

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

August 5, 2009
09:05–10:00 am
140 West Pine Street

Members Present: Marilyn Marler (chair), Pam Walzer, Ed Childers, Bob Jaffe, John Hendrickson, Renee Mitchell, Jason Wiener, and Jon Wilkins

Members Absent: Dave Strohmaier, Stacy Rye, Dick Haines

Others Present: Tim Hall, John Freer and Owen

I. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS

A. Approve minutes.

Minutes of July 29 and July 8, 2009 were approved as submitted.

II. FINAL CONSIDERATION AGENDA ITEMS

III. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

A. Appoint one member to the Missoula Conservation District Urban Supervisors for the term July 19, 2009 through July 18, 2012 ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Kelly Elam)
(Referred to committee: 08/03/09)(**REMOVE FROM AGENDA**)

Motion: The committee recommends the City Council (re)appoint Tim Hall to the Missoula District Urban Supervisors for a term commencing July 19, 2009 and ending July 18, 2012.

The Missoula Conservation District Urban Supervisors has one opening. The Conservation Committee interviewed the only applicant, Tim Hall who re-applied to be an Urban Supervisor. The mission of the board is to provide private landowners in Missoula County with the tools, staff and resources to implement conservation practices which protect and promote the wise use of natural resources. The term will start July 2009 and ends July, 2012.

Tim Hall has served on the board for 15 years. He has previous experience in Missoula County with planning and natural resource work. He knows the types of soil, water, and conservation issues pending in Missoula County. He worked for Garden City Harvest and has an interest in agriculture and protecting fishing and agriculture areas. This year Missoula did not have any flooding issues, but has in the past. Water pollution is a problem caused by erosion which can be mitigated by not mowing right down to the creek or riverside. Wild fires also add to more soil moving downstream. The Supervisors can provide insight into set backs on some areas along streams and rivers to protect riparian zones and reduce erosion.

Farm land in the county is limited and the ability to grow food in this valley is limited. He would like to encourage the protection of agricultural resources. The use of funds from the Board's allowable levy has not been used in the past to purchase development rights on prime agricultural lands. Tim would support the use of those funds if so directed by decision makers. The Soil Conservation District's role has not been to regulate development but rather to follow state statute to administer the 3-10 law. It does review development projects and can provide alternatives which protect water purity. The Board can provide recommendations to agriculture operators, many who have managed their lands for generations. The Board's role is regulatory for management of stream, river and creeks and not for development.

Tim and the other Urban Supervisor provided the Council with a presentation on the role and the year's accomplishments and goals. Tim would be willing to provide more updates on a regular basis to the Council.

After limited discussion it was moved to reappoint Tim Hall to the Missoula Conservation District Urban Supervisors. The motion was approved unanimously.

IV. REGULAR AGENDA ITEMS

A. Appoint three members; Industry Sector, Commercial/Institutional/Business Sector, and Alternate, to the Greenhouse Gas & Energy Conservation Team for the term starting

August 1, 2009 through July 31, 2012 ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Kelly Elam) (Referred to committee: 07/20/09) [Interview Questions](#)

The City Council adopted the Greenhouse Gas Energy Efficiency Plan which encourages efforts and positive results in maximizing energy efficiency and minimizing the formation of greenhouse gases. The plan calls for the appointment of a conservation team to aid in the community-wide education and communication of energy efficiency opportunities. The team meets monthly. The six team members are appointed by City Council. The committee has three positions open at this time in the Industry, Commercial/Institutional/Business Sector and the Alternate position. There were six applications received. Two candidates were interviewed at this meeting. The third applicant was not available for an interview. Three more interviews will occur next week and at that time the committee will make a recommendation to appoint the three new members to the GGECT.

John Freer is a home builder and involved with the NAHB council for the past twenty years. He has been interested in serving on this committee but time constraints have not allowed him to apply prior to this year. He now has the time available to serve on the GGECT and attend meetings and do research for committee activities. The GGECT provides a way to disseminate information and education to the community. Mr. Freer has professional experience and personal in all of the designated categories. He has taught classes in green building. Some important issues for the team to consider are to provide more outreach and education to the community and to have a holistic approach to energy conservation. Transportation is one of the big issues to review. He deals with conflict by looking at both sides of an issue and trying to find a practical solution that work rather than looking at what is wrong. Compromise is the only way to move forward on issues. The level of urgency around climate change is fairly high and there has been a significant change in his life time. There are many people who have different sense of what is happening but is important to get the facts out and continue to keep the dialog open.

Pam – an additional question I have given there are only three positions open one of which is the Alternate, if the applicant is not chosen for the sector he/she applied for would he/she be willing to accept the alternate position. The alternate position is part of team but only votes in the absence of another voting member.

Mr. Freer would accept the alternate position.

Jon –another additional question: How would you see this committee helping homeowners in Missoula save on heating and electrical costs?

John – this goes back to education and to providing resources to homeowners to increase energy efficient, letting them know what is available and provide a source of information on what works and doesn't.

Owen Weber –recently helped out with the emission inventory for the City of Missoula and from that would like to be a part of a team who works on energy conservation issues. The goal of a plan is to set parameters from which to start working and developing initiatives and projects, and define what to do next and where to go. Even though he has limited experience professionally, he has done trail work, and some expertise with city street lightening and traffic lights. Mr. Weber suggested having the GGECT look into the possibility of getting funding for programs through stimulus money. He has indicated he would like to serve as an alternate for the committee.

Jon –another additional question: How would you see this committee helping homeowners in Missoula save on heating and electrical costs?

Mr. Owen: I would suggest looking into the Green Block project to see if there is a way for the program to be broadened and scoped, and again see if any stimulus money can go to home owners and provide this information to citizens.

Ross Keogh – is not available for an interview at this time.

No motion at this time as interviews continues next week.

V. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

VI. HELD AND ONGOING AGENDA ITEMS - PER COMMITTEE CHAIR – Marilyn Marler

- A.** Discuss the ownership, licensing and permitting for Brennan's Wave ([memo](#))—Regular Agenda (Donna Gaukler) (Referred to committee: 09/08/08)
- B.** Approve construction contracts for Phase 1 of White Pine Park Construction ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Donna Gaukler) (Referred to committee: 02/09/09)
- C.** Discussion on tree pruning ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (John Hendrickson) (Referred to committee: 07/06/09)
- D.** Appoint three members; Industry Sector, Commercial/Institutional/Business Sector, and Alternate, to the Greenhouse Gas & Energy Conservation Team for the term starting August 1, 2009 through July 31, 2012 ([memo](#)).—Regular Agenda (Kelly Elam) (Referred to committee: 07/20/09)
- E.** A [resolution](#) of the Missoula City Council approving the Missoula policy statement for forest practices and wood utilization 2009. ([Cons](#)) (Returned from Council floor: 07/27/2009)

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.