

Commission for a Greener Tomorrow
January 10, 2011
Birch Room, Wausau City Hall

Chairperson Fred Heider called the meeting to order.

- I. Minutes from the December 13, 2010 meeting were reviewed. Deb W made a motion to accept the minutes with one correction, the spelling of her last name. Brian seconded the corrected minutes. The motion passed.
- II. Introductions: Deb Weiss, Brian Bushnell, Fred Heider and Scott Miles.
- III. The April Sustainability Forum at UWMC has hit some delays. There are conflicts with some of the dates in April. No firm date or speakers have been completed at this time. An additional planning meeting will take place in January or early February. The tentative outline for a two-day conference includes *Business* and *Municipality* sections on Friday and *Household, Food* and *Transportation* sections on Saturday. Keynote speakers will introduce the issues of sustainability and the Natural Step on both days with a follow-up lunch speaker addressing how it applies to each of the day's topics. The afternoon would have the sectional topics listed above. Commission members expressed concern over the delays in this process and do not know what role we can play in sponsoring an event where plans have not been finalized. Possible Commission involvement include personnel support at the forum and monetary support (paying for motel accommodations for speakers, mileage costs, etc.). More planning is required before we can determine our support levels.
- IV. MPO (Wausau Metropolitan Planning Organization) – Fred presented possible plans for the Commission to become part of a larger organization, the MPO. Using a model similar to the Stevens Point eco-municipality that used local groups/ reps and then created sub-committees that attracted more interested people to work on these areas of interest. In addition, using the model of the highly successful Marathon Co. Bike-Pedestrian Sub-Committee could help re-energize the Commission and bring in a nucleus of new member committed to making sustainable decisions in the Wausau MPO. Creating such a group/organization would make membership by Commission members an issue and may allow members to be part of the MPO as ad-hoc members. Brian raised the issue of how difficult the topic of “sustainability” can be because of its broad scope. Narrowing to a singular issue as was done with by Bike-Pedestrian group, would allow for a greater chance of success Fred will contact Dave Mack, Marathon County Planning Dept. and will discuss these ideas and report back at our next meeting. There is no MPO meeting scheduled for January.
- V. New and Recycled Ideas –
 - A. Deb presented data about issues of air quality and emissions in our area. She talked about the idea of making her information available to the community. Further research and contact with the DNR will be done with the possibility of having Ann Michelson post the data on the Commission's Facebook page.
 - B. Congratulations to the Commission and the City of Wausau for efforts at revising the City's ordinance for special events recycling. The Planning Commission passed a revised recycling ordinance. The Health and Public Safety Committee passed a revised special event permit that will assure that the City has a plan to recycle glass, plastic and aluminum at all special events. The Commission would like to thank Brad Lenz (City of Wausau) and Lisa Rasmussen (Wausau Area Events) for helping create this change. In addition, input from the two City Committees was also very helpful in this process. The City Council will make a final decision on both issues at an upcoming meeting.

- C. Discussion of Styrofoam recycling and the Weston business (across from Veolia site) that does this work. Contact Bob Karls for more information.
 - D. Holiday Decorations – replacing lights with LED bulbs (project?)
 - E. PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) – a program that would allow homeowners to add costs of energy saving improvements (windows, solar roofing, etc) to their mortgage or assessed value as a tax credit. Municipality must be part of program. Currently pending court decision.
 - F. Community Sustainability Series noted in Cent WI Sustainability Newsletter. Fred will contact Mary Kluz to see if this could be offered in our area. Sessions run from 2-3:30 PM on Jan 19 (intro), 26 (energy), Feb 2 (food), 9 (new economy), 16 (building) and 23 (mobility) and March 9 (natural resources), 16 (community capacity). The cost for this webinar would be \$150.
 - G. Mike Lotter, Marathon County Energy Conservation team leader, has been invited to our next meeting. The Commission discussed some of the issues we would like to discuss with him. How was his group formed? Who is part of it? How do they determine their goals? What has it accomplished? Scott will contact Mike about these questions.
- VI. Motion to adjourn made by Scott M and seconded by Deb W. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.

Next meeting – January 24, 2011 at 5:30 in the Birch Room of Wausau City Hall.