



Dane County

Minutes - Final Unless Amended by Committee

Public Works Sustainability Subcommittee

Consider:

Who benefits? Who is burdened?

Who does not have a voice at the table?

How can policymakers mitigate unintended consequences?

Monday, May 24, 2021

12:00 PM

Remote meeting: Please see top of agenda for instructions on how to join webinar or to call in via telephone.

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Interpreters must be requested in advance; please see the bottom of the agenda for more information.

Los intérpretes deben solicitarse con anticipación; consulte el final de la agenda para obtener más información.

Yuav tsuam tau thov txog cov neeg txhais lus hau ntej; thov saib hauv qab kawg ntawm qhov txheej txheem rau cov ntaub ntawv ntxiv.

The May 24, 2021 meeting of the Sustainability Subcommittee of the PWT Committee is being held remotely. The public can access the meeting either with the Zoom application or by telephone.

To register for the meeting in Zoom, click the following link (after you fill out the registration form, the meeting link and access information will be emailed to you):

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PROCESS TO PROVIDE PUBLIC COMMENT: ANY MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WISHING TO REGISTER TO SPEAK ON/SUPPORT/OPPOSE AN AGENDA ITEM MUST REGISTER USING THE LINK ABOVE (even if you plan to attend using your phone).

If you want to submit a written comment for this meeting, or send handouts for subcommittee members, please send them to: MacKinnon@countyofdane.com with subject "Sustainability Subcommittee meeting comment/handout".

In order to testify (speak to provide public comment), you must be in attendance at the meeting via Zoom or phone; you will then be promoted to a panelist or unmuted and provided time to speak to the body when the item(s) comes up on the agenda.

****Registrations to provide public comment will be accepted until 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the meeting.****

If you join the meeting with Zoom, when the item you have registered for is before the board/committee, you will be promoted to a panelist. Once a panelist, you can turn on your webcam and you will be able to unmute yourself.

A. Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at noon. Also present: John Welch, Sujata Gautam, Roxanne Wienkes, Kathy Kuntz, Lisa MacKinnon.

Present 8 - DAVE MERRITT, CHUCK ERICKSON, DAVE RIPP, KATE MCGINNITY, STEVEN PETERS, GREG BROCKMEYER, LAURA HICKLIN, and JERRY MANDLI

B. Election of Officers

The Subcommittee opted to elect co-chairs in case one chair is not available to make a meeting. The co-chairs elected were Supervisors Erickson and Ripp by a unanimous vote.

A motion was made by PETERS, seconded by MCGINNITY, that election of Supervisors Ripp and Erickson as co-chairs of the subcommittee be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote.

C. Consideration of Minutes

1. [2019 MIN-311](#) MINUTES OF THE 10-30-19 MEETING

Sponsors: Executive Committee

Attachments: [MINUTES OF THE 10-30-19 MEETING](#)

A motion was made by RIPP, seconded by PETERS, that the minutes be approved. The motion carried by a voice vote.

D. Action Items

1. BACKGROUND PRESENTATION BY STAFF ON THE 2020 COUNTY BOARD OFFICE INNOVATION INTERN REPORT ON THE SMART FUND, DISCUSSION, AND POSSIBLE SUBCOMMITTEE ACTION ON NEXT STEPS FOR THE SMART FUND

- Is the SMART Fund, in its current form, still necessary and useful?
- If it should continue to exist but change, how should it change?
- What is the role of this subcommittee beyond selecting SMART Fund project awardees?
- Does the subcommittee want to hold additional capital project proposal rounds?

- MacKinnon presented the report and presentation on the SMART fund outcomes from 2012 to 2019 to set the stage for the subcommittee's discussion.

- The subcommittee discussed the future of the SMART Fund, whether the SMART Fund, in its current form, is still necessary and useful.

HICKLIN: It has been a successful program. It got the Land and Water Resources Dept. thinking consistently and creatively about sustainability projects. The SMART Fund is a "victim of its own success" in that we have graduated to version 2.0. Sustainability is baked into our work now. Her department has not applied for a SMART fund grant for the last few years because now they just insert these types of capital projects that they used to come to the SMART Fund for into their department's annual budget.

The SMART Fund launched us and got the county to this point and now it is institutionalized in our project planning and budgeting.

Sustainability is no longer a "standalone" issue in county departments, it's included in departmental projects and budgets and that has been better for staff workload, as well-- to not have to respond at low-capacity times to a SMART Fund proposal, but to plan ahead to get a project done.

Suggestion to take the time and effort currently going into SMART Fund proposal and selection process and instead track, highlight, and learn from what we are doing.

RIPP: The \$800k savings reported from 26 of the 88 projects might not seem like a lot to people but it does not account for how you value CO2 emission reductions, health improvements, and other less economically tangible benefits.

Ripp sees some value in keeping a version of the fund going because it has taught departments how to think with a more sustainable mindset. perhaps we could use a smaller pot of money to fund sustainability capital investments that come up outside of the budget planning process because they are unforeseen or "emergencies."

