

**Go-Green Commission Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, February 19, 2010**  
**12:00 noon**

**Members (those present designated by \*)**

Johann Berlin (Sustainable City Solutions)  
\*Detra Dettmann (USDA-NRCS/Pathfinders RC&D)  
\*Brian McDonald (Ambient Control Systems)  
\*Fred McElwee (Fairfield Community School District)  
\*Bob Ferguson (Shaklee)  
\*Lonnie Gamble (MUM, Sustainable Living Department)  
\*Martha Norbeck (C-Wise)  
\*Todd Reifsteck (Dexter-Apache Company)  
\*Stuart Valentine (Iowa Progressive Asset Management), via telephone  
\*Sonia Vera (MUM, International Admissions Counselor)  
\*Roger Voorhees (Schaus-Voorhees Construction)  
Staci Wright (Fairfield High School)  
\*Sue Henderson (ISU Extension)

**Others present**

\*Scott Timm, Sustainability Coordinator

Meeting called to order by Stuart Valentine at 12:00 noon. at the Jefferson County Extension Office.

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| <b>Committee reports:</b> |
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- **Awards and Celebrations:** (Timm) The first Green Leadership award was presented to Lois Hunt last week. There are plans to nominate other community members via the website and make awards a couple times a year.
- **Communications/Media Relations:** (Timm) More than 10 press releases have been sent out in the last month. For the website, focus has been on gathering project profiles so the website has quite a bit of content before being launched. Ferguson asked if a logo has been developed for the Green Commission yet.
- **Energy Efficiency (Commercial & Residential):** (Gamble) Continuing to look into revolving loan fund to start improvements for residential and small businesses. These improvements often have a quick payback but people are deterred because of high capital cost up front. For example, one solar hot water heater can cost \$4,000-\$7,000, so \$1 mill in revolving loan funds could fund 200 projects that cost \$5,000 each. There may be funds though Rural Development, but also need to approach local banks or consider other USDA programs or stimulus funds. Another goal of the committee is to set technical standards and certifications for contractors and improvement verification.
- **Fundraising:** No report.
- **Green Economic Development/Investments:** (Valentine) – Stuart reported on progress towards a dual currency system for Fairfield, where volunteers would earn credits towards local businesses and services for hours worked. He has made several connections and the will continue to develop the idea.

- **Green Business Council:** (Ferguson) The GBC has grown in numbers after each meeting, with the primary goal to reduce all business energy use by 20%. The group is also working on financing options including working with local banks and possible grant opportunities.
- **Land Use/Water Quality Issues:** (Dettmann) Progress has been made working toward a demonstration rain garden at the middle school. Dialogue continues with HyVee about their new building site and possible stormwater management practices.
- **Populations in Need (Underserved Populations (Low income/Latin American/Elderly):** (Timm) The library is looking into funding for a senior volunteer program to help do weatherization for underserved populations. Gamble mentioned that Grinnell has an “energy efficiency kit” that people can check out from the library—it may be something we want to model.
- **Public Policy:** (Ferguson) No action is expected from this committee for the next 2-3 months. Timm reminded the group that as an Extension employee, he personally cannot lobby for specific policy. Dettmann told the group they can track Iowa environmental legislation by subscribing to the Iowa Environmental Council legislative updates.
- **Renewable energy projects in Fairfield:** No report
- **Schools & Education:** (Timm) A series of workshops and programs are planned for April, coined “Backyard Conservation.” Sponsors include Pathfinders RC&D, Jefferson County Conservation Board, Sierra Club, Sustainable Living Council and programs include rain garden in a day, rain barrel, composting, good bugs/bad bugs, public prairie burn. Next meeting is planned for Friday, February 26 at 11:30 at the Extension office.
- **Wellness and Local Food:** No report.

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| <b>Sustainability Coordinator Report:</b> |
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**Calendar of Events:**

- Next week will attend symposium on sustainability at ISU
- Working backyard conservation series for April
- March 9 is Sustainability Conference in Dubuque

**COSC:** Had a very positive meeting with COSC, expect several months of programming in Fairfield by COSC. There are new building codes and electrical codes forthcoming and many cities and towns are not prepared. Fairfield may host a conference here on this issue to educate community leaders. COSC may also provide sustainability professional development training to Fairfield City Council members. Volunteers are needed to serve on a COSC steering committee. Let Timm know if interested.

**Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Household Manual:** Troy Van Beek has been contracted to work on both of these projects because Timm is so busy. The GHG inventory is expected to be complete in 3-7 months.

**Sister City:** Fairfield is looking at a possible sister city in Massachusetts.

**Assistance Requested:** Timm has been getting requests from other communities asking for assistance (i.e., Decorah). He feels this will continue to be an area of growth for Extension’s services.

Meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

*Submitted by Detra Dettmann*