

## Climate Action Plan Committee

### Meeting #5, May 2, 2017 – Minutes approved at May 16 meeting

Committee Members and City Staff Attending: Mike Koopal, Karin Hilding, Richard Hildner, Jeff Arcel, Ryder Delaloye, Sierra McCartney, Ruthanne Coffey, Rachel Sussman, Kate McMahan Robin Kelson.

Members of Public Attending: Richard Cohen

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 5:00.
2. Approve Minutes – The committee approved the minutes for the April 4 meeting.
3. Craig Workman (Public Works Director), scheduled to speak about new WWWT, has been moved to May 16 meeting, and Transportation topic currently scheduled for May 16 will be tabled until the meeting that follows.
4. Discussion on Possible Recommendations:
  - 4.1. Jeff Arcel provides an overview of the opportunity and benefits for city of WF to undertake a solar project. Focus is on using solar power to power the new WWWT. City of WF could take advantage of the SolSmart Program (Dept of Energy funded recognition program, <http://www.gosparc.org>). One key advantage to a solar system is use of a straight grid-tied system with Flathead Electric for power distribution.
  - 4.2. Jeff will provide a link to the relevant website that has all the power needs info on the WWWT. Briefly: The new plan anticipates power needs in the range of about 2.16MM KWHrs, at an annual cost of about \$216K, at \$0.10/KWhr. A solar farm on 2-3 acres likely could provide at least this much power. Jeff discusses various options for array types and providers, including Montana Solar, in Victor, MT. Cost is about \$2-3/watt, or \$3-4.5MM. This translates to a 12-15 yr payback period. Units generally are warrantied for 30 yrs, so after payback can anticipate at least about 15 yrs. "free" power. One available example in town is the system next to Applied Materials. The WWWT version would likely be 17 times this size.
  - 4.3. Lots of business models exist for setting up a solar farm. The group reviewed some of these options, including the pros and cons of leasing, and other

- potential renewable energy sources that could be available (methane - not currently being considered, and hydro - worth exploring both from treatment plant and possibly from waste coming off Big Mtn). The group broadly discussed benefits to city as a model for renewable energy, the possibility of carbon credits, and the possibility/value of city or state investment/funding in the project. Jeff will review in more detail.
- 4.4. Andrew Valainis from MT Renewal Energy Association (MREA) is meeting with the city on Monday May 8 @ 11 am (in CAP meeting room) to discuss WF participation in SolSmart; exploring incentivizing opportunities in city planning policies.
  - 4.5. WWWT is delayed 6 months -1 year due to change in EPA standards. Current projection is to be online by 2021. City is working on an economic variance to allow current design to be approved.
  - 4.6. Discussion follows on the opportunity for multi-purpose use of the land associated with WWWT - e.g., solar farm and nursery, e.g., poplar farm, such as the one Missoula built. Karin H. educates the committee on values and issues of poplar nurseries, based on a review of the Missoula poplar nursery. Possible issues for WF include its soil conditions which may not be appropriate for a poplar farm. Robin K offers to bring a group of local growers knowledgeable about local soils/other possible species, to meet with Karin and others to explore this further. Mike K brings up the need for riparian species and the nursery may be an opportunity to provide them.
5. CAP document: group discussion moves to the CAP document itself.
    - 5.1. Ryder D brings up value of including human experience as a discrete component of CAP. Group agrees and discussion follows on how best to ensure that product is digestible and accessible to the reader, so as to invite participation and engagement, Use of graphics, summary style, videos, stories are all discussed. Mike K suggests that we stay open to re-considering structure: may find organization by subject vs jurisdiction (as currently envisioned) may flow better once we start writing.

- 5.2. Discussion turns to: assignments and how best to distribute workload and allocate committee member expertise.
  - 5.2.1. Group reviews sample "Building Energy Usage" table Nancy put together summarizing recommendations made in other plans
  - 5.2.2. Sierra recommends we start CAP by drafting the "where we are now" section to create a starting point.
  - 5.2.3. Rachel agrees to provide an updated table of contents
  - 5.2.4. Ryder and Rachel will draft a preliminary template that can be used for drafting sections. Sierra will help, can create in In Design, which will help with overall document management.
  - 5.2.5. Karin H invites committee to review the Repowering the Flathead Report ([http://repoweringtheflathead.org/?page\\_id=25](http://repoweringtheflathead.org/?page_id=25)). It can provide guidance in looking what has already been done and may be useful.
6. Public Comment: Richard Cohen is invited to provide comments on the proceedings. He acknowledges the breadth and depth of the work the committee is undertaking and is encouraged by the committee's intention of inclusivity.
7. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.
8. Next meeting: May 16, 5-7 p.m. at the city hall conference room.
9. Related documents: WWTP-Estimated Power Requirements (attached); audio-recording of meeting

**CITY OF WHITEFISH WWTP  
ESTIMATED POWER REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW PLANT**

<u>New Unit Process</u>	<u>HP</u>	<u>% Running</u>	<u>HP-hr/month</u>	<u>KWh/yr</u>	<u>Power Cost/yr</u>
Grit Removal & Chemical Feed	10	0.5	3600	32,220	\$3,222
SBR Decant Pump	10	0.2	1440	12,888	\$1,289
Blower Building and Equipment	150	1	108000	966,600	\$96,660
Sludge Pumping	2.5	0.15	270	2,417	\$242
SBR Submersible Mixers	96	0.25	17,280	154,650	\$15,464
Aerobic Digester	200	0.5	72000	644,400	\$64,440
UV/Mechanical/Admin Bldg	7	0.9	4536	40,597	\$4,060
<b><u>Retained Existing Unit Process</u></b>					
Admin/Clarifier				99,780	\$9,978
Screen and Raw Lift Pumps				209,700	\$20,970
Existing Blowers				to be replaced	
<b>Total Estimated Power Requirements (KWh/yr)*</b>				<b>2,163,252</b>	<b>\$216,325</b>

\* Planning level estimates of power, subject to revision



**Craig Workman, P.E.**

*Director of Public Works*

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