



## CITY OF TACOMA SUSTAINABLE TACOMA COMMISSION MEETING NOTES

**DATE:** December 10, 2013

**COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:** Phil Coughlan, Nick Cutting, Bliss Moore, Holly Williams, Agnes Pate, Alyssa Illich, Ellen Moore, Chrissy Cooley

**COMMISSION MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Dan Dzyacky, Carol Shiflett, Karen Hamilton

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Merita Trohimovich, Lorna Mauren, Michael Slevin, Geoffrey Smyth, Kristin Lynett, Bill Smith, Bob Mack, Catherine Taylor

▪ **APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2013 MEETING NOTES**

The November 12, 2013 meeting notes were approved and adopted.

▪ **REVIEW OF THE DECEMBER AGENDA**

The December agenda was reviewed and approved.

▪ **2014 STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM UPDATE**

The Stormwater Utility was first formed in 1979 to prevent flooding. The protection of surface waters became a rising topic in 1983 when the Foss was designated a Superfund clean-up site as part of Commencement Bay and in 1995, when the City received their first NPDES permit. The stormwater group works to preserve and restore open space and tree canopy, practices smart stewardship of the storm system, and demonstrates environmental leadership through several innovative programs. The core mission is protecting the receiving waters and the lifestyle in the Puget Sound.

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) stormwater discharge permit is issued under the federal Clean Water Act. The permit goals are to reduce pollution carried by stormwater, and to protect and restore our waterways. Within this permit, the Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) is designed to require the City to develop programs to affect the quality of stormwater discharge. Elements within the SWMP document include: the authority to regulate what goes into the system; understanding where the systems is; coordinating with other agencies; public participation; permitting new projects; setting standards for operation and maintenance; tracing and eliminating spills; public education; and stormwater monitoring.

Staff is seeking public input on three areas of the SWMP: 1) Public education – Better ways in which to communicate (social media, signage, curb markers, grant programs, billing inserts, newsletters, workshops; 2) Low Impact Development (LID) or green stormwater infrastructure – preserving green space, planting and retaining trees, minimizing hard surfaces, designing to fit site conditions, amending soils, building rain gardens, permeable pavement and green roofs; and 3) Storm Drainage System – Collection (storm drains, curbs and gutters, outfalls, catch basins); Treatment (storm ponds, rain gardens, bio-retention); and Flow Control (tree canopy, permeable pavement, infiltration).

A Stormwater Management Program survey is available at [www.cityoftacoma.org/SWMUpdates](http://www.cityoftacoma.org/SWMUpdates) for public comments and/or suggestions.

▪ **GHG EMISSIONS INVENTORY**

Members discussed the ghg emissions inventory which staff will present to IPS on Wednesday, December 11. The inventory reports ghg emissions produced between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2012.

- Total community emissions have decreased approximately 9%, while emissions from municipal operations have decreased approximately 15% since the baseline inventory year 2000).
- Total emission estimates for municipal buildings increased in 2012, as the previous inventory did not include natural gas.
- The significant reduction in municipal fleet comes from the City's sale of the airport.
- Vehicle miles traveled is significantly down.
- "Consumption-based inventories" account for the whole life-cycle of materials; another way to look at ghg emissions.

▪ **STAFF UPDATES**

- TV Tacoma is working to develop a new show (every other month) with the focus on sustainable and environmental topics (expert speakers, videos, eco-tips, etc.). Members were asked to come up with a name for the new production.
- Presentation to IPS on the STC 2013 accomplishments and 2014 workplan goals is Wednesday, January 8, 4:30 pm, TMBN #16.
- Staff held a meeting about STAR energy areas and the pros and cons around doing another CAP vs. a sustainability plan. The City manager and Council would like to have a larger public visioning process (development of a high-level strategic plan).
- Need an STAR infographic; staff will send drafts to members requesting their suggestions.
- A new addition to the City's website is "Tacoma's Green Guide," a map designating Tacoma's green attributes. Staff is looking for suggestions for green guide map labels or map layers.
- Members discussed suggested changes to their draft letter to IPS on plastic bags and other disposable plastic products.
- "Tacoma's Biggest Loser" – The brainchild of Ellen and Carol, this will be a video spinoff of the TV reality show, in which STC members will be challenged to reduce the amount of ghg's they release daily, by using the tips outlined in the book "Low Carbon Diet". Videos will be posted on YouTube and shared on the City's website, Facebook, TV Tacoma, and other social media sites, with the intent to engage the local community, and inspire people to make sustainable choices in their lives.
- Surfrider and UPS are sponsoring a screening of "Bag It", a documentary which speaks to the environmental and health effects of plastics in our communities.

▪ **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment

▪ **OBJECTIVES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS**

Puget Sound Energy program updates

▪ **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm

The next meeting of the Sustainable Tacoma Commission will be Tuesday, January 14, 2014, 3:30 to 5:30 pm, Tacoma Municipal Building North, 733 Market Street, Room 16.