



VILLAGE OF MOUNT HOREB

E. Main Street

Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Phone: (608) 437-6884 Fax: (608) 437-3190

Email: mhinfo@mounthorebwi.info Web: mounthorebwi.info

SUSTAINABILITY & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AGENDA

Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 7:00 PM

Municipal Building Board Room
138 E. Main Street
Mount Horeb, WI

- 1) Call to order
 - a. Roll Call
- 2) Agenda Items
 - a. Approval of December 14, 2022 Meeting Minutes
 - b. Discussion and consideration of committee mission and duty and responsibility statements
 - c. Discussion of upcoming February 15 Public Meeting
 - d. Discussion on planning grant with Slipstream
 - e. Discussion on takeaways from meetings with WPPI and Sustain Sun Prairie
 - f. Discussion on future agenda items
- 3) Meeting adjournment.

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SUSTAINABILITY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE AGENDA

Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at 7:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

- 1) Call to order
Chair Tim White called the meeting to order at 7:00. Present were White, Saltes, Beheler, Danz Gottwald, Deegan and Butusov (virtually). Halverson was absent.
- 2) Public Comments – non-agenda items
None
- 3) Consent Agenda
- 4) Agenda Items
 - a. Introduction of Committee Members
Committee members introduced themselves. Turstee Tim White Committee Chair, Citizen members Jack Saltes, Kerry Beheler, Shaun Danz , Tom Butusov and Jennifer Gottwald and Student Member Callaway Deegan.
 - b. Review of Responsibilities and Objectives
Committee reviewed objectives and will bring revisions to the next meeting.
 - c. Guest Speaker Mike Flaherty: McFarland Sustainability Committee
Mike Flaherty, Village Trustee and Sustainability Committee Chair for McFarland, presented his experience from chairing McFarland's committee and provided ideas for Mount Horeb's Committee.
 - d. Consideration: Revision and Adoption of Committee Mission Statement
Committee members will review and bring suggestions to next meeting.
 - e. Recommendation: Village Membership with Sustain Dane
The committee discussed the benefits of membership. For \$275 the village could get a one-year membership with access to Sustain Dane's expertise for up to 25 individuals. Motion by Beheler to recommend to Village Board a \$275 Sustain Dane Membership, second by Gottwald. Motion carried.
- 5) Future Agenda Items

The committee discussed the best date for future meetings and chose the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

6) Meeting adjournment.

Motion to adjourn by Danz, second by Saltes. Motion carried. 8:04 p.m.

DRAFT



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

January 24, 2023

PREPARED BY

AGENDA ITEM # 2.b

Discussion and consideration of committee mission and duty and responsibility statements

BACKGROUND

The committee will resume discussion on the mission duty and responsibility statements discussed at the last meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

1. Mission Duties and Responsibilities 011823

Village of Mount Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resource Committee Mission

Statement: To collaborate with our Village residents to create and expand sustainability practices which are inclusive, safe, and resilient, and improve quality of life for current and future generations who call Mount Horeb home; to advocate and promote sustainable Village policies and practices, and seek innovative solutions while recognizing the interdependence of environmental quality, economic resiliency and growth, and social equity.

The Mount Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resource Committee will serve in an advisory capacity to the Village, and act in the long-term interests of environmental and economic sustainability for the Village.

Goals of the Sustainability and Natural Resource Committee:

1. Advocate partnering with other communities and regional government to leverage resources and funding for possible projects.
2. Reduce Mount Horeb's carbon footprint to mitigate the effects of catastrophic climate change.

Duties and Responsibilities of the Committee shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Examining and developing sustainability recommendations, guidelines, actions, and policies for consideration and approval by the Village of Mount Horeb Board.
2. Create a Sustainability and Natural Resource Plan that will act as a guide for Mount Horeb's future and provide a "green-print" for Village actions. The Plan will be a living document, and will be evaluated and revised as needed.
3. Evaluate and recommend opportunities, projects, and partnerships for Village sustainable infrastructure, actions, and services. These collaborating partnerships may be with Federal, State, County, or local governing bodies.
4. Establish educational and outreach programs to engage community residents, businesses, institutions, and other community stakeholders about sustainability issues and initiatives.
5. Assist and advise Village staff, committees, and the Board in developing sustainable environmental and economic development objectives that promote renewable technologies, and protect the environment and economic viability of the Village.

Mount Horeb Event Will Explore Cost Saving Opportunities For Renewable Resources

Renewable energy has never been more affordable to install or important to combat climate change. Thanks to the newly passed Inflation Reduction Act, municipalities, businesses, and homeowners can leverage substantial savings for installing renewable Energy technology. The topic will be highlighted in a special event in Mount Horeb on **Wednesday, February 15, 7PM**, at the **Mount Horeb Community center**, located at **107 N. Grove Street**.

