 2015 meeting minutes. (Morley/Spomer). Motion approved unanimously.
- III. Discussion of new member to continue Kathleen's term. Her term expires December 2016. (motion, take action, table item, decline to take action)

SAB discussed potential replacements for Kathleen Nuckoll's term. Penny Von Achen (Planning Commissioner) is interested in connecting with SAB to further sustainable development in the City, but she is not a City resident, therefore she cannot serve on SAB.

The Board will discuss further at their August meeting. SAB members are encouraged to recruit potential candidates.

No action taken.

- IV. Presentation by Renee Whaley, Wastewater Treatment Plant utilities specialist "Let's Drop a Deuce: the Future of Wastewater Treatment in Lawrence, Kansas"

Ms. Whaley provided the SAB with background on how the different processes of wastewater treatment and how the new Wakarusa wastewater treatment plant will differ from the main one on the Kansas River. She highlighted that the EPA

requires the city to develop a new plan by July 17, 2017 to address lower limits on nitrogen and phosphorus. The Board received the presentation by Ms. Whaley.

No action taken.

V. Report-out from SAB committees on progress towards annual work plan:

a. Energy conservation committee:

The Committee reported that they recently met with the City Finance Director, who is supportive of financing energy efficiency retrofits. The energy conservation committee members believe that the approach should be to do comprehensive audits of the main facilities, to assess the priority energy efficiency projects and potential energy savings. The energy committee is also interested in researching public incentives process to ID opportunities to reward developers for energy efficiency or "green" development. The next step will be to submit a question for Lawrence Listens – to get citizen impact on which of these is a priority for citizens.

b. Water conservation committee:

The water conservation subcommittee met the previous week and discussed the city's use of irrigation to maintain lawns/gardens at parks. More information is needed on processes, so Daniel plans to meet with plumbing professionals to better understand how irrigation systems work and whether they can be controlled remotely and if moisture sensors work well enough to help prevent the use of irrigation systems when the soil has enough moisture. Scott plans to meet with Parks & Recreation staff to get a better understanding the city's watering schedule and how the system is maintained. The subcommittee thinks any future action by the city to conserve water should first be undertaken by the city before pushed to the public.

c. Land use planning committee:

Dale reported that the land use committee is focused on the process of revising Horizon 2020. The steering committee just released their Issues

Action Report, and Dale plans to attend the public meeting July 13 to speak up on emphasizing sustainable principles and actions.

No action taken on reports.

- VI. Dale presented a letter of support for the Parks and Recreation Department's application to the NFWF Monarch grant for habitat restoration projects.

SAB reviewed the draft letter and motion to approve (Morley/Spomer), approved unanimously to send with Parks application for the Monarch Grant funding.

- VII. Staff Report: City/County Sustainability Coordinator, Eileen Horn

Eileen was absent, but provided her staff report (pasted below).

- VIII. Action Items. What are the key takeaways to share with the Commission? What are key topics for next month's agenda?

SAB decided that key takeaways would be that the committees continue to make progress, and to highlight Renee's presentation.

- IX. Member Updates.

- Sharon: KSU is hosting their annual Dialog On Sustainability – July 18.
- Scott: Rate case hearing for Westar's proposed increase to fixed charges are scheduled for July 21 and 23.
- Michael: Tour of recycling center 7/20-7/22 at noon. Will email to assess interest.

- X. Public Comment.

None.

- XI. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 6:55

Next regular SAB meeting: August 12, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. Venue: City Hall Public Works Conference Room (ground floor)

**Sustainability Coordinator Report to the SAB:
July 8, 2015**

✓ **City/County Food Policy Council Projects:**

- Food Hub:
 - Producer Steering Committee has 5 members that are drafting their business plan. We are assisting with their application for USDA funding, submitted July 7th.
- Farm Fresh Challenge:
 - Will launch August 1st at seven area grocery stores. All are participating except Dillon's.
 - Will be a consumer-facing primarily social media campaign to connect buyers with local products in grocery stores.
 - www.farmfreshchallenge.com
- At the June 23rd commission meeting, Mayor Farmer directed Planning staff to work with the Food Policy Council on an urban agriculture overlay zoning classification. I'll bring an update as soon as I know more on this!
- Chefs Challenge at the Douglas County Fair is July 29th.

✓ **Bike/Ped Task Force:** Met June 29th. All materials available here:
<http://lawrenceks.org/ped-bike>

✓ **Solar PV:** Commissioner Soden is very interested in solar PV projects on city buildings. Staff is meeting with solar PV contractors to assess sites.

✓ The **Heartland Local Government Sustainability Network :**

- (Des Moines, OKC, Columbia, Iowa City, KCMO, Lincoln) has completed the climate adaptation research and education in partnership with our state climatologists. Report will be available in mid-July. Then, Eileen will share with departments to begin discussions of climate change adaptation measures for the City.
- The 25 members of the HLGSN will be hosting our annual meeting here in Lawrence. They chose Lawrence to learn about our local food system innovations and our work on a sustainable procurement pilot project. The meeting is scheduled for September 17-18.

- ✓ **Recycling in Unincorporated Area:** County staff are researching the feasibility of offering drop off recycling service in the unincorporated areas of Douglas County. A pilot project is being considered to better understand demand.
- ✓ **Douglas County Fairgrounds Project:** The County is in process of hiring a construction management firm for the approximately \$6million renovation of the fairgrounds. We are pursuing LEED certification at some of the new buildings.
- ✓ **Westar EV Charging Station:** As part of Westar's EPA settlement (the same one that got us solar PV panels at Prairie Park Nature Center), Westar is offering one or two EV charging stations for the City. We are looking into public charging locations near downtown or City Hall.
- ✓ **Bike Share Feasibility:** The MPO office is applying for funding to support a feasibility study to assess a bike share program for Lawrence and KU.