



CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

Meeting Minutes - Final Sustainability Commission

Officers: Chair Katie Riley, Vice Chair Angie Bowers, Secretary Carol Voisin

Members: Elizabeth Bagley, Kent Barkhau, Aurora Taylor, Fernanda Zermoglio

Staff Liaison: Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator

Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

Monday, October 16, 2023

6:30 P.M.

Harrigan Centennial Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Acting Chair Bowers called the meeting to order at approximately 6:41 P.M.

Present: Angie Bowers (Acting Chair), Elizabeth Bagley, Kent Barkhau, Katie Riley (Telephonic)
Aurora Taylor, Carol Voisin, Fernanda Zermoglio, Kevin Mosher (Assembly Liaison)

Staff: Bri Gabel (Sustainability Coordinator), Amy Ainslie (Planning Director)

Public: Bruce Belley, Larry Edwards, Leah Mason, Lisa Sadlier-Hart

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

Bowers proposed that Item C under new business be addressed first, and unfinished business and reports be addressed after completing new business.
Seeing no objections, the agenda was changed.

III. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Approve the September 5, 2023 minutes.

Bagley moved to approve the September 5, 2023 minutes.

Motion PASSED 7-0 by roll call vote.

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

Leah Mason expressed concern about the scope of the greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

Bruce Belley spoke to Sitka's hydroelectric generation, diesel generation, and asked that the Electric Department's website be updated with more information.

V. REPORTS

Chair: Bowers thanked the commission for their work and said that she looked forward to continuing engaging with the commission as a member of the public. Commissioners applauded Bowers for her service.

Staff: Gabel thanked Bowers for her work on the commission

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Updates and Next Steps for Working Groups

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory: Molly Gear, Technical Lead for the Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP) team assisting with the Sitka Community Renewable Energy

Strategy (SCRES), presented an overview of greenhouse gas emissions inventories and what information would be needed to scope one for the community of Sitka.

Zermoglio summarized the discussion she had with Barkhau, Gabel, and ETIPP. Bagley suggested that the commission consider how the inventory would be used to help inform the scope.

Gabel noted that the next step would be working with the technical team to get a draft scope based on the working group's feedback and feedback from the discussion and that she anticipated it being an agenda item in November or December. She suggested that Zermoglio and/or Barkhau attend the Alaska Municipal Climate Network's upcoming meeting which was about the recently completed statewide greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

Public Energy Education: Bagley summarized her conversation with Voisin, Gabel, and the technical team about the survey that was being developed. Gabel noted that as a next step, she would follow up with the working group with a draft of the survey questionnaire for feedback on the questions specific to education.

Public Engagement Planning: Taylor summarized her conversation with Riley, Gabel, and the technical team about what worked well and did not work well in previous ETIPP supported projects. Taylor explained that the working group would help collect key contact information for community groups that should be involved, specifically schools.

Gabel requested that the working group draft a timeline for public engagement during the scoping phase of the SCRES to bring to the November meeting.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

B. Approve Community Scoping Survey Guiding Questions

Gabel explained that based on the conversations she had had with the working groups and the technical team, she drafted guiding questions based on what the working groups were looking to answer. Q1a,b for were for Public Energy Education, Q2 was for Public Engagement Planning. Question 3 was for rooting the SCRES in community values as the commission had desired based on the Sustainable Molokai Community Energy Resilience Action Plan reviewed at the September meeting. She added that these questions would not be used directly in the survey, instead they would be used to keep the survey's questions focused.

- 1a. What are the gaps in the community's understanding of Sitka's energy landscape?
- 1b. What are gaps in the community's energy knowledge that inhibit informed decision making?
2. What are the best ways to increase understanding and share energy knowledge with the community?
3. What values does the community want to guide the development of the Community Renewable Energy Strategy?

Mason suggested that the survey ask the public about what they want to know about. Belley requested the survey focus on the impact, cost, and logistics of integrating renewable energy into Sitka's grid.

**Zermoglio moved to approve the community scoping survey guiding questions as written.
Motion PASSED 7-0 by roll call vote.**

C. Approve Community Renewable Energy Strategy Name, Mission, and Vision

Commissioners refined the name, mission, and vision of the project originally drafted in the work session.

Name: The Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES)

Vision: Establish a shared vision of Sitka's energy future to guide energy-related community decisions.

Mission: Shape a roadmap for community and policy actions that advance the shared energy vision.

Larry Edwards suggested a different approach of deriving the values from the problem and emphasized public involvement. Mason supported Edward's comments and noted that ownership comes with involvement. Lisa Sadlier-Hart drew comparison between shaping a vision and painting a picture and emphasized the need for the vision to be shared.

Bagley moved to approve community renewable energy strategy name, mission, and vision as written above.

Motion PASSED 7-0 by roll call vote.

VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None.

IX. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA

The next meeting was scheduled for November 7, 2023 at 6:00 P.M., in Harrigan Centennial Hall.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Barkhau moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seeing no objection, the meeting ADJOURNED at 8:44 P.M.

Minutes By: Carol Voisin, Secretary