

Natural Resources Commission Minutes

April 23, 2018; 6:30 p.m.

Present: Mark Braly, John Johnston, Anya McCann, Alan Pryor, Steven Westhoff, Evan Schmidt, Stan Bair

Staff: Kerry Daane Loux, Sustainability Coordinator, Community Development & Sustainability

Council Liaison: Rochelle Swanson

1. **Approval of Agenda** – Approved unanimously (Bair/Westoff, 6-0 Pryor not yet in attendance).
2. **Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Liaisons** – Patrick Henderson has resigned from the Natural Resources Commission because he has moved out of Davis. Staff noted that commissioners are encouraged to attend the Downtown Davis Plan Participatory Design Workshop this week. Valley Clean Energy will be launching in June 2018; staff showed Commissioners outreach materials including newspaper inserts highlighting the program. Recology Davis has officially been selected to replace Davis Waste Removal for waste and recycling services. Mark Braly noted that the Valley Climate Action Center is hosting a City Council Candidates Forum on Sunday, April 29 to address local actions to combat climate change. Alan Pryor referred Commissioners to the Sierra Club Yolano candidate information on a variety of topics published in the Vanguard. Commissioner Johnston thanked everyone who wrote letters of support for the Davis Manor Neighborhood Urban Greening Grant.
3. **Public Communications** – None.
4. **Consent Calendar** – Approved unanimously (Pryor, Westoff 7-0).
 - A. Minutes – March 26, 2018
 - B. Restaurants solid waste segregation report: The staff report provided on consent overviewed the solid waste reduction and diversion laws that have passed in the last few years, including State mandatory commercial organics and recycling laws, along with City of Davis codes for 1) waste separation for divertible recyclable and organic materials, 2) disposable bag reduction program, 3) beverage straws, and 4) environmentally acceptable food packaging. The City is currently increasing outreach and enforcement of these regulations, along with at least 50 waste audits each year.
5. **Regular Items**
 - A. **Organics Feasibility Update**

The Organics Processing Facility Feasibility Analysis was discussed. This report by Clements Environmental Corporation assesses final destination options for handling organics materials and creates a matrix to rank available technologies. The overall goal of the study is to determine the most environmentally preferred solution for diverting waste at the minimum cost to customers. Based on input from Commissions, the NRC Zero Waste subcommittee and City staff, and because of other recent changes in waste management, the scope of the draft report is being expanded to include additional facility information, a comparative greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction analysis, and other priorities. The NRC will be asked for further input when the report updates are complete.
 - B. **Reclaimed Water Study**

The Commission heard a progress report on the Recycled Water Master Plan from consultant West Yost Associates and City staff. The report summarizes potential options and priorities for offsite use of recycled water. The report also discussed the City's approach and priorities for evaluating long-term options for the Restoration Wetlands and overland flow site. These later evaluations are being considered separately from the Recycled Water Master Plan. Availability of recycled water was

projected for 2023 (5-year), 2036 and 2054, and estimated costs for a variety of offsite uses was presented. The Commission noted a preference for preserving the ability to do something environmentally beneficial with the water, and to not lose rights to use of the recycled water in the future. Costs were considered prohibitive in the short term, however there are additional co-benefits that have not yet been studied or quantified. The Commission's first priority would be to discharge the recycled water to the Yolo Bypass through a "water market" agreement with a user that includes mutually agreeable provisions for the City to retain future rights to the recycled water so that the City still has the option to use the recycled water at some point in the future. The Commission requested further analysis before making final recommendations, including further evaluation of agricultural reuse costs (such as a market assessment to determine value of water to local farmers, refinement of estimated cost to cross Willow Slough Bypass); addressing questions related to value of recycled water for agricultural site (such as potential for additional farm lease revenue with reliable water supply, quantification of benefits of offsetting groundwater use, carbon sequestration opportunities and benefits); and studying feasibility of locating solar facility or organic processing facility at the agricultural site, along with converting overland flow site to agriculture.

C. GHG Subcommittee Draft Policy Recommendation

The GHG subcommittee presented an update on policy recommendations related to greenhouse gas emissions reductions. Further information will be presented in May.

D. 2018 Commission Vice Chair Election and 2018-19 Subcommittees

Subcommittee assignments and Vice Chair election were held until the May 2018 meeting due to time constraints.

E. Subcommittee Updates –

No further subcommittee updates were made.

6. Commission and Staff Communications

a) **Long Range Calendar/Future Agenda Items.**

b) **Upcoming meeting items/events.** Next regular meeting May 21, 2018

7. Adjourn: 10:45 p.m.