

Sustainability Task Force Minutes
Tuesday, March 8, 2011

Jefferson County Courthouse, Room 112
320 S. Main Street
Jefferson, Wisconsin

Members present: Greg David, chair; Jan Rouu; Amy Rinard; Mike Burrow; Bill Reichertz; Walt Christensen

Members absent: Amanda Goetsch; Jill Weiss

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 4:45 p.m. by Chairman David.

2. Certification of compliance with the Open Meetings Law

David verified the meeting was in compliance.

3. Review of agenda

No changes to the agenda were made.

4. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting

Motion to approve the minutes was made by Rouu, seconded by Rinard. Motion was carried with no opposition. Burrow abstained because he had not been present at that meeting.

5. Public comment

There was no public comment.

6. Work Group reports:

a. Education Work Group

David read the invitation to the March 30th Opportunities and Concerns Workshop, a joint event of the task force and the ITSFREE Work Group, intended to brainstorm practical ideas for a county sustainability project.

He also said ITSFREE also was planning to hold an educational workshop possibly with a speaker to talk about creating energy with biomass. Burrow suggested lining up speakers to talk about solar and wind power instead of biomass as that may not yet be practical for Jefferson County. David disagreed on the practicality of biomass, but said ITSFREE was planning to host a series of speakers to discuss a variety of alternative energy sources.

b. Assessment Work Group

Rinard reported that the survey would be sent via e-mail to department heads the next day (March 9.) She said some members of the work group would attend the monthly department dead meeting that morning to make a presentation about the survey and answer any questions about it. The deadline for returning the survey is March 18, she said.

Burrow suggested that a survey also be done of County Board members to assess their knowledge of sustainability issues and get their ideas and suggestions after the department head survey is completed. All committee members agreed.

c. Planning Work Group

David distributed an updated timeline of the work of the task force and the ITSFREE Work Group. The timeline was discussed. Rinard said the Task Force also should propose a doable project and not have only the ITSFREE Work Group propose one because ITSFREE is focused on energy efficiency and the Task Force is looking at all areas in which county government can be operated more sustainably. Committee members agreed.

7. Report to the Board

The report to be sent to the County Board at its meeting directly following this Task Force meeting was reviewed. The timeline had been discussed under the previous agenda item.

8. Discussion of Planning and UWEX Research into Sustainability

The discussion was postponed because the speakers from the county's UW Extension office did not attend the meeting.

9. Future meeting dates and agenda items

The next meeting of the Task Force will be held on April 19 before that evening's meeting of the County Board.

10. Adjourn

Motion was made at 6:30 p.m. by Burrow, seconded by Roou to adjourn. Motion was carried with no opposition.