



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

Monday, May 6, 2024

6:00 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

Present: Aurora Taylor (Acting Chair), Elizabeth Bagley (left at 7:07 P.M.), Lilli Garza (left at 7:30 P.M.), Gerry Hope (arrived at 7:06 P.M.), Erik de Jong

Absent: Katie Riley (excused), Kevin Mosher (Assembly Liaison)

Staff: Bri Gabel (Sustainability Coordinator)

Public: Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy Technical Team: Molly Grear, Andrea Mott

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE AGENDA

No changes.

III. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES

Approve the April 1, 2024 minutes.

Bagley moved to approve the April 1, 2024 minutes.

Motion PASSED by 4-0 voice vote.

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

None.

V. SPECIAL REPORTS

None.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approve Tongass Forest Management Plan Revision Comments Draft Letter

Taylor summarized the item's purpose on behalf of Riley who provided the original draft and explained that the purpose of the letter was to provide context to federal officials unfamiliar with Southeast Alaska as they began the revision of the Tongass Forest Management Plan for the first time in 30 years. Gabel

indicated that as a multi-year process, it was likely the Commission would be approached again to make more specific comments. The Commission discussed edits proposed by Taylor.

Bagley moved to approve the Tongass Forest Revision Comments Draft Letter as written and amended through Commission discussion.

Motion PASSED by 4-0 voice vote.

B. Discussion/Direction/Decision on Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Scopes

De Jong summarized the work that he, Gabel, and the technical team had done over the previous month. Technical team members Molly Grear and Andrea Mott answered Commissioner questions regarding the purpose of each of the scopes, what they included, and how they were typically used. The technical team requested that Commission approve the proposed scope one emission sources and associated calculation methodology so they could begin calculating the greenhouse gas emissions inventory.

Garza moved to approve the methodology for scope one emission sources as proposed by the Pacific Northwest National Lab.

Motion PASSED 4-0 by voice vote.

Gabel suggested that the Commission draft objectives to help the technical team understand how scope three emissions were intended to be used so they could best propose methodology to meet the needs of the Commission. Since solid waste and recycling was considered scope three, de Jong drafted objectives explaining the use of the data obtained from that source. Gabel requested that if the Commission was satisfied with these objectives, they approve them so the technical team could begin calculations.

GHG Emissions Inventory Scope 3 Objectives: Municipal Solid Waste and Recycling

1. Calculate an emission factor for Sitka's unique waste stream that combines the EPA standard value for waste processing and transportation of waste.
2. Differentiate between landfilled solid waste and recyclable waste emission factors.

Objectives 1 and 2 will facilitate:

3. Establishing a GHG emissions reduction goal related to waste.
4. Identifying actions for the community and City to reduce emissions and meet reduction goal.

Garza moved to approve the objectives for scope three: recycling and solid waste emissions as written above.

Motion PASSED 4-0 by voice vote.

Gabel explained that the other requested scope three sources: air travel, shipping, and cruise would likely require more discussion before the technical team could propose methodology. The Commission requested that the technical team, de Jong, and Gabel draft objectives for those emission sources for review at the next meeting.

C. Discussion/Direction/Decision on Sitka Community Renewable Energy Strategy April and May Deliverables

Gabel summarized the work that had been completed by the technical team in April. She presented the module learning objectives, and engagement methods proposed by the team. She explained the purpose of the objectives was to give the technical team metrics to measure success against and ensure alignment with the key questions of the education modules.

Garza expressed gratitude that comments previously made by the Commission had clearly been reflected in the proposed learning objectives document. Bagley inquired about how the objectives would translate to educational materials and how the team was planning on measuring success.

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

None.

IX. REPORTS *(Staff, Chair, Assembly, Commissioners)*

Staff: Gabel attended the Sustainable Southeast Partnership retreat.

Chair: Acting Chair Taylor also attended the Sustainable Southeast Partnership and announced her new position as a grants specialist in Alaska State Representative, Mary Peltola's office.

Commissioners: Hope summarized his conversations regarding electric vehicles with Gabel and Riley, research avenues regarding free, public EV charging stations, and how he hoped the Commission could further efforts to bring these to Sitka.

X. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA

The next meeting was scheduled for June 3, 2024 at 6:00 P.M., in Harrigan Centennial Hall.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chair Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting.

Seeing no objection, the meeting ADJOURNED at approximately 7:38 P.M.

Minutes By: Erik de Jong, Secretary