



## MINUTES

Eugene Sustainability Commission  
Atrium, Saul Room  
Eugene, Oregon

July 18, 2018  
5:30 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Howard Saxion, Kevin O'Brien, Thomas Price, Ralph McDonald, Art Farley, Sue Wolling, Zach Mulholland, Kelsey Zlevor, Dana Furgerson, Councilor Emily Semple, Doug Edwards, Jennifer Hayward, and Chelsea Clinton-staff.

**ABSENT:** Jon Kloor

### Opening

- Chair O'Brien called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.
- Review Agenda –Commissioner Saxion moved to approve the agenda as written. Seconded by Commissioner Farley. Approved unanimously.
- Approve minutes from June meeting. Commissioner Saxion moved to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Commissioner Wolling. Approved (8-0-1). Commissioner Hayward abstained.

Commissioner Edwards arrived at 5:34pm.

### Public Comment

Deb McGee spoke about attending City Council meetings and hearing children testify about climate change. She was encouraged when the Climate Recovery Ordinance (CRO) was passed. She was shocked when she heard Councilor Zelenka say the CRO was aspirational. She spoke about attending one of the Large Lever Shareholder meetings for the Climate Action Plan. She learned there will be no snow pack in Oregon in 40 years. She wants to know if the CRO goals are aspirational or if we are really going to reach them. She will dedicate the last chapter of her life to achieving those goals. She needs to know the City is committed to reaching the goals.

Karyn Kaplan runs the Zero Waste program at the University of Oregon. She provided comments on the Waste Reduction Committee proposal. While she supported item 1, she thought it could be best addressed through a larger strategic plan that implements a comprehensive zero waste strategy. She is concerned about putting the burden of increased land fill diversion on haulers. Haulers are in business to move waste. It's not their responsibility to increase recycling. She sees an opportunity to develop infrastructure on the west coast to address this issue. When less goes into the landfill, less methane is created, which in turn leads to less greenhouse gas emissions. She thought the

proposal was missing the promotion of reusables. It could also include encouragement to buy recycled products and reduce the use of packaging.

Public comment closed.

Commissioner Mulholland arrived at 5:36pm.

### Commissioner Comment to Public

Councilor Semple agreed with Deb McGee 100%. She said we need to talk more about what we are going to do. The Climate Action Plan (CAP) is coming and that's a lot of work. There are some things like walking and recycling that we can do. It's not clear whether the City's goals are aspirational and realistic.

Commissioner McDonald thanked folks for speaking. He spoke about a recent trip where he had to drive through forest fires and other areas where trees are dead. Councilor Zelenka encouraged Sustainability Commission be more proactive to Council last year. He interprets that as a need for the Commission to put forth proposals that have some teeth when it comes to our actions.

### Sustainability Commission Officer Elections

#### Election of the Chair

- Commissioner Saxion nominated Commissioner Zlevor as Chair.
- Commission Mulholland nominated Commissioner O'Brien for chair. Commissioner O'Brien said he wanted to step down from the Chair position.
- Commissioner Zlevor spoke about why she was interested in being Chair.
- Commissioner McDonald nominated Commissioner Wolling for Chair.
- Commissioner Farley moved to close nominations. Seconded by Commissioner Saxion
- Commissioner Zlevor won the vote. Votes for Commissioner Zlevor – Saxion, O'Brien, Farley, Wolling, Mulholland, Zlevor, Semple, Edwards, Hayward. Votes for Commissioner Wolling – Furgerson and McDonald. Votes for Commissioner O'Brien – none.
- Many Commissioners gave praise to Commissioner O'Brien for a job well done over the past year.

#### Election of the Vice Chair

- Commissioner McDonald nominated Commissioner Wolling.
- Commission Farley moved to close nominations. Seconded by Commissioner Saxion. Approved unanimously.
- Commissioner Wolling said she would be glad to serve as Vice Chair for an additional term.
- Councilor Semple said she was excited to have Commissioner Wolling as Vice Chair. She brings a lot of experience.
- Commissioner O'Brien thanked Sue for all of her work as Vice Chair over the past year.

- Commission Saxion asked if this was the first time the Sustainability Commission had both leadership positions filled by women.
- Commissioner Wolling won the vote unanimously (11-0). Votes for Commissioner Wolling - Saxion, O'Brien, Farley, Wolling, Mulholland, Zlevor, Semple, Edwards, Hayward, Furgerson, McDonald.

