

## **11-2-2011 TOS Mayor's Climate Protection Task Force**

**Members present:** Denise Smith, Peter Burrows, Nick Saussillo, Linda Thompson, Jim Goodkind, Debraura James, Shelby Hallmark, Sam Castello. **Non-Members:** Mayor James Marshall

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by facilitator Linda Thompson.

### **Guest visit from the Mayor:**

The mayor, James Marshall, was introduced and was asked to speak. Mr. Marshall referred to recent awarenesses of necessity to adapt to climate change. He spoke about the necessity for us to deal with “hotter/drier”. We need to develop adaptation plans re: what can we do to mitigate the effects of climate change. The mayor's background is in emergency management here in Grant County. Approx. fifteen years ago, he managed to achieve consensus that we needed to begin thinning the forces and secured a grant to begin that process. Now tree thinning is accepted practice. People adapt. He also asserted that we need to decrease energy costs, to save money in general. His opinion is that the earth has finite resources and that if we don't have to over-consume resources, why do so? Some discussion from the group followed. Some questions arose concerning continuing and even extending such services as water and sewer to all homes in the town while focusing on conservation and economizing. The mayor affirmed this goal, but added that we need to focus as well on coordinating services and improving our efficiency. There was a question concerning the decreasing water table. How would he like to us to focus our water conservation plan? The mayor says that a new, deeper well (under 1000 ft.) is in the process of being drilled that has at least 60 A. ft. of renewable water. That being said, we need to consider revising the land use code to allow water harvesting from curb cuts, building water-saving devices into new home construction. Food issues, green jobs do not necessarily fit into the category of “adaptation”. The mayor was asked if he consider these issue important to include in our planning. If the outcomes are such that we're decreasing our consumption, these are viable topics to include in our planning. The Office of Sustainability (OOS) has been working on a daily-use water use plan for our community. Nick Saussillo from the OOS informed the mayor gave a brief introduction to this project. Mr. Burrows expressed his concern that the amount of water needed to provide local food may not be “affordable” here in the southwest. The mayor expressed his belief that our adaptability planning, which includes community and family gardening, has a record of building community and reducing crime. This may be just as important a factor to consider as water use. It builds human capital.

Sam Castello asked for a succinct definition of the direction he envisions for this task force. The mayor clarified that though he appoints committees, he doesn't want to micromanage them because he doesn't want to limit their work. However, he is concerned that related committees (food council, recycling, climate protection, transportation) don't duplicate services and stay aware of each other's minutes and agenda items. How much should we be working on public education? Should we focus more on projects? The mayor offered that he will support and encourage the council to support our work. He recommended that whatever we do, our work can survive the ebbs and flows of politics because adaptation to climate change is very essential, important work.

### **Office of Sustainability Report:**

The office is in the midst of fulfilling two major grants. However, Nick reminded us that this office sunsets if it does not receive a re-endorsement from the joint city and county agreement. When the Office was started, it was created with mitigation of climate change in mind. Reality suggests that we need to expand our focus to include adaptation. Ensuring the Office of Sustainability's continued existence is paramount. He feels that the Office has a viable role for helping the community adapt to

the changes that are already taking place, while continuing to work on mitigation projects. The office hopes that the solar array at the wastewater treatment center will be the selling point for continuing the Office. He asked for assistance from the Task Force to find funding agents to support the survival of the Office of Sustainability.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debaura James