



## CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

**DATE:** April 13, 2010

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Bill Anderson, Ken Schmidt, Dr. Jane Moore, Elaine Ott, Tony Warfield, Dale Anderson, Jim Gawel, Louise Bray

**COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:** Philip Coughlan, Bliss Moore, Joanne Buselmeier

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Heather Pennington, Daniel Muir, Shauna Hansen, Kristi Lynett, Lisa Rennie, Bob Mack, Bob Levin, Chris Barnes, Bret Johnson, Ken Peachey, Catherine Taylor

▪ **Approval of the March 9, 2010 Meeting Notes**

The March 9, 2010 meeting notes were approved and adopted.

▪ **Review and Approval of the April Agenda**

The April agenda was reviewed and approved.

▪ **Tacoma Water Conservation Goal**

Tacoma Water Conservation Supervisor, Daniel Muir, gave a presentation on their water conservation goal and the progress that is being made on meeting their 2010 goal, as well as the process they are going through to create a new goal from 2011-2018.

Tacoma Water's current water conservation goal is a 10-year goal established in 2000 and runs through 2010. The goal called for a 10% reduction in total system production by January 1, 2011, using Year 2000 as a baseline. On a per person basis, total system production has decreased 30% from 245 gallons/per person/per day to 172 gallons/per person/per day.

Part of the process for developing the new goal is to seek public input. Staff developed and launched an online goal-setting survey to gather input on customers and other stakeholders' values, attitudes and concerns relative to specific aspects of the different goal options. Key findings were that over 86% of both groups (residential and commercial) were in favor of having a water conservation program. The top two reasons for conserving water were 1) environmental stewardship and 2) the reduction of water bills. Tacoma Water is currently drafting their proposed water conservation goal for public review, and will set-up stakeholder meetings to present the proposed goal at the end of April; they will present the recommended water conservation goal to the Public Utility Board by mid to late May 2010.

The program itself would include changing out fixtures and education on behavioral change. Tacoma Water would offer rebates for clothes washers, certain commercial kitchen equipment and free showerheads and faucet aerators. They are also looking at developing a commercial

customized rebate for the non-residential customers, and are interested in efficient irrigation - studying irrigation controllers that will alter irrigation run times.

#### ▪ **Stormwater Management Program**

Professional Engineer, Shauna Hansen, gave a presentation on the City's Stormwater Management Program (SWMP).

The Federal Clean Water Act delegates authority to WA State Department of Ecology (Ecology) to regulate municipal stormwater through National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. The first NPDES permit was issued to Tacoma in 1995; the second permit was issued in 2007 and modified in June 2009.

The NPDES permit is intended to reduce the impacts from non-point source pollution through multiple stormwater management activities. Non-point stormwater pollution comes from:

- Construction activities, atmospheric deposition and traffic
- Dumping and spills
- Business operation and maintenance activities

What is SWMP?

- The SWMP is a planning document that will guide surface water management activities and priorities through 2012;
- It contains 10 program areas required by the NPDES Permit; and
- Is a program to protect our receiving waters instead of a stormwater treatment system at each outfall.

#### Controlling Runoff from new and redevelopment sustainability successes

- Better coordination with residential building permits to ensure small projects protect surface water quality;
- Requiring low impact development where feasible, as defined by Ecology; and
- The 2008 Surface Water Management Manual (Vol. 6) dedicated to LID

#### Structural Stormwater Control Program sustainability successes

Water Quality improvement projects:

- Downtown pipe lining
- Treatment Vault at S. 23<sup>rd</sup> and Ferry Streets
- Snake Lake inlet sediment removal

#### Source Control Program sustainability successes

Reducing Stormwater Pollution through:

- Inspections of every potential pollutant-generating site in the City within the next two years, including City-owned facilities;
- Exemplary spill and complaint response and business technical assistance; and
- Improving newly built stormwater facility inspections

#### Illicit Discharges Detection and Elimination Program sustainability successes

- Investigate, identify and respond to sources of stormwater pollution
- On-going stormwater monitoring and screening for cross-connections
- Spill response coordination and City field staff training

#### Operation and Maintenance sustainability successes

- Street sweeping and storm system cleaning to prevent street waste and old sources of pollution from washing into waterways
- Improving City streets and grounds maintenance practices to prevent pollution
- Updating draft Integrated Pest Management Guidelines

#### Education and Outreach sustainability successes

- EnviroChallenger
- Make-a-Splash Grant program
- Natural yard care, pet waste, hazardous waste disposal education
- Water pollution hotline

▪ **Co-Chair Election**

Philip Coughlan was elected by unanimous ballot to the vacant co-chair position.

▪ **Cascadia Discussion**

Cascadia is scheduled to make a presentation at the May STC meeting. The City's OoS interns have been looking at all the department business plans, as well as other performance indicators from other City partners to see what already is being measured within the City, and have categorized them under the seven principles (service, integrity, accountability, respect, stewardship, innovation, teamwork) that were drafted a few months ago. The matrix will be brought back to the STC for input.

▪ **Subcommittee Updates**

- The LEED Subcommittee met with other branches of the City and talked about a City municipal rebuilding goal; broader discussions on building Green (for all buildings within City limits). There were some internal and outside interests in developing a Green building program; USGBC gave a brief presentation on building challenges.
- The Energy Subcommittee will schedule a joint meeting with Seattle OoS to gain valuable information on Seattle's LEED programs.
- The Education and Outreach Subcommittee will meet with the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation to find out what kinds of things they might offer in helping the STC with their upcoming small grants program.
- The UWT April 2nd speakers series on the *New Green Economy* had a good turnout with approximately 150 people in attendance and with many of those expressing interest in more sustainable events in the future.

▪ **Staff Report**

- Earth Day event – “Giving Garden” supported by UWT
- UWT - First Creek Middle School, Puyallup Tribe of Indians and First Creek Neighbors education outreach - April 24.
- “Green Scenes”, April 20, 4:00 pm, The Convention Center – members were asked if there was interest in staffing a booth.
- The Mayor will be signing an Earth Day Proclamation, April 20, 5:00 pm
- Applications for the STC vacancy turnovers have been received and submitted to the Mayor's office. The applications will be reviewed by the Council Appointments Committee on April 26.
- STC member Tony Warfield's term limit has expired with this April 13 meeting. Tony, thank you for your service!!!
- Out of the little under \$2M EECBG grant that the City received, in which STC made recommendation to, \$500K is to go towards implementation of Tacoma's Master Mobility Plan. Motions were made 1) for the Outreach Subcommittee to review (grant financing) and provide recommendations at the next STC meeting; and 2) draft a letter of support for the MMP to the City Council.
- Sustainable Tacoma List Serve to be published soon.

▪ **Public Comment**

Ken Peachey:

Requested that the STC consider drafting a letter to the City Council in support of the Mobility Master Plan (MMP) Steering Committee's draft amendment to the Comprehensive Plan (to include a recommendation that the Council create one or more dedicated funds to implement MMP, should it become part of the Comprehensive Plan in July).

Ken made available a draft spreadsheet of suggested funding breakdown for Tacoma's MMP – Potential Local Funding Sources.

Advocates that the STC consider making a \$100K grant toward the implementation of the Tacoma MMP once it becomes a part of the Comprehensive Plan.

▪ **Objectives for Next Meeting**

- Cascadia Presentation / Discussion (the meeting will be extended 3:00 to 5:30).
- Announcement of the three, newly appointed STC members.

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, May 11, 2010, 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 16.