

Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS)
Wednesday, September 6, 2023, 5:30 PM
In person Meeting at the Downtown Public Library and Zoom

Call to Order

Chair Keiser called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.

1. Land Acknowledgement

2. Roll Call

Present: Laura Achee, Steve Behnke, Marian Call, Gretchen Keiser, Duff Mitchell, Nick Waldo, Jessica Barker, Jim Powell attended on Zoom.

A quorum was present.

Staff & Others Present: CBJ Staff Liaison Denise Koch, Public Member, Lori Sowa, AEL&P (on Zoom)

3. Approval of Agenda

Jim Powell entertained, and the Chair agreed to move public participation up the front of the agenda. Steve Behnke asked for an agenda item to approve a letter of support for an AEL&P US DOE 247 Grant proposal. Changes were made to the agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the following meetings were approved by the Commission without objection.

1. August 2, 2023 - JCOS Regular Meeting Minutes
2. August 8, 2023 - JCOS Outreach Subcommittee Minutes
3. August 22, 2023 - JCOS Solid Waste Subcommittee Minutes

5. Public Participation

JCOS received a request from AEL&P for a supporting letter for its 247 credit application. Ms. Sowa presented her request regarding AEL&P grant funding for the Salmon Creek facility improvements related to the pipe infrastructure of the dam to provide community benefit and assist the DIPAC hatchery.

Steve Behnke spoke to the issue and has been communicating with AEL&P on this matter. Duff Mitchell motioned to have JCOS draft a letter of support with the Energy Chair leading the letter and working with AEL&P so they can have a timely letter.

The motion was seconded by Marian Call and passed. A letter will be shared at our next meeting.

6. Agenda Topics

4. CBJ Proclamation for National Drive Electric Week and September 23 Event – Duff Mitchell (JCOS). Motion made and passed for JCOS to support the event and submit a proclamation as in years past. Flyers of the event will be distributed on CBJ websites.

5. JCOS Organization, Operations, & Communications – Gretchen Keiser (JCOS). Ms Keiser provided an updated copy of JCOS’s 2023 Goals and Operations matrix. The members did not express concerns about overall Commission operations at this time.

Marian Call raised her interest about working on emergency preparedness at a community level for impending disruptions due to climate change. One area of concern is handling potential disruptions in food supply. Jim Powell mentioned CBJ’s Local Emergency Preparedness Committee and also indicated that other cities (Anchorage, Fairbanks, Whitehorse) are developing what are called plausible scenarios of what may happen to their communities with climate change. He suggested starting with the experts and mentioned that Darren Synder (UAF Cooperative Extension) has considered this topic. Duff Mitchell recalled previous JCOS efforts on food security and encouraged JCOS members interested in this topic to take the lead. Gretchen Keiser suggested that the newly activated Climate Impacts/Sustainability Indicators Subcommittee (see #8 below) would be an appropriate vehicle for this topic. Also, Ms. Keiser indicated she would see if Tom Mattice, CBJ Emergency Programs Manager, could make a presentation at an upcoming JCOS meeting.

6. JCOS Subcommittee Reports

- Nick Waldo: the Solid Waste Subcommittee has paused its work while CBJ undertakes a waste characterization study (RFP issued recently) as a first step in overall zero waste planning. The committee is interested in the composting facility and wants to indicate to the Assembly that JCOS has a role moving forward. The solid waste committee is combining efforts with the Outreach Committee on efforts as there is overlap.
 - Marion Call: The Outreach Subcommittee obtained full JCOS concurrence on a Sustainability Session in early November. Potential dates are Nov 2 or Nov 7. Potential location would be at the Valley Public Library. She will work with the Solid Waste committee on a topic.
 - Steve Behnke: summarized the Energy Subcommittee work on various efforts.
7. Outlook on JCOS Formal Input to CBJ – Gretchen Keiser (JCOS). A lengthy discussion ensued on how JCOS provides input on CBJ Assembly priorities and on capital projects. Discussion also evolved into JCOS priorities, Commissioner roles, and setting priorities at JCOS retreats.
 8. JCOS Climate Mitigation/Sustainability Indicators Subcommittee – Jim Powell led the discussion and indicated that the Subcommittee is being activated later this month. Mr. Powell reserved the ability to discuss this issue more at subsequent meetings due to the shortness of time.

8. Information Items

- Duff Mitchell provided an update on the Alaska State Energy Task Force meetings and where the State Energy Plan is headed. It includes Heat Pump heating, Shore Power-Dock Electrification, and other JCOS areas of interest. Also, Senator Murkowski received the CBJ letter to the USPS requesting that Juneau be a site for deployment of EV mail trucks in 2024. It is gaining traction.

9. Next Meetings

- Solid Waste Subcommittee (w/ Outreach Subcommittee) – September 19, 12-1pm

- Climate Mitigation/Sustainability Indicators Subcommittee – September 26, 12-1pm
- Regular JCOS Meeting – October 4, 12-1pm

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.