### Climate Action Plan 2.0 Large Lever Shareholder Review

- Chelsea Clinton introduced the topic.
- Suggestions of organizations to add as Large-Lever Shareholders:
  - o Top five community ghg emitters, such as Seneca and Weyerhaeuser, and other large industrial emitters
  - o Sanipac
    - ghgs from large trucks
    - Impact on solid waste system
  - o ODOT
  - o More private companies
  - o A local grocer/ Food for Lane County/Nancy's/Lane County
  - o Homebuilders Association/Cascadia Green Building

### Break

Commission Price arrived during break.

### Triple Bottom Line (TBL) Analysis Discussion

- Commissioner Wolling introduced the topic. Jason Dedrick from the City Manager's Office led the discussion.
- Commissioner comments included:
  - o What are the expectations for the reports? How are we measuring how we meet those expectations?
  - o Is it a true value-add? TBL isn't the only way to rank or think about proposals.
  - o A Sustainability Commission Committee looked at the City's application of TBL a few years ago. At that time it was hit or miss. A lot of little actions that the City undertakes don't have a TBL.
  - o Granularity matters. Not every matter needs a deep TBL.
  - o We don't have the expertise and time to do a convincing/formal TBL
  - o Some Commissioners feel social equity and economic prosperity are secondary. The environmental component is foremost charge.
  - o Would it be better to identify issues and questions, rather than try to answer them?
  - o What about using an approach that identifies the problem we are trying to solve, the approaches we considered using, why we went with the approach we did, and why we rejected the others?

- Jason closed by saying it sounds like most Commissioners believe the TBL adds value, but that the Commission could use help figuring out how much work to put into the analysis.
- The discussion will be continued at the retreat in August.

### Waste Reduction Committee Proposal

- Commissioner Furgerson presented the proposal (included at the end of these notes).
- Summary of Commission Discussion:
  - Item 1: Some Commissioners expressed concern about placing the burden on haulers. Others thought the haulers had the best relationship with the public and therefore, had the best opportunity to work with folks to divert more materials from the landfill. Others were concerned about the markets for recyclables even if collection could be increased.
  - Item 4: Some Commissioners expressed concerns about the proposal's viability. This proposal requires broad changes by industry. Eugene may not have the market power to shift anything. Others thought a fee was a first step in addressing the problem of single use plastics.
  - Commissioners discussed whether the proposals were realistic.
  - Some Commissioners raised concerns over the TBL Analysis and asked that some of those be revised.
  - Councilor Semple advised reformatting the proposal so that each item is on a separate page. The Commission may want to consider sending one at a time to Council. Not all the details need to be worked out, such as how much the fee for plastics should be. Getting the idea to Council was the important piece.

### Motion

- Commissioner Wolling moved to reauthorize the Committee, asking them to take into consideration the suggestions heard at the meeting today. Seconded by Commissioner O'Brien.

### Discussion:

- Commissioner McDonald asked to pull out item 4 and move it forward on its own.
- Commissioner Mulholland agreed with the motion and the need to tighten up the proposal.
- Commissioners agreed to reauthorize the Committee into October, adding 2-3 meetings.
- Motion passed 11-1. Commissioner Furgerson was opposed.

### Councilor Updates

- Council voted to move forward on Downtown Riverfront Project. This does not mean Council voted to make it happen. There's still time for input and for the City to say no.

- Councilor Semple asked for more information about what the financial implications of removing condos on the river would be (9b and 10b) and more specifically 9b.
- The Riverfront Park design meeting is tomorrow.
- There were seven public hearings on Monday night. One was to talk about the requests for the Obie projects.
- The Wildlife Ordinance was approved. Councilor Semple voted against it. It does not include a ban on rat poison.
- Councilor Semple outlined the different options for a potential smoking ban.
- Upcoming topics include Community Justice, nuisance codes, marijuana buffer areas coming up for vote, town square planning work session, and a joint meeting with LTD board.

#### Items from Commissioners and Staff

- Chelsea asked about the date for a Commission retreat. The Commissioners agreed on August 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Commissioner Mulholland asked that leadership send out prompting questions to think about in advance, as well as last year's work plan and Council's working agenda.
- Commissioners requested a discussion about the primary domain of the Sustainability Commission's work.

#### Commission Updates

- Commissioner Saxion will present Northwest Natural proposal on Monday.
- Commissioner Mulholland asked that Commissioners email their City Councilor to say proposal on Northwest Natural is important. He will work with Councilor Semple to coordinate a work session poll.
- Councilor Semple is really interested in a work session on banning and/or imposing a fee on takeout containers.
- Councilor Semple will check on the scheduling of a Home Energy Score work session.
- Commissioner Farley and Price spoke about the Climate Action Plan Neighborhood Outreach Committee. Recommendation will be coming in September.