The presenter for the evening is Kathy Kuntz, Director of the Dane County Office of Energy & Climate Change in Madison, Wisconsin where she leads climate action efforts for the County. Dane County is on track to be carbon neutral in its facilities, fleet, and land conservation efforts by 2030. Consistent with the County's 2020 Climate Action Plan, the Office partners with public and private partners. Kathy has almost 30 years of experience implementing programs focused on resource efficiency and climate action. Prior to joining Dane County Kathy led Cool Choices, a nonprofit that worked with businesses and local governments on sustainable practices and prior to that Kathy led Focus on Energy, Wisconsin's statewide energy efficiency and renewable energy program.

Whether you are planning to install renewable technology, energy saving updates, or just curious as to what is available, this program will be of interest. This program is the first in a series of community programming by the Mount Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resource Committee. For further information on this event, please contact

Tim.White@mounthorebwi.info.



Kathy Kuntz

Director of the
Dane County Office of
Energy & Climate Change

<https://daneclimateaction.org/>

MOUNT HOREB EVENT WILL EXPLORE COST SAVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 7PM
MOUNT HOREB COMMUNITY CENTER
107 N. GROVE STREET, MOUNT HOREB, WI**

Never has renewable energy been more affordable to install or important to combat climate change. Thanks to the newly passed Inflation Reduction Act, municipalities, businesses, and homeowners can leverage substantial savings for installing renewable Energy technology.

Whether you are planning to install renewable technology or just curious as to what is available, this program will be of interest.



**Guest Speaker
Kathy Kuntz**

**DIRECTOR OF THE
DANE COUNTY OFFICE OF
ENERGY & CLIMATE CHANGE**

Kathy has 30 years of experience implementing programs focused on resource efficiency and climate action. Before joining Dane County, Kathy

led *Focus on Energy*, Wisconsin's statewide energy efficiency and renewable energy program.

<https://daneclimateaction.org/>



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE

January 24, 2023

PREPARED BY

Nicholas Owen, Administrator

AGENDA ITEM # 2.d

Discussion on planning grant with Slipstream

BACKGROUND

Administrator Owen is working with our Energy Services Representative Beth Carlson of WPPI to complete an application for a planning grant that would help to lead the committee's efforts towards developing an action plan. If approved, the Village Board will need to act to formally accept the grant. The deadline for submittal is January 30.

RECOMMENDATION

ATTACHMENTS

None

Mt. Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee

Virtual meeting with Scott Semroc, Sustainability Coordinator for City of Sun Prairie

Monday, January 9, 2023

Tim White, Nic Owen, Jennifer Gottwald, Scott Semroc

Notes by, and thanks to Jennifer Gottwald

Sustain Sun Prairie is not a stand-alone committee but integrated as a municipal department.

What do you see as the advantages of that arrangement?

- Sustainability Coordinator is position in administration department, so across all parts of city
- He started 1.5 years ago
- Position came from 18 months of work from a task force, which produced a report of recommendations and outcomes
- The Sustainability Coordinator position is an FTE – that makes permanent and strategic
- Sustainability is one of eight city council strategic priorities

City of Sun Prairie Environmental Conditions Report is an interesting rendering of conditions in 2014. How did you choose the metrics for the report? Do you still refer to it in assessing accomplishments and what do you consider the biggest achievement you have made regarding that report?

- The report and plan were important to start the initiatives, but it might have been bigger than was necessary
- Now sustainability, as a strategic priority, is embedded in all other goals and plans – it doesn't stand alone as a separate topic

Concerning Sun Prairies prestigious Climate Champion Award, Was the City a partner in the effort to install solar for school? If so, what was the collaboration?

- School district has their own sustainability person, and the city and school district are very collaborative around sustainability efforts
- For other districts, this responsibility may be with someone working in energy or facilities management

The Sustainable Sun Prairie Strategic Framework and Guiding Principles is a great document. Did you produce it in house, or did you have a firm do the work under your guidance? Where are you at regarding the five-year plan you have in the document?

- Plan produced in house – 2 city employees as champions
- Lots of room to copy parts of other municipal plans as fits our needs (good frameworks)
- Recommendation to invest in staff first, to produce report

You have two municipal buildings which employ solar technology that came online in 2019. What was the process of choosing those structures for installation. Were there any public objections to the project. Do you have plans to follow these projects with other municipal installations? What was/is the payback period for the installations?

