

Minutes

Juneau Commission on Sustainability
Wednesday, September 2, 2020
Downtown Library, Large Conference Room
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER: @ 12:03 by Chair Gretchen Kaiser.** Commissioners present: Duff Mitchell, Jim Powell, Christine Woll, John Smith, Anjuli Grantham, and Steve Behnke. Assembly liaison present: Alicia Hughes-Skandjis. CBJ liaison: Beth McKibben. Guest: Erich Schaal from CBJ Docks and Harbors. Members of the public: Kirby Day, Charles Murphy, and unknown caller who did not identify themselves and left 20 mins in.

I. AGENDA CHANGES:

The agenda was approved with the addition of discussion items on the Energy Efficiency day proclamation and the electric vehicle rally.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion to approve the meeting minutes for the August 5, 2020 meeting was made by Steve, seconded by Christine, and then approved without objection.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

No member of general public spoke to JCOS.

III. ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Dock electrification update

a. Notes

Erich Schaal from Docks and Harbors joined the meeting to provide an update on the dock electrification study. He explained how Docks and Harbor took the assembly charge for a study and put out a RFP; Haight and Associates were eventually selected to do the study. Erich showed JCOS the tasks in the selected proposal and what has been done so far. Currently, they are moving into tasks two and three, which are the cruise ship vessel analysis and AEL&P substation analysis. They have also already begun task number five, which is assessing major electrical project impacts. The available energy has a lot to do with snow pack, so they will be looking at that closely.

Steve asked about the timeline for some of the tasks; Erich was not sure.

Gretchen asked for more specifics on load management. Erich says that a megaship would take 4 minutes to get set up, whereas down south the power generation web is sophisticated and

quicker. He also explains that a lot of ships' load management is automated, which creates an issue when trading power back and forth.

Duff asks about the team acronyms in the presentation. Erich explains that HAI is Haight and Associates, PND is the engineers, AEE is Alaska Energy Engineering, and MG is McDowell Group.

Steve asks if this study will look at the whole picture with electrical use and supply in the community, or just the docks. Erich explains that if the docks become interruptible, then we might not get power. That would be problematic because the city would have put a whole lot into the infrastructure and then not be able to use it. He describes that if the community decides to be a fixed user, then AEL&P would have to build more power, likely on sheep creek, and that would impact prices. He explains that as far as trends go, obviously things like heat pumps and buses are in the mix, but AEL&P says they expect electric use to be pretty stagnant.

Steve asks about small vessels and the new Norwegian sub-port opportunity. Erich explains that he thinks the analysis in the report would be comparable for the sub-port opportunity except the transmission lines would actually be a large capital expense. As far as small cruise ships, Erich said they'd done a bit of market research that showed there wasn't interest from the smaller ships, but that they would of course provide basic electricity for