

### **3-6-2012 TOS Climate Protection Minutes**

Members Present: Denise Smith, Linda Thompson, Peter Burrows, Debraura James, Shelby Hallmark.  
Community Present: Nick Sussillo, Terry Timme, and Cissy McAndrew.

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. by facilitator Linda Thompson. The minutes of the last meeting were read and corrected. It was decided that Denise Smith will send a corrected copy of the last minutes with changes tracked and the minutes will be presented at the next meeting for approval.

It was announced that Frank Drysdale and Jim Goodkind have resigned from the committee. There are more vacancies on the committee.

Terry Timme gave a report to the group from the Recycling Committee. He distributed brochures and gave some background on how the recycling program works. We have adopted a single-stream recycling program that allows everything to be recycled in one box. The variety of things that can be recycled has expanded to just about everything except styrofoam. Terry discussed different incentive programs that have been discussed to get people to reduce their waste and increase their recycling. (The national recycling rate is only 5%.) April 21<sup>st</sup> from 10-2 at Gough Park, there will be electronic recycling again this year held in conjunction with Earth Day. Last year, Cobre Schools were major contributors in addition to some other electronic waste producers. There are hopes to get even more large-producers of electronic waste on board this year. Our recycling group contracts with a company called Unicore out of Tucson. The NM Recycling Coalition received funding to put in new recycling centers around the state. After setting up some initial centers, an RFP was sent out for the remaining funds. TOS was awarded \$193,500 to purchase a new bailer and conveyor belt. This will enable us to bail cardboard, which has a high market value. It will also allow us to bail all of the single stream items to send it to Tucson where it will be sorted and sold. This could save up to \$163,000 per year just in transportation costs and will increase efficiency overall. Terry reported that until recently, WNMU has done very little recycling. Some students began a campaign to start a recycling program in one dorm and formed an eco-club. The club asked permission to extend the recycling program to all of the dorms. The administration of the university was very receptive and has encouraged the eco-club to involve the kitchen, cafeteria, classroom, and offices. It will take time and money to have the whole campus recycling, but things are moving in the right direction. Finally, Terry reported that he has submitted a grant to the Coca Cola/Keep America Beautiful Campaign for sixteen recycling bins downtown.

#### New Business

Linda gave her presentation on plastic bags. She distributed an article from Surfrider Solutions called "The Problems with Plastics". She gave a synopsis of the problems outlined in the article focused on plastic shopping bags. Linda pointed out, also, that Austin, TX recently passed an ordinance to ban plastic bags. She also included a list of countries and cities with plastic bag fees and bans. Linda would like to propose a similar ordinance to Austin's here in Silver City. She has spoken with the mayor, who said there is already some language on the books and that perhaps we could expand and improve that language to create an ordinance. Linda showed 10 minutes of the film "Bag It", a new film by Reel Things (2011), an informative documentary about the immensity of the problem caused by plastic bags. A discussion followed. Linda will do some information-gathering from the mayor and will have more information for us at the next meeting.

Cissy gave a report from the Green Chamber on the end of the legislative session. SB 9 was successful in taxing big-box stores in equal measure to privately owned stores in hopes to level the playing field. HB 77 was proposed to create a \$10M fund to help people to purchase foreclosed upon properties and to “green” them. That bill didn't make it all the way through the process. There seems to be an economic up-swing in Grant County for local businesses, restaurants, in real estate, etc. connected in part to an increase in tourism. The Green Chamber feels as though our region has made it through the worst of the economic downturn, and thanks to local efforts in seeking creative funding sources, we have kept things afloat. Cissy was very excited about the many, many green things happening in Grant County, including the Murray Hotel, the solar parking structures, the new PV array, the recycling improvements, and the new Sustainable Development Program at WNMU.  
([www.silvercitytourism.org](http://www.silvercitytourism.org))

Nick gave a report on yesterday's EPA-DOE Partnership site-visit at Freeport's Mine site. (See minutes from Feb. meeting). This site is being evaluated for a grant to construct a major solar array. There were many local organizations represented, including GRIP, NM Green Chamber, NM Mining and Minerals. The study should be finished in 3-6 months. Nick gave his impressions on the possible roadblocks and assets to our prospects to attaining the funding for this proposed project.

Nick presented the Climate Change Adaptation Addendum draft of Feb. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2011. He distributed the draft, which included our recommendation, our rationale, our attempts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, the costs-benefit, and our implementation plan. The draft will go to the Council, once approved, on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Denise made a motion to have the committee review and respond via email. Nick will get those comments our for our approval on the Addendum by March 13<sup>th</sup> so that Nick can present it to the council on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Shelby seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

All other agenda items were tabled.

The next meeting will be April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Denise made the motion for adjournment. Linda seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debaura James