- Procurement – if you touch a roof, consider solar
- A good first step is energy audits of municipal buildings: these will certainly lead to paybacks
- Economics make sense – find projects that are strong financially and environmentally
- Save money, save energy, promote local economic development
- Sometimes a 10 year payback, but 17-20 years more feasible
- A bit of pushback, but economics helped overcome
- First choice is to self finance and own, but third party ownership can be explored
- Start budgeting flat amount annually now to ready for matches under Inflation Reduction Act
- Municipal solar projects have not been done at full capacity as this doesn't yet make economic sense (would produce more than could be used at facility, and buy back rate is lower than purchase rate; this might change with batteries)

Concerning slipstream consortium, how has Sun Prairie benefited from the services rendered? What are the advantages of multiple communities sharing information in this way.

- Worked with other communities
- Identified high priority energy projects

Sun Prairie has explored microgrid technology for the city? Are you looking at specific areas or the whole city. Please share your thoughts on economics, benefits, or challenges of a municipal microgrid?

- Did a study for microgrid feasibility along with plan for library extension
- Library is seen as community resiliency center, so need good energy stability there
- Currently have diesel backups at WW treatment plant

Concerning Battery backup, (BESS), what are the resources you are using it for and the reasons for need? IS/ Was there consideration given to have solar power battery backup vs generator?

- Have looked at BESS, but very expensive and technically complicated
- Can be less expensive and simpler with manual switching
- Hard to quantify resiliency
- BESS would allow for more solar to be used economically (store your own excess to prevent purchase during solar down times)

Community outreach:

- City has communications coordinator – newsletter, social media, website
- He uses guest speakers at meetings to share information and educate (both live and recorded)
- Three targets for sustainability efforts: 1) Residents 2) Businesses 3) Municipal operators
 - 3 is always going to be easiest to both make changes and measure effects
 - For 1 and 2, partnerships are key for both education and tracking outcomes (Waste Management, WI Clean Cities, WPPI, transportation offices, Slipstream, Chamber, Developers, Homebuilders' associations, Habitat for Humanity, Food pantries)

**Mt Horeb Sustainability and Natural Resources Committee informational meeting with WPPI Energy
4 January 2023 10 am**

Present: Tim White (Mt H Trustee), Jack Saltes, Shaun Danz, Kerry Beheler (Mt H Sustain Comm members), Nic Owens (Village Administrator), Kristin Fish Peterson (Mt H Economic Development), Beth Carlson (WPPI Energy, Energy Services Manager).

Notes by, and thanks to Kerry Beheler

Beth: WPPI is the wholesale energy supplier to Mt Horeb Includes 51 municipal members. Non-profit organization, differs from investor-owned utilities. Objective is to supply power for customers.

Mt Horeb has an "All Requirements" 30 year contract with WPPI. Mt H required to get all power from WPPI.

WPPI owns portions of generation facilities (coal fired plants, solar farms).

WPPI has no community solar facilities, supported failed efforts 10 years ago or more in River Falls, New Richmond. Has not tried supporting efforts since. Stated utility scale power is most cost effective. Mt H and other municipalities can choose "Renewables Only" option. This is purchase of only renewable power generated from the grid. Approximately 20% of WPPI purchased power is renewable generated.

Brief discussion on energy system components (generation, transmission, distribution).

Mt Horeb can build own microgrid for sewage treatment plant, other emergency uses.

Energy efficiency is a component of sustainability, WPPI can help Mt H with this.

Can provide Mt Horeb with an energy audit for muni owned properties, cannot provide for individual residents. Residents can register with MyAccount on Mt Horeb Utilities website to collect info on their personal energy use.

Beth will gather data on Village energy use at all Village owned properties.

Beth will provide to Sustain Committee an inventory of these properties and their energy use.

Discussion on Inflation Reduction Act, WI Office of Energy Innovation, potential grants available.

Discussion on Slipstream helping Mt H write and submit Energy Innovation grant application, due date is 30 January 2023. Slipstream is a private non-profit business focused on energy equity, contracts with municipalities and organizations.

Beth asked "What are Mt Horeb Sustain Comm goals?" Tim read draft Mission Statement.

Tim: Priorities are to reduce carbon footprint, be energy wise, excite Village residents about sustainability, enact municipal laws/ordinances promoting sustainability, find funding opportunities to support efforts, have a sustainability plan that complements the comprehensive plan.

Kristin suggested Mt H Sustain Comm focus on messaging and communication efforts to Village residents.



AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE	PREPARED BY
January 24, 2023	
AGENDA ITEM # 2.f	
Discussion on future agenda items	
BACKGROUND	
RECOMMENDATION	
ATTACHMENTS	
None	