

**CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA**  
**Climate Action Plan Task Force**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**December 11, 2009**  
**Coast Guard Air Station Sitka Conference Room**

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

Quorum Present: Bradley, Neel, Eldridge, Putz, Olson, Nicholls  
Members of the Public: Agne

**II. Approval of Previous Minutes**

Eldridge recommended that minutes reflect that fisheries damaged by acidification rather than sea level and those minutes not show that members did or did not do homework.

**III. Approval of the Agenda**

**MOTION:** Olson moved to approve the agenda. Bradley seconded.

**ACTION:** Unanimously approved.

**IV. Agenda**

**A. New Member Introductions**

New Task Force Member David Neel, Coast Guard pilot and facilities engineer, introduced himself to the Task Force.

**B. Membership:**

Chair Putz discussed efforts to recruit two more Task Force members. Eldridge added that it would be useful to have potential members come in to attend a meeting. Bradley thought that the process might be close enough to an end to make added membership unnecessary. Nicholls suggested that interested persons should be welcomed, but it might not be necessary to seek them out.

**MOTION:** Putz moved to put a hold on active membership recruiting. Olson seconded.

**ACTION:** Approved 4 to 1 with one abstention.

**C. Scheduling**

**1. Holiday Meeting Schedule**

Putz said that the next regularly scheduled meeting would be on a holiday. The Task Force rescheduled the meeting for December 29 at the Coast Guard conference room.

**2. Assembly Work Session**

Putz had met with the city clerk who informed her that normal Assembly work sessions last about an hour. Putz had wanted several hours but there was not an opportunity for a long session available in the near future. The purpose of the session would be to seek feedback

on the draft plan and run through the project list, sources of projects and describe work with city staff. One hour did not seem like enough time. Olson suggested just going through a one hour session and then seeking more time if needed.

Putz suggested scheduling a one hour session on January 26<sup>th</sup> and she would pursue scheduling a second session 6:00 on Friday the 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### **D. Chair Report on International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Conference Call**

Putz participated in a teleconference that discussed funding opportunities available through the state/AFHC for performance contracting. Performance contracting is when a contractor does an audit, recommends repairs, does the work, and is then paid from the savings. Payback periods should be within 15 years. The problem with this funding stream for small communities is that the contracts have to be big enough to interest the contractor – one option for smaller communities is to group buildings together.

The take home point for the climate action plan was that you wouldn't necessarily want to plan for the city to prioritize doing all of the less expensive projects because it would be important to have some of these projects available as part of bigger, capital building projects done pursuant to a performance contract. Putz said that she would follow up with Chris Wilbur for further discussion.

Olson said this discussion made him think that the plan would need a separate section to discuss grants and how they will influence project selection. Nicholls suggested placing the discussion in the concluding sections.

Neel said that there are projects that would have a longer payback period than that suggested for performance contracting – in some cases 40 years. Another issue is that this type of contracting works best with a full building rather than piecemeal approach so that in some cases where there are ongoing or recent partial repairs, performance contracting might not be desirable.

Putz suggested just pulling out a few buildings and recommending looking into the state program. The schools seemed like good candidates because many city buildings already had audits and ongoing projects. Neel said that he would research whether this program would be feasible for the schools.

Olson said that this program makes it easier for the Task Force to focus on buildings that have already had the audits and/or some recent work done.

#### **E. Project Prioritization Table**

Bradley asked the Task Force to decide how to use heating oil consumption statistics in order to calculate greenhouse gas emission reductions for the Plan. There are statistics from 2003, 2006 and 2007 and there is some variability from year to year. The Task Force discussed possible explanations for the variability – milder winters and decreased boiler efficiency - and discussed whether to average or use peak or low years.

Nicholls noted that there was variability elsewhere from year to year – fuel use in city vehicles tripled in 2006 and there was a range of between 230 and 700 tons of CO2 emitted annually. The big increase in 2006 was diesel use for the city trucks. He said that electric

vehicle technology may or may not be viable within next decade.

Olson and Nicholls noted that 2003 was the baseline year for the inventory and the year to use for calculating reductions.

The Task Force then discussed how to calculate cost savings for projects that would transition from oil to electricity, especially for heating systems. Eldridge noted that the percent of electricity in Sitka that is derived from the diesel generators is a variable. Former utility head Charlie Walls had made the calculations at some point. Bradley said he would follow up with Brewton.

Bradley mentioned that Blatchley Middle School could provide a model because it reduced oil consumption and increased electricity consumption by transitioning from oil to electric heat and those numbers could provide a reasonable basis to make assumptions about similar projects, although there would need to be some confirmation reduced its drop in oil for Blatchley and increase in electricity, but hard to guess how much more electricity was used ...then response will be to write down assumptions that are made - assumption with regard to schools was that if Blatchley reduced consumption by 34% by conversion to electricity, than others would have similar results

**MOTION:** Bradley moved to base all calculations on 2003 data to best of the Task Force's ability. Putz seconded.

**ACTION:** Passed unanimously.

#### **F. Member Reports and Miscellany**

Putz talked to Wells Williams of city planning regarding changing codes to allow for alternative energy/zoning. She suggested proposing code changes that come up with the highest cumulative numbers. Eldridge noted that while solar panels were just a small piece, people who install them do cut down their electric usage.

Bradley reviewed city computer use – there could be 25% energy savings if computers were systematically put to sleep. Another issue was the server room which needed air conditioning while nearby rooms required heat. He wanted to look into ways to shift heat. Eldridge discussed PC usage - if put on to sleep could save 25% energy based on conversation with city facilities

Bradley also talked about the server room - its air conditioned because hot even though other rooms being heated - wanted to know if there was a way to shift heat from building to building. Eldridge said air conditioning was essentially a heat pump and this could be done.

Putz looked into methane recovery but had no numbers at this point.

Nicholls asked for feedback from the Task Force regarding hybrid and electric vehicles. He was contemplating whether to treat them as one alternative transportation category or separate the two. Neel said there were different maintenance issues to consider.

Bradley said that the plan for the alternative high school was likely to entail rebuilding the whole building. He thought the recommendation should be that the new construction should conform to LEED standards. Putz said this usually added about 20% to the upfront

costs. Neel suggested that any plans for any new city building be reviewed or audited – the LEED standard is constantly changing so auditing must include current standards for efficiency.

Neel and Eldridge discussed the adaptation/emergency planning section and how to respond to sea level rises and changes – for example, whether to move the waterfront setback. The storm surge issue was particularly troubling because the increase includes the added dynamic of tidal increases as well as storm related factors.

## **V. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.