

Juneau Commission on Sustainability
Wednesday February 7, 2024

Call to Order

12:04pm

Land Acknowledgement

Roll Call

JCOS: Gretchen Keiser, Nick Waldo, Marian Call, Duff Mitchell, Laura Achee, Jessie Barker

Other participants: Dianna Robinson, Ella Adkison, Lori Sowa, Nate Abbott, Ashley Heimbigner

Approval of Agenda

Approved, with modification to move agenda items on food and sustainability awards to the retreat outcome discussion.

Approval of Minutes

Approved

Public Participation

Duff asked Lori for an update on the letter JCOS provided to AEL&P regarding Salmon Creek infrastructure. Lori confirmed the application has been submitted; unsure when applicants will hear the outcome.

Agenda Topics

Election of Officers

Unanimous approval for Nick as Chair, Marian as Vice-Chair, David as Secretary. Gretchen as ex-Chair handed the meeting to the new Chair.

Staff Updates

Still waiting on final determination from EPA grant on municipal composting.

On Feb 12 Dianna will be presenting about solid waste.

There are a couple of new CBJ webpages, including zero waste planning.

Ashley gave an overview of grants. CBJ is considering projects that might be competitive for the EPA climate pollution grant, and have submitted a Notice of Intent to apply for funding for an electric boiler at the Mendenhall waste water treatment plant, which would be a substantial reduction in GHG emissions. Full grant is due April 1.

Dianna provided an update that the USDA grant application with Juneau Composts but this wasn't successful. The application received high scores but it was very competitive.

The group discussed a tracking system for grants, one advantage being to help JCOS request letters of support in a timely manner. Providing a spreadsheet in the meeting packet would save time in the meetings. JCOS would also appreciate hearing proactively about grant opportunities from staff.

Draft CIP Comments

Steve has been going through the draft CIP, and proposes to distill the key points into a memo to the City manager which would include several new CIP projects which focus on the sustainability goals, such as energy efficiency and decarbonization of buildings, electric vehicle charging, and solid waste.

The aim is to get these into the staff recommendations to the joint assembly. To meet the deadline of March 11, this needs to be done before the next JCOS meeting. Duff proposed a motion to give Nick as Chair approval for the memo to be sent to staff and Public Works. Gretchen seconded.

Retreat Outcomes

Gretchen summarized the main topic areas for the 8 potential projects brought up at the retreat: clean energy/financing, outreach (zero waste, climate impacts), sustainability indicators, sustainability awards, emergency preparedness, food security. The next step is to narrow this to a more manageable number and identify issues that individual members might want to take the lead on. Criteria identified at the retreat: amount of time, can we move the needle substantially, timing with regard to CBJ staff and assembly priorities, whether CBJ and community buy-in is likely, the timeline for completion, what can we hand off to the community. Marian clarified that instead of the previous topic-based subcommittees, going forward JCOS will have a project-based approach.

Jessie proposed an additional topic on sustainable food and reducing meat consumption. Duff suggested that this might get more buy-in as food security versus reducing GHG emissions. Jessie will work with Dianna to set up a food working group, which would include sustainability, food security and food waste. Suggestions of people to contact include former JCOS member Colin Peacock, Jennifer Nu at Sustainable Southeast Partnership, and to look at the [2023 Alaska Food Security Task Force Recommendations](#).

JCOS Priorities

Nick Waldo summarized discussion, so far, that there are two working groups identified: 1) Food-based topics, and 2) Sustainability Sessions.

Gretchen Keiser briefly identified the Sustainability Awards and Sustainability Indicators projects, as Jim Powell's behalf.

Marian Call suggested a process to move JCOS forward whereby she will produce a template that can be circulated to all members by Dianna. Commissioners can indicate which of the

potential projects they are interested in working on. A working group can then be formed around projects which receive enough interest among members. Others concurred with this approach. Steve Behnke indicated that he is interested in projects #1 Clean Energy Financing and #2 CBJ Carbon Reduction. He said that the pending CIP effort focuses in on #2 already. Duff Mitchell noted that it may be possible to involve interested members of the public on a particular project as well once they are underway.

Member/Liaison Comments & Questions

Duff Mitchell acknowledged and appreciated Jim Powell's materials on Sustainability Awards and Indicators, which he had been asked to bring forward to the full Commission. Mr Mitchell stated that Jim has given the commission information they can consider.

Adjournment

1:14pm.

Submitted by Jessie Barker