

Sustainability & Natural Resources Management Board

Minutes: 7 18 24

Approved:

Attending:

Community Forest Working Group:	Dave Griswold
Conservation Working Group:	Jane Costlow
Natural Products & Agriculture Working Group:	Chris Carson
Sustainability Working Group:	Ralph Harder
Mayor's Representative:	Councilor Tim Cowan
Planning Board Representative:	Stacy LaBlanc ABSENT
Excused:	None
Staff:	City Mgr. Crowell

Guests: None

Recorder: Dave Griswold

Call to Order: 6:00

- 1. Minutes** for 4 11 24
- 2. Public Participation:** None
- 3. New Members:** Kimberly Rand was approved as a new member of the Conservation Working Group.
- 4. City Report:** Phil reported on several Sustainability related items.
 - Auburn has received a \$50k grant through the State Community Resilience Partnership to be utilized for EV charging stations at the Library and NSBA.
 - Auburn has received a \$75k Federal grant through the Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant Program that will be used for mechanical/efficiency upgrades at City Hall.
 - 1st Quarter NEB Savings Report documents \$57,841 in Q1 savings from the Eagle Creek/Hackett Mills agreement.

- d. Auburn received the Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) annual report on the retirements from Hackett Mills Hydro, the total of 2,067 RECs equate to 506 Metric tons of CO₂e avoided, or 57,049 gallons of gasoline equivalent. Auburn can claim these benefits along with renewable electricity already purchased through our electric supply agreement, towards Scope 2 emissions.
 - e. Auburn will be part of the Forest Products District Technology Hub.
 - f. The Food Forest concept has been allocated \$50k in ARPA funds. Discussion of reviewing potential location at the Tot Lot or another more accessible location. Project Canopy grants are more likely to be approved for an inner-city location. SNRB is supportive of the project but not in a position to take the lead.
 - g. Phil is discussing with NOAH the timing for a press release on a large grant.
- 5. Solid Waste Task Force:** Ralph reported that a public hearing was held to review the executive summary. The final report is in preparation and will be presented at the August 19 Council Meeting. ***The SNRB voted to endorse the direction of the report which will be finalized by the August 19 deadline.*** There was discussion about the need to review and potentially update the existing Solid Waste ordinance.
- 6. Working Group updates:**
- a. NP&Ag WG-
 - i. Chris Piercy at the School Dept has received a grant to develop food processing capacity at AMS and provide more food from local farms for the school departments in Auburn and partners Lewiston and Lisbon.
 - ii. Work is under way to develop a farm application checklist in coordination with staff.
 - b. Conservation WG-
 - i. Pollinator Garden is now established at Pettengill.
 - c. Community Forest WG:
 - i. A \$20k grant from Project Canopy has been received to make improvements at the nursery, including a deer fence, signage and the access road.
 - d. Sustainability Working Group:
 - i. Efforts have centered on the solid waste and recycling project.
- 7. Sustainability Scorecard:** Dave introduced a draft Sustainability Scorecard which could be used to track and communicate progress on key initiatives. He noted that this type of reporting is common in corporations and some other municipalities. Phil agreed to discuss the concept with staff and report back at the next meeting.
- 8. Membership:** Ralph's term has been completed and a rep from Sustainability Working Group is needed. Jane noted that the chair is due to be rotated and will need to be

acted on at the next meeting. Chris and Dave raised the possibility of Chris moving to Secretary and Dave moving to chair.

9. NEXT MEETING: October 10, 2024

Adjourn: 7:30