

Meeting Highlights:

1. SAB met with Utilities dept. staff to discuss setting new water rates in 2017. SAB members were invited to work with Utilities on rate design options to encourage water conservation.
 2. SAB members received and discussed a proposed plastic bag fee, proposed by citizen environmental groups. One SAB member will meet with these groups to further discuss the proposal and will bring it back to SAB at a future meeting date (likely Jan/Feb 2016).
 3. SAB is grateful to the Commission for including support of PACE enabling legislation in their Legislative Priorities Statement for 2016. Programs like PACE are important opportunities to support energy efficiency retrofits in the community.
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Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) MINUTES November 11, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Scott White, Dale Nimz, Michael Morley, Karen Lewis, Daniel Poull, Adam Ritchie, Sharon Ashworth, Jackie Carroll, Ian Spomer

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Steinle

STAFF PRESENT: Kathy Richardson, Eileen Horn

PUBLIC PRESENT: Thad Holcombe, Karin Pagel-Meiners, Lori Hutfles, Michael Almon, Bonnie Uffman, Theresa Wilke, Nikki Wentling

- I. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.
- II. Motion and second to approve the October meeting minutes. (Spomer/Ashworth). Motion approved unanimously.
- III. **Guest Speakers:** Dave Wagner, Director of Utilities & Mike Lawless Deputy Director of Utilities. Presentation topic: Water rates and Advanced Metering Infrastructure.

Key points:

- Water conservation is in the best interest of citizens and the Utilities department. With well-designed rate structures, we can conserve water, and Utilities can generate the revenue needed to maintain service and infrastructure.
- The latest rate plan update was adopted in 2004, and is a uniform rate plan by class (residential, multifamily, commercial, industrial).
- Summer irrigation sets a peak for Utilities in the AM, and efforts to shave that peak are our best option for saving water. To set rates, Utilities staff look at the rate classes to see how often they "peak" the system.
- Rate options that Utilities will be discussing with the Commission include an inclining block within residential rate class (the more water used, more expensive it gets). They noted that cost must be higher in the next tier to motivate behavior change.

- December of 2015, Utilities will discuss rate structure options with Commission, with new rates adopted by 2017.
- Utilities staff welcome SAB input and would like to recruit a small team to work with them. Sharon and Scott volunteered and will coordinate with Mike Lawless.
- Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) upgrade will also be happening over the next few years. These technology upgrades will improve service reliability, efficiency, and will aid behavior change and conservation efforts.

IV. **Brief report-outs on various follow-up items:**

- Discussion of economic development next steps (Ian, Michael S.)
Nothing new to report from committee. Eileen will provide additional updates at the December SAB meeting.
- Opportunity for joint meeting in early 2016 with Planning Commission (Dale)
Dale is meeting with Pennie Von Achen, Planning Commissioner to discuss options.
- PACE support in City Commission Legislative Priorities statement (Eileen)
This was submitted and accepted by the City Attorney's office and support of PACE enabling legislation will be incorporated into the Priorities statement.

V. **New Item:** Receive Plastic Bag Ordinance Proposal submitted by resident Teresa Wilke on behalf of LETUS and Sustainability Action.

Through this discussion, SAB discussed many items that will need follow-up research, including the impacts of plastic bags on city operations, the various models (i.e. fee, ban, etc), and the role of the SAB in this process.

Therefore, Ian will take the lead on meeting with the representatives from the citizen groups (Sierra Club, Sustainability Action Network, LETUS) to learn more about their fee proposal, and to discuss other options and best practices.

VI. **New Item:** Question from SAB member, Daniel Poull: Should the City of Lawrence re-consider co-mingling glass with other recyclable materials?

This question was raised following LJWorld coverage of glass recycling in the City of Lawrence. Kathy Richardson clarified and corrected the information in the article. After receiving Kathy's report, SAB declined to take any further action.

VII. **Report-out from SAB committees on progress towards annual work plan:**

- a. Energy conservation committee – summarized results of their Lawrence Listens polling, but found that there was no clear direction. The % difference between top-most vote getter (new commercial energy codes) was 23% and last place (residential retrofits) was 18%. Therefore, the results are inconclusive. A common theme in the comments though, was that before the city implements a policy, the city needs to set the example and lead on this issue.

- b. Water conservation committee – will follow up with Utilities re: rate setting.
- c. Land use planning committee – will meet with Planning Commission for coordination.

VIII. **Staff Report:** City/County Sustainability Coordinator, Eileen Horn
See below.

- IX. **Action Items.** What are the key takeaways to share with the Commission? What are key topics for next month's agenda?
- Discussed plastic bag ban
 - Learned about water rates, will participate with utilities
 - Reiterate PACE support

X. Member Updates.

Daniel Poull will be stepping down from SAB in December, therefore, the liaison position to the Food Policy Council will be open. Michael Morley agreed to join the FPC as the SAB representative. (Spomer/White). Motion approved unanimously.

XI. Public Comment.

XII. Adjourn

Next regular SAB meeting: January 13, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. Venue: City Hall Public Works Conference Room (ground floor)

Sustainability Coordinator Report to the SAB: November 11, 2015

✓ **City/County Food Policy Council Projects:**

- Urban Agriculture: The Planning Commission heard this at their October 19th meeting. They provided direction to Planning Staff, who will revise and bring back to the December PC meeting.
- Common Ground: Applications for the 2016 growing season will be available soon. Please help spread the word!

- Market Match: We are working on a collaborative grant application to the USDA FINI program for \$2.5 million to support Market Match in KS, KC, and St. Louis. Huge! Exciting!

- ✓ **Wind Energy Zoning:** The County Commission directed staff to create two processes for wind energy development in the County: a CUP application process for commercial wind energy development (large, utility-scale), and guidelines for issuing building permits for personal wind energy (small commercial or residential). These will go to the Planning Commission in Jan/Feb and on to the County Commission in late spring.

- ✓ **STAR:** Data collection is underway! We are partnering with KU Urban Planning grad class for mapping and data collection support, and Global Green, our technical assistance team will be here Dec. 9-11 for a charette with staff and key partners.

- ✓ **USDN Annual Meeting** (Oct 26-28, Minneapolis): I attended sessions on PACE, energy efficiency financing mechanisms for city buildings, plastic bag bans, and presented on our local food systems work.

- ✓ **Bike Share Feasibility:** The MPO office and City received funding to support a feasibility study to assess a bike share program for Lawrence and KU.