

MEETING SUMMARY



Climate Protection Action Committee
Monthly Appointee Meeting
Friday, July 14, 2023
9:00 a.m.
Hybrid meeting: In-person & Zoom



ATTENDEES: Mary Pat Baldauf, Barbara Bowers, John Epting, Nina Gray, Gretchen Lambert, Lisa Muzekari, Bob Petrulis, Priscilla Preston. Clint Shealy, Tameria Warren, Samantha Yager, Lori Ziolkowski.

Bob called the meeting to order with a quorum at 9:05 a.m.

The group adopted the meeting minutes from May 2023

First up was a discussion on CPAC membership and election of officers. Appointments were deferred from the last City Council meeting, but are expected to be made at the July 18 City Council meeting.

Bob reported presented the revised "Resolution 2.0" at the June 27th meeting of the Health, Social and Environmental Affairs (HSEA) Members approved the resolution and voted to move it forward to full council for a vote on July 18.

Mary Pat reported that progress moves forward on the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. The EPA has kicked off a series of webinars, and the COG is about ready to move forward with the coordinator hiring process. She and Gregory Sprouse at the COG have an afternoon meeting scheduled today to further discuss the process.

Mary Pat updated the group on the Speaking Sustainability newsletter, whose audience she is trying to grow organically. The open rates for the June and July newsletter were both 47%, exceeding the Constant Contact industry average of 34%. Click rates for the issues exceeded the industry average of 2%, with 6% in June and 4% in July. Mary Pat encouraged members to share the Speaking Sustainability newsletter with others who may be interested. The next issue will be distributed August 1.

Bob updated the group on the Communities Local Energy Action Program (C-LEAP), technical assistance from the National Renewable Energy Lab to help bring the benefits of clean energy

to the low-to-middle income (LMI) community. At the last meeting, members reviewed a three-page information sheet that summarized what NREL has learned from their research into the Columbia area. Members gave insight on ways the information could be amended for different audiences. NREL plans to visit Columbia August 30-September 1 to get input on the plan to date.

After a yearlong submission process, the City of Columbia has been certified by the US Green Building Council as a LEED Gold City. The City did especially well in Innovations and regional priority categories. The presentation will be held at the July 18 City Council meeting which starts at 4 p.m. CPAC members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

When asked about new grants being considered, Clint noted that the City had consulting firms looking at various hydro opportunities, but that nothing specific comes to mind.

Clint also added that related to the call for energy audits in the Resolution 2.0, the executive management team recently met with Procurement to reach an agreement on the scope of work and approval was granted. This will be moving forward in months to come. In a related matter, Support Services will be adding a project manager position to handle the audit projects, which will dovetail nicely into the resolution.

In staff updates, Mary Pat reported about an upcoming event, "Electrify the South," a collaborative of local governments to build local government capacity to access federal transportation electrification funding. The event is being hosted by the Southeast Sustainability Directors Network (SSDN) and the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE).

Samantha noted that the City had received \$20k in grant funding from DHEC to promote solid waste management and recycling outreach and education. Bob then asked about the possibility of using some of the grant funding to promote Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) tax credits and rebates in a water bill insert. A brief discussion ensued and Samantha agreed to look into it.

Bob announced that the next working meeting would be held on July 21 and that the group would do a deep dive into the C-LEAP material. Mary Pat will email the material with the meeting notice.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.