



# CITY AND BOROUGH OF SITKA

## Meeting Minutes - Final Sustainability Commission

**Officers:** Chair Katie Riley, Vice Chair Aurora Taylor, Secretary Erik de Jong

**Members:** Elizabeth Bagley, Lilli Garza, Gerry Hope

**Staff Liaison:** Bri Gabel, Sustainability Coordinator

**Assembly Liaison:** Kevin Mosher

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Monday, April 1, 2024

6:00 P.M.

Harrigan Centennial Hall

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### I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Riley called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 P.M.

**Present:** Elizabeth Bagley (arrived at 6:20 P.M.), Lilli Garza, Gerry Hope, Erik de Jong, Katie Riley, Aurora Taylor, Kevin Mosher (Assembly Liaison)

**Absent:** None

**Staff:** Bri Gabel (Sustainability Coordinator), Mike Schmetzer (Interim Electric Utility Director), Mike Stenberg (Maintenance & Operations Superintendent)

**Public:** None

### II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

No changes.

### III. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Approve the March 4, 2024 minutes.

**Taylor moved to approve the March 4, 2024 minutes.**

**Motion PASSED 4-0 by voice vote.** Hope abstained as he had not yet been appointed by the Assembly.

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

None.

### V. REPORTS

**Staff:** Gabel summarized an article on the emotional signatures of climate policy support recently published in PLOS Climate.

**Chair:** Riley welcomed Commissioner Hope and gave a short update on the Tongass Land Use Management Plan

**Commissioners:** Taylor reported that there were open seats on the Federal Subsistence Board.

### VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### A. Updates and Next Steps From Working Groups

Commissioners updated new Commissioner Hope on the current working groups and their purpose. Gabel outlined the challenges of coordinating with the Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy

(SCRES) working groups and proposed a repeatable monthly work schedule that allowed Commissioners more freedom to opt-in to upcoming work based on their interests and reduced the reliance on working groups for the technical team to make progress. The Commission discussed the

proposed working schedule and agreed to pilot the working schedule for the next 3 months and dissolved the Public Engagement and Energy Education SCRES working group.

Working groups were rearranged as follows:

Municipal Solid Waste Strategizing: Bagley and Taylor

Municipal Electric Vehicle Support: Hope and Riley

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### B. Recommendation for the Use of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Funds

Gabel introduced the program and explained that CBS had been allocated \$75,300 through the EECBG program to support energy efficiency and conservation or fossil fuel reduction. She presented a shortlist compiled through internal CBS staff suggestions, discussions, and capacity, existing capital needs, and feasibility of execution with the allocated amount.

Commissioners discussed various scenarios to maximize the impact of the funds and asked clarifying questions to present CBS staff.

**Hope moved to recommend \$65,000 of EECBG funds to support revitalizing the recycling center and the remaining \$10,300 are used for level 2 chargers for the municipal fleet.**

**Motion PASSED 6-0 by voice vote.**

### C. Approve Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy (SCRES) Energy Education Modules

Gabel introduced the concept map for the energy education component of the SCRES and explained its purpose as a guiding document for the technical team as they began to develop materials that could be used to support the modules. She requested feedback on the module topics, key questions, and supporting materials proposed.

The Commission asked questions regarding how the concept map would be utilized. Garza requested that the personal benefit of energy education and why it matters be highlighted as a key question in various modules. Riley requested energy financing, specifically the debt accrued during the Blue Lake Expansion Project be emphasized. Bagley inquired how these materials linked to delivery methods and stressed that the method of delivery may influence the message. Hope summarized a variety of previous studies about hydroelectric expansion in Sitka and inquired how they might inform some of the proposed supporting materials.

After Commission discussion, the following energy education modules were:

1. Sitka's Energy Today
2. Sitka's Energy History
3. Reliability and Resilience
4. Energy Economics
5. Self Sufficiency and Independence
6. Energy Efficiency and Conservation
7. Sitka's Energy Options
8. Sitka's Energy Future

**Taylor moved to approve the SCRES education modules as written above.**

**Motion PASSED/FAILED 6-0 by voice vote.**

Gabel informed the Commission that the SCRES technical team would next be drafting learning objectives to measure the success of the upcoming education sessions.

**D. Amend Bylaws Article IV: Meetings Section E: Order of Business**

Gabel introduced the drafted bylaws amendment as requested through Commission discussion at the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting to streamline future meetings in regard to the agenda and reports.

**Taylor moved to amend the Sustainability Commission Bylaws, Article 4 "Meetings", Section E "Order of Business", to add sections 5 "Special Reports" and 9 "Reports".**

**Motion PASSED 6-0 by voice vote.**

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

None.

**IX. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA**

The next meeting was scheduled for May 6, 2024 at 6:00 P.M., Harrigan Centennial Hall.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

**Chair Riley moved to adjourn the meeting.**

**Seeing no objection, the meeting ADJOURNED at approximately 8:34 P.M.**

Minutes By: Erik de Jong, Secretary