



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

Meeting Minutes - Final Sustainability Commission

Officers: Chair Aurora Taylor, Vice Chair Katie Riley, Secretary Erik de Jong

Members: Elizabeth Bagley, Gerry Hope

Staff Liaison: Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator

Assembly Liaison: Thor Christianson

Monday, June 2, 2025

6:00 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Taylor called the meeting to order at approximately 6:04 P.M.

Present: Aurora Taylor (Chair), Elizabeth Bagley, Gerry Hope, Erik de Jong, Katie Riley,
Thor Christianson (Assembly Liaison)

Absent: None

Staff: Bri Gabel (Sustainability Coordinator)

Public: Leah Mason

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

No changes.

III. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Approve the May 5, 2025 minutes.

Riley moved to approve the May 5, 2025 minutes.

Motion PASSED 5-0 by voice vote.

IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD *(not to exceed 3 minutes on topics off the agenda)*

Leah Mason informed the Commission that the Sitka Community Gardens lease had been signed.

V. SPECIAL REPORTS

None.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Discussion/Direction/Decision on the 2025-2026 Work Plan

Gabel provided updates on various projects, including the Southeast Alaska Solid Waste Authority's regional planning project. Commissioners discussed how they could support each project over the summer.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

B. Designate a Commissioner to Present to the Sitka Tribe of Alaska's Transportation and Community Development Committee

Hope introduced the Sitka Tribe of Alaska's Transportation and Community Development (T&CD) Committee and details about the presentation. Riley volunteered to present at the upcoming meeting.

C. Discussion/Direction/Decision on the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES) Outline

Commissioners discussed the contents of the draft SCRES outline and how potential audiences might engage with the final document. Riley requested a workforce development component be included and offered to assist with Section 5: Policies and Actions. Bagley requested a focus on civic engagement. The Commission requested the executive summary be distilled into one page, if possible, and contain more information about the outcome of the SCRES rather than the methodology. Hope made recommendations on the public comment timeline. Commissioners recommended that the public comment period focused on meaningful feedback rather than comprehensive review of the entire document.

Mason emphasized the importance of explaining energy rate structures and engaging residents as stakeholders in climate action initiatives.

Hope moved to approve the SCRES outline sections 2 through 5 as written in the packet, with section 1 modified and amended through Commission discussion.

Motion PASSED 5-0 by voice vote.

D. Discussion/Direction/Decision on the SCRES Guiding Principles Definitions

Commissioners spent approximately ten minutes discussing each guiding principle (affordability, reliability, self-sufficiency, and innovation) and how their implementation might shape Sitka's future. Gabel informed the Commission that she would provide a written version of the prompts via email for Commissioners who would like to provide more details and outlined next steps.

Mason spoke about the role of planning in affordability and that more than monetary costs should be considered when discussing whether certain actions should or should not be taken.

VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD *(not to exceed 3 minutes on topics on or off the agenda)*

None.

IX. REPORTS *(Staff, Chair, Assembly, Commissioners)*

Staff: Gabel summarized her experience during the Energy Leadership Accelerator summit cohosted by the Alaska Center for Energy and Power (ACEP) and Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI). She updated the Commission on the number of SCRES roadmaps, announced the 5-minute survey currently open, and announced that the Electric Department was finalizing their selection for the second summer intern.

Assembly: None.

Chair: None.

Commissioners: Hope informed the Commission that he would be attending the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) mid-year conference.

X. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA

The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, July 7, 2025 at 6:00 P.M., in Harrigan Centennial Hall.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seeing no objection, the meeting **ADJOURNED** at approximately 7:54 P.M.

Minutes by: Erik de Jong, Secretary