

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA**  
**Climate Action Plan Task Force**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**December 29, 2009**  
**Coast Guard Air Station Administrative Conference Room**

**I. Call To Order and Roll Call**

**Time:** 5:00 pm.

**Quorum Present:** Michelle Putz, David Neel, Ward Eldridge, Kenyatta Bradley, Paul Olson, Kerry McLane

**Members of the Public:** Jack Ozment, Juliet Agne, Kyle Crow, Larry Edwards

**II. Approval of Agenda**

A. Work through Priority List

**MOTION:** Paul moves to approve the agenda. Michelle 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

**ACTION:** Passed unanimously

**III. Business**

**A. Recap Rating System**

Discussion: The way the commission is prioritizing the non-quantifiable projects (projects that do not have a quantifiable value associated under the five categories we will use to prioritize our projects) a rating system will be used. The rating system uses a 1-5 scale with 1 being the worst and 5 being the best. Once all projects get quantitative or qualitative values, they will be rated based on the values under each category and chosen (or discarded from) for the CAP.

**B. Performance Contract**

Discussion: Neel wanted to inform the group about the Performance Contract Loan Program discussed at the previous meeting. It appears that other states were successful with a Performance Contract Loan Program. However, Kodiak (Coast Guard Base) was not successful with this venture. These types of loans have not been formalized in Alaska yet, but Neel encourages the group to at least make a footnote in the CAP to let people know about our resources for funding. Essentially, the Performance Contract Loan Program would be a loan program that the City will have to budget to pay off (based on savings). Here is an example. Let's say the City receives a \$10,000 loan from the state to do an energy saving project that will allow the city to save \$1,500 a year in energy costs. Whatever the City saves in energy costs (the \$1,500) will be used to payback the loan completely (6-7 years). Any savings made after that time frame will be profit for the City. In order to get the best deal out of the loan, lump multiple projects/buildings together (if possible). If the loan is done through the state, the program will most likely have a better outcome.

In order to maximize the use of the loan money (if available), the group decided to keep 2-3 buildings as an option to work as a package deal in order to make those buildings as energy efficient as possible. The City should also consider going through a personal contractor, or getting a quote from a personal contractor in order to compare prices from that of the state contractor. This will help ensure the City is getting their money's worth out of each project.

### **C. Waste Report**

Discussion: Kerry reported on his research on the Waste Section of the CAP. It appears that a lot of people in Sitka do not want to pay their bills online; therefore, the City still uses paper products to send out bills. The group still wants to reduce paper waste produced by the City, so it was suggested to recommend that the City provide online payment and eventually phase out paper bills. That or offer an incentive to people who reduce their paper waste or charge people a fee for processing paper bills. The fees from the paper usage will help fund another project. Another idea was to do some sort of convenience charge. In the end, the group hopes to try and phase out paper bills to online bills to help reduce the waste produced in our municipal solid waste stream.

Comingled curbside recycling is still a work-in-progress with the City. There is a lot of logistics behind planning and implementing comingled recycling. Items that need to be considered is bear resistant bins, how the recyclables get shipped (do they need to be pre-sorted?), are we able to incorporate this into our current contract with Rabanco, as well as a set pick up schedule. In general, based on the group's alternative rating system, the energy reduction and CO2 reduction from this project will be about a 3 and feasibility comes out to about a 4. If comingled recycling did come to Sitka, the Recycling Center will still be around and functioning. The Comingled Program will just allow more people to be involved with recycling. Another option to consider is whether or not this will retract from the City's income.

An option to suggest the City for comingled curbside recycling is to utilize huge, bear resistant tubs for garbage and recycling placed in areas in town for neighborhoods. This will allow less pickups for Stragier and offer the option to residents to throw away their trash and recycle their recyclables. This model is based off a model used in Kodiak. This will also relieve the need for residents to take care of their individual trash bin if there was one big tub offered for particular areas.

### **D. School/Electrical Dept Projects**

Discussion: Kenyatta talked to both the School District Maintenance Dept and the Electrical Dept to discuss current and future energy conservation projects used to help reduce CO2 emissions. On the Electrical Dept side, it appears the City is looking into doing a 20 year bond loan to help make the diesel generators more efficient. In general, the new, more efficient generator will be very helpful and used if one of the lakes goes out and the town has to run on diesel for electricity.

A City computer tech told Kenyatta that about half of the people working for the City turn off their computers. At this point, it was suggested by the committee that the group should challenge each department to keep track of their own energy and money savings and compare them over the years in order to ensure full implementation of savings. Obviously, items departments need to keep track of have to be measurable.

### **E. Energy Czar?**

Discussion: Another option to keep track of CO2 emissions and implementation of initiatives was to hire a person to monitor and track. The group will discuss feasibility at a future meeting.

## **F. Initiatives Spreadsheet**

Discussion: Since the group is using two different rating systems for their initiatives ratings, it was suggested that they be separated into two different categories (applies to notes from above about the rating system). At the next meeting, these two rating systems will be separated so the group can discuss each project from the different rating systems the way they should be looked at.

With that aside, numbers still need to be filled into the table. Assignments will be posted later about who needs to get what to fill in the table.

While discussing the Initiatives, Kerry brought up the point that there is a fine line between our recommended suggestions and the hard initiatives the group would like the City to consider. It just needs to be clear that when the CAP is presented to the City, which initiatives are the suggested projects and which are the recommended, have-to-do-now projects. Paul doesn't want the plan to just end at our recommendations and suggests that there needs to be an overage to have the plan continue into future generations or on the back burner for future plans. These will all be taken into consideration when drafting the CAP.

## **G. Assignments for Next Time**

**Kenyatta:** Get numbers to fill in assigned section of the table

**Kerry:** Fill-in waste values and look at some code initiatives. Get numbers for generator insulation, waste heat recovery system on Marine Services Center, and receptacle cost for comingled curbside recycling.

**Michelle:** Get numbers for assigned sections of the table. Gather funding options for energy efficiency projects.

**Ward:** Research values for solar panel demo project.

**Dave:** Gather numbers for Transportation section of the table.

**David Neel:** Write informative chapter on sea levels and emergency planning.

**Juliet:** Double check values on table. Sort lists between hard numbers and projects utilizing the other rating system.

## **IV. Public Comments**

Kyle was impressed with the group's efforts and gave some input on the various projects the group is planning to present. Some suggestions he wanted the group to take into consideration include a centralized, area bin for curbside comingled recycling and to make sure the group looks at money saved for each project and not just at the CO<sub>2</sub> savings.

## **V. Adjournment 7:05 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Juliet Agne - Task Force Intern

AmeriCorps Intern with Sitka Conservation Society/City and Borough of Sitka