PETERS: On board with keeping some version of the program to encourage continued efforts because there are always projects that pop up, or opportunities.

WELCH: From a departmental director's perspective, if you're going to have a smaller fund you are going to need some criteria around why the proposed project was not planned and included in the annual budget.

ERICKSON: Need to continue this conversation to see if there are some narrowed-down projects to focus the SMART Fund on.

*If the role of the subcommittee should go beyond the SMART Fun, what should it be?
Collaboration, a sounding board for sustainability projects, etc.*

*Subcommittee wants to hold off on creating another round and also hold off on spending
the remaining balance until a disposition for the SMART Fund is decided on by the
subcommittee, e.g., save for SMART Fund 2.0 or emergency fund, if there is one.*

2. NEXT STEPS FOR THE SUBCOMMITTEE: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION
BY SUBCOMMITTEE ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION ON
SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVES BEYOND THE SMART FUND (John Welch and Kathy
Kuntz invited to facilitate discussion re: opportunities in their areas)

*NOTE: The subcommittee took this item out of order and heard the presentations before
this discussion. The subcommittee decided to hear the presentations for information and
to continue this discussion by putting this item on a future agenda for a meeting in the
next month or so.*

E. Presentations

[2021](#)
[PRES-077](#)

DEPARTMENT OF WASTE AND RENEWABLES PRESENTATIONS:
INNOVATION CAMPUS AND TRASH LAB

Sponsors: Executive Committee

Attachments: [Sustainability Campus 5 24 2021](#)
[Trash Lab Showcase](#)

1. DEPT. OF WASTE AND RENEWABLES' INNOVATION CAMPUS

Roxanne Wienkes, Deputy Dir. of the Dept of Waste and Renewables, presented on the concept of an innovation campus and how the sustainability subcommittee could collaborate and be a sounding board on this emerging project.

They want to go from planning a new landfill (a place you try to avoid) to creating a sustainability vision for a place that provides opportunities for workers and visitors.

We already think about circularity and a circular economy model with our various initiatives (RNG, C&D recycling, etc.). We want to think about a site that goes into 2050-2070.

Project is proposed to be sited at Yahara Hills Golf Course location and would be a circular campus that could, among other things, have a fix and reuse store, larger recycling businesses (e/g, mattress recycling), businesses or brew pub with greenhouses and composting on site, organics food and waste composting (reinvigorate an old idea that didn't fly earlier in county because of limitations), eco-engineers, circular plastics/pyrolysis business (to address a growing waste stream, reuse, save plastic transport emissions and costs for local business, etc) , maybe expand to textiles, glass recycling.

A long-term, holistic vision. Right now they are working on reserving the space and talking with the City of Madison, which owns the space.

Example projects to draw inspiration from:

Kent Co, MI; Phoenix, AZ; Austin, TX; La Crosse, WI; Outagamie Co, WI; Retuna recycling mall in Eskilstuna, Sweden; "Last Chance Mercantile", "Deconstruction Inc."

WELCH: Their vision on this site is unique because of the existing infrastructure there -- it is critical to try to attain this site in order to implement the vision they have for a true innovation campus. 18-hole golf course> Madison has already recommended reducing by half.

MANDLI: Very proud of Waste and Renewables staff and what solid waste has already done with the current landfill site: landfill tours, an asset more than a liability, we should position ourselves to be ready for advances in technology that are coming.

Subcommittee would like to continue this discussion topic at its next meeting.

This matter was

2. SMART FUND PROJECT HIGHLIGHT: THE TRASH LAB

Sujata Gautam, graduate intern with the Department of Waste and Renewables (DWR), presented on the Trash Lab, which is one of the projects funded by the SMART Fund. The Trash Lab is an attractive, hands-on, educational exhibit on the science of waste management. The DWR partnered with the Madison Children's Museum to create the mobile unit, which is modular, wheelchair accessible, and has materials translated into Spanish. The Trash Lab is kept open at the Clean Sweep site M-F from 9 to noon. It also tours around the county and has already won several awards recognizing its innovation in education.

F. Reports to Committee

NONE

G. Future Meeting Items and Dates

Another meeting will be held in late June or early July to continue discussion of collaboration, other focus areas for subcommittee, and to decide on next steps for SMART Fund.

H. Public Comment on Items not on the Agenda

NONE

I. Such Other Business as Allowed by Law

NONE

J. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

A motion was made by RIPP, seconded by PETERS, that the meeting be adjourned. The motion carried by a voice vote.

NOTE: If you need an interpreter, translator, materials in alternate formats or other accommodations to access this service, activity or program, please call the phone number below at least three business days prior to the meeting.

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LUS CIM: Yog hais tias koj xav tau ib tug neeg txhais lus, ib tug neeg txhais ntawv, cov ntawv ua lwm hom ntawv los sis lwm cov kev pab kom siv tau cov kev pab, cov kev ua ub no (activity) los sis qhov kev pab cuam, thov hu rau tus xov tooj hauv qab yam tsawg peb hnuv ua hauj lwm ua ntej yuav tuaj sib tham.

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