

### **11-3-10 Minutes of TOSC Climate Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Committee Members:** Jim Kerstetter ,Alex Corondoni, Sam Castello, Jim Goodkind, Linda Thompson, Alyson Siwik, Debaura James, Mary Stoecker, Gary Edwards, Sharman Russell.

**Not present at today's meeting:** Jim K., Alex, Sam, Gary, Sharman.

Community members present: Cissy McAndrews and Kurt Albershardt.

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed, but were not approved due to a lack of a quorum. October and November minutes will need to be on December's agenda for approval.

USDA grant update: Mary informed us that members were looking into this grant as a possible funding source for PACE-type loans to help with local capacity-building as well as other capacity building initiatives. The county currently has funding from the Economic Development Association to look at green infrastructure in the county. They are willing to use this as a cash-match for the USDA grant, if both ends of the federal agencies agree to this. The RFP is due Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are looking at funding-source to pay the grant writer's fee.

EECBG, the RFP has gone out for a solar water-power project. The pre-proposal meeting will be at the Silco Theater on Mon., Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m. for anyone who might be interested.

Office of Sustainability has begun the Energy Efficiency Household 60 houses have already been evaluated.

Water conservation: Barriers discussed: the revenue-stream received from excessive water use, low awareness by citizens of the necessity for water conservation, inefficient shower-heads/toilets. The argument was made that the less water the consumer uses, the lower the pumping costs for the Public Works Dept. Allyson suggested that this conversation is already happening among city employees. The city will begin getting \$6.6 M over the next ten years per year for any water utilization project. There was a discussion concerning cost analysis of city water use. Mary asked that some members volunteer to research and write a recommendation in our Action Plan to the city, finding out how other forward-thinking arid communities are managing improved water conservation. (Rationale for and recommendations to...whole earth accounting vs. national income accounting vs. commodity accounting, making connection to green-house gas emission reduction, Evaporative Transpiration (ET) stations to evaluate whether or not to water, magnetic flow meters for leak detection and repair, education the community) It was suggested that we work closely with city planner on this. Allyson, Linda, and Kurt volunteered.

Oos County Conservation Strategy Update: Two sets of funding (the county's was non-competitive) were received by TOS and County. The Oos is working to update our county conservation strategy. They are currently composing useful questions to ask varied community groups and hope to combine it with a few of the "next steps" identified last month by the Sustainability Work Group. The Plan: Have local small business meet to discuss barriers to business expansion/growth/survival. What would help them to thrive? And, have the group also discuss the informal "focus group" questions related to the County

Conservation Strategy update. Through SW NM Green Chamber, gather a separate group who represent a different a different population, those who are already practicing conservation. Do the same thing. Must be able to show each group the cost benefits of a variety of conservation techniques and get their input. The third tier is to meet with local government officials to get their feedback on the questions. Then at least 3 community groups will be part of this informal focus group work and asked the same questions. This study will inform us more adequately on our progress in fulfilling our commitment for the grant.

Friday, Nov. 5 at 5:30, NM Solar Energy Association will meet at Isaacs. Nick Sucillo, guest speaker. The education programming will be discussed.

Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, there will be a PBS special, "Fixing the Future". Time, TBA. Features BALLEI, of which the Green Chamber is a member. We are on the virtual map on the PBS website as a "green" community.

Nov. 26-Dec. 5, National Buy Local Week. Activities during that week TBA.

WNMU will be doing another Solar Workshop on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>-Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> for 6 credit hours.

Next meeting, Dec. 1 at 5 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debaura James