Adjourned at 8:32pm.

## **Sustainability Commission Waste Reduction Committee Proposals**

**Dana Furgerson (chairperson), Art Farley, Zach Mulholland, Sue Wolling**

### **Introduction**

Eugene has worked toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions for decades, and the Climate Energy Action Plan implements strong climate action goals. In addition, the report contracted by the Lane County Board of Commissioners and completed by the R3 Consulting Group (2015-2018) addresses these issues.

The impact of consumption is cited in the Metro greenhouse gas inventory for Portland (CEAP report): Consumption and waste in the Portland Metro region have a greater share of total emissions than either transportation or energy use in buildings. Eugene has the same profile, with roughly 40 - 42 percent of the total greenhouse emissions from consumption and waste.

The Sustainability Commission urges the Eugene City Council to take actions that would begin the process of implementing a stronger waste management program. In particular, we submit the following proposals for consideration:

### **The Five Proposals**

**1. Initiate high recovery (solid waste landfill diversion) franchise agreements with haulers to achieve the 2025 goal of 63% recovery.**

### **Strategies for Implementation**

- Recover no less than 50,000 additional tons of material annually or 140 additional tons per day (14 very full garbage trucks). (R3 Report)
- Execute a high recovery franchise agreement development process with high recovery exclusive and non-exclusive franchise agreements.
- Explore the feasibility of geographically defined franchises.

### **Supporting Facts**

- The R3 Report Phase 2: The #1 short term priority should be to regulate private haulers.
- The city, currently at 50% recovery, is not on track to meet the Solid Waste Management Division 63% recovery rate goal by 2025 (R3 Report).

### **Triple Bottom Line**

- **Environmental health:** Increased recycling reduces landfill greenhouse gas emissions, and recovering and reusing materials reduces greenhouse gas emissions involved in producing new products.
- **Social Equity:** Rate increases likely required by high recovery franchise agreements would necessitate initiation of low income assistance to pay these higher rates.

- **Economic prosperity:** Increasing recycling creates recycling employment and over time provides economic advantages for businesses that recycle their waste.

## 2. Implement strategies to reduce food waste.

### Strategies for Implementation

- Educate the community about the greenhouse gas emissions of food production, use, and waste with at least monthly public service announcements on television, in local publications, and on social media and provide links to website information.
- Pair usable food waste with people and animals, maximizing human food use.
- Encourage Eugene’s plan to contract with a marketing firm to reduce food waste.
- Move toward universal composting services for large food waste producers, including but not limited to multifamily dwellings, commercial and industrial businesses, restaurants, and grocery stores.
- Invest in new equipment and vehicles for Food for Lane County or other nonprofits to address food recovery for human consumption.

### Supporting Facts

- Food consumption, lifecycle emissions, and transportation, account for 15-17% of our greenhouse gas emissions (CEAP final Report).
- Food waste accounts for about 30% of our waste stream (Michael Wisth, Eugene City Zero Waste Community Outreach Analyst).

### Triple Bottom Line

- **Environmental health:** Decomposing food waste in landfills produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas, and producing unused food contributes to greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Social Equity:** Because food is a major expense for low income residents, strategies to redirect otherwise wasted food and to increase wise use of food benefits them.
- **Economic Prosperity:** Growing awareness of the environmental impact of food produced far away and shipped here would support the Lane Workforce Partnership’s focus on the local food/beverage industry for regional economic development.

## 3. Conduct studies to determine the demand for reuse of local construction materials and if demand is sufficient, deconstruction of a building should require a review for reuse possibilities and reclamation.

### Strategies for implementation

- These studies could work in tandem with the State of Oregon’s new requirement for construction and demolition recycling: At the Glenwood and Short Mountain Landfill

locations, all loads over 6 cubic yards will be sorted for recycling by the generator or be delivered to a material recovery facility for sorting beginning July 1, 2018.

- If economically feasible once recovered, asphalt roofing (used in street repair) could be hauled to Portland and drywall (used to produce new drywall) could be hauled to Turner for recycling.
- If economically feasible, a regional or statewide system to find niche uses for recovered materials could be developed (currently reclaimed materials with no local market end up in the landfill).

### **Supporting Facts**

- Waste from building construction and demolition activities generate roughly 30% of the total waste generated in Oregon (CEAP report).
- R3 report Phase 2 found limited mixed waste and construction and demolition debris processing capacity in the county. Studies will reveal if Eugene should develop these. Current recycling/reuse facilities: Bring, Eco Sort, McKenzie Recycling, Schnitzer Steel.

