

Natural Resources Commission Minutes
May 21, 2018; 6:30 p.m.

Present: Mark Braly, John Johnston, Anya McCann, Steven Westhoff, Evan Schmidt

Absent: Alan Pryor, Stan Bair

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

Council Liaison: Rochelle Swanson

1. **Approval of Agenda** – Approved unanimously (Schmidt/McCann, 4-0 Westhoff not yet in attendance).

2. **Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Liaisons** –

Staff noted changes to the 2018-19 'Greener Guide' brochure being published by June 2018 by the City of Davis Environmental Resources Division, including that the guide is now designed with information for all residents, and not focused primarily on renters. Energy conservation and active transportation are incorporated along with waste and recycling, wildlife protection and pollution prevention.

The Environmental Recognition Awards were presented at Council to five awardees and a Legacy Award winner: Individual—Martin Guerena; Business—RepowerYolo and River City Bank Davis (co-awardees); Non-profit—Tree Davis; Special Recognition—Yolo County Housing, and the Legacy Award to ASUCD/City of Davis Unitrans for 50 years of providing bus transportation in the community.

Staff noted that the Sustain magazine with two articles about Davis, one on the city's carbon neutrality efforts and another by Dick Bourne on Parkview Place, has been published online and in hard copy. The website for the magazine to see this and other issues can be found at:
<http://partnershipgreencity.wixsite.com/greencitypartnership/sustain-magazine>.

Cool Davis is hosting a lecture series on Wednesday nights called 'Choices for Sustainable Living'. The topics for May 23 at 7 pm, located at RepowerYolo, are Davis' Energy future and the Urban Forest. The May 30 program will welcome speaker Sara DeLaney, who will share some of the impacts of climate change on our health as our region experiences longer and hotter summers with more extreme heat events and air quality challenges. More information can be found at
<https://www.cooldavis.org/2018/05/18/choices-for-sustainable-living-hosts-speakers-kristov-jones-and-delaney/>.

The state has proposed draft CalRecycle regulations in Senate Bill 1383, short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCP): Organic Waste Methane Emissions Reductions. City of Davis staff supports the goals of SB 1383: reducing landfill methane emissions by keeping organic materials out of landfills. However, there are concerns about some items in the draft legislation, including inflexible color coding of bins and the financial burden of complying with draft regulations, as noted in a letter from the City Manager's Office, attached.

John Johnston noted that the NRC memo related to West Davis Active Adult Community development agreement was sent to staff to be included in the staff report for the May 29 City Council staff report. The memo requests that City Council reconsider a requirement for an all-electric project and elimination of natural gas. The final memo is attached.

Completed Summary Report and recommendations on the April Downtown Plan Participatory Design Workshop One from Opticos Design Inc. can be found at [DDP Participatory Design Workshop Summary Report](#). The second Workshop, titled 'Refining a Preferred Alternative, Neighborhood Transitions' will be held July 10-14, 2018.

3. Public Communications –
None.

4. Consent Calendar – Approved unanimously (Westhoff /Schmidt 5-0), with correction to Westhoff’s name.
A. Minutes – April 23, 2018

5. Regular Items

A. Reclaimed Water Study

Following the reclaimed water study presentation last month by City staff and consultant West Yost Associates, and initial comments by Commissioners, the NRC recommendations were brought back to the Commission for review and approval by the following motion, which was approved unanimously (Westhoff/Braly 5-0):

The Commission’s priority is to use the reclaimed water for environmentally beneficial uses. Any short term use of the water should ensure that the City’s water rights are maintained for future uses of the reclaimed water.

The following recommendations for further study are made by the Natural Resources Commission:

1. Investigate the potential for supporting wetlands habitat by discharging the reclaimed water to the Yolo Bypass and participating in a “water market” agreement with a user that includes mutually agreeable provisions for the City to retain future rights to the reclaimed water.
2. Further analyze the costs and benefits of an agricultural reuse project. Better information is needed before making final recommendations, including:
 - Further evaluation of agricultural reuse revenue sources from other farmers or farm leases (such as a market assessment to determine value of water to local farmers)
 - Refinement of options and estimated cost to deliver water south of Willow Slough Bypass
3. Assess potential needs and benefits from using this reclaimed water as part of a sustainable groundwater management plan.
4. Comprehensively assess carbon sequestration/offset opportunities and benefits related to availability of reclaimed water in light of the City’s established Climate Action Goals.
5. Assess the habitat value of City-owned agricultural property as a permanent agricultural easement.
6. Study feasibility of locating proposed solar facilities or organic processing facility at the agricultural site and converting overland flow site to agriculture.

B. Valley Climate Action Center update

Joshua Cunningham, Chair of Valley Climate Action Center, presented issues currently being addressed by VCAC. The non-profit group advocates for local climate actions and policies, including the importance of completing City of Davis’s General Plan and Climate Action and Adaptation Plan updates. His powerpoint presentation is attached.

C. Valley Clean Energy update

Mitch Sears, Interim General Manager of Valley Clean Energy, answered Commission questions about Valley Clean Energy and the launch of the program in June 2018. All Commissioners are invited to attend the June 1 Kickoff Celebration at the Hunt Boyer Mansion from 4:30 to 6.

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

Subcommittee assignments and Vice Chair election were held until the June 2018 meeting due to absences.

E. Subcommittee Updates –

The Energy Subcommittee is working on setting up a meeting with City Council representatives to discuss study of a Rental Energy Efficiency Ordinance. Hazardous Waste Subcommittee is waiting for further information from Public Works staff on the hire of an Integrated Pest Management Specialist and completion of IPM Policies. The GHG Subcommittee presented information about the proposed Cool Parking Lot Guidelines. Following Commission agreement that the included policies are supported in concept, they will complete the proposal for NRC adoption as part of the June 25 consent calendar. Additionally, the Subcommittee mentioned that they are sending a letter to Davis Joint Unified School District related to the Facilities Plan currently underway. As proposed at this point, there are no requirements in the plan to provide trees for parking lot shading. The letter encourages DJUSD to incorporate similar requirements as per City of Davis policy. No further subcommittee updates were made.

6. Commission and Staff Communications

- a) **Long Range Calendar/Future Agenda Items.** A request to include an update on IPM Policies and IPM Specialist hiring on the June agenda was made.
- b) **Upcoming meeting items/events.** Next regular meeting June 25, 2018

7. Adjourn: 9:35 p.m.

Attachments:

City of Davis Comment Letter on SB 1383
NRC Memo to City Council on West Davis Active Adult Community
Valley Climate Action Center presentation powerpoint