### **Triple Bottom Line**

- **Environmental health:** Recycling construction materials keeps it from landfills and reduces the need to harvest new timber.
- **Social Equity:** Reducing construction costs by using recovered materials benefits the low and middle incomes.
- **Economic Prosperity:** The added cost of a review for reuse and recycling before demolition is offset by the savings inherent in the recovered materials. Construction and construction jobs benefit.

**4. Ban or impose fees on single use plastic food items, phased in over a maximum three year period. included, but not limited to, are: plastic straws, plastic utensils and plates, clamshells, frozen food packaging, and tubs such as yogurt cups.**

### **Strategies for implementation**

- If not banned, impose a single-use fee of 10 cents per item. Proceeds of this fee, remitted by the distributor to the city, will go toward creating and operating plastic recycling plants or for providing subsidies to private firms doing the same.
- Businesses included (but not limited to) are: grocery stores, markets, convenience stores, and restaurants.
- An exception to the fee is granted if the manufacturer has an effective program for reusing or recycling the plastic.

### **Supporting Facts**

- Of the roughly 8.3 billion metric tons of plastic produced since the 1950's, about 6.3 million have been thrown away. At current rates there will be over 12 billion tons by 2050 causing ocean pollution (8 million tons per year) and landfill expansion.
- Eugene has banned plastic bags. Seattle has added a plastic straw and utensils ban.
- Cornucopia Restaurant has stopped using plastic straws.
- The CEAP and R3 Report support product stewardship, extended producer responsibility, and seeking legislation to that end.
- Sixteen countries have banned a variety of single use plastic items including: bags, bottles, cups, straws, utensils, microbeads, and clamshells. In the UK, McDonalds is eliminating plastic straws.
- China's refusal to accept U.S. plastics for recycling has greatly reduced options, but sparse recycling infrastructure and facilities west of the Mississippi and attempting to recycle items that are not clean further hinder it.

### **Triple Bottom Line**

- **Environmental health:** Plastic pollution impacts the entire planet. Recent changes in policies regarding plastic recycling make establishment of regional facilities essential.
- **Social Equity:** Use of alternatives to plastic or a fee on plastics may impact low income populations, but low income residents are also more heavily impacted by the negative aspects of plastic food packaging (ingesting micro-particles and environmental).
- **Economic Prosperity:** Bans and fees on plastics may increase business costs initially, but the transition away from plastic bags went smoothly, and businesses will gain customers as they advertise their adherence to the triple bottom line. The policy facilitates regional employment in plastics recycling.

### **5. Create a permanent citizen volunteer waste reduction committee.**

#### **Strategies for Implementation**

- The city could advertise for residents knowledgeable in reuse, recycling, and waste reduction to be on the committee.
- The city and county could update the committee on waste reduction efforts.

#### **Supporting Facts**

- A permanent committee of interested, knowledgeable citizens will give valuable assistance to the city in meeting CEAP waste reduction goals.

### **Triple Bottom Line**

- **Environmental health:** Citizen oversight could monitor the local environmental impact of CEAP actions on the environment.
- **Social Equity:** Diverse committee membership will guard against negative impacts on low income households and ethnic minorities and find ways to address inequities.

- **Economic Prosperity:** The committee will provide a forum for business and individuals to resolve problems faced in achieving community waste reduction goals and help develop best practices for local waste reduction.

### **Additional Waste Reduction Facts**

- Reducing consumption, reusing materials and products, and reducing waste are essential to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Sarah Grimm, Eugene City Waste Reduction Specialist, says that the best recycling outcomes occur when materials are separated at the source. Examples: bottles and cans recycled at grocery stores or recycling centers.
- Extended product responsibility must be considered when evaluating greenhouse gas emissions because transportation and consumption decisions increase or decrease greenhouse gas emissions.
- Extended product responsibility often involves the producer in some physical aspects of waste management such as waste collection or the management of collective waste management organizations.
- In addition, extended product responsibility confronts the producer with the costs of end-of-life disposal of their products and provides incentives for the producer to take account of these costs in designing and marketing products.
- The CEAP focuses on changing consumer behavior to reduce the impact that purchasing habits have in creating greenhouse gases.
- Three high priority CEAP actions are:
  1. Educate businesses and residents about the important role of consumption in creating greenhouse gas emissions. Lobby at the state level for better product labeling that includes information about greenhouse gas emissions associated with products.
  2. Provide information for the public on when to replace high energy-use appliances such as refrigerators, dishwashers, and water heaters. Where this information is already available, increase its distribution and accessibility.
  3. Actively support new state and national product stewardship legislation that requires producers to be involved in end-of-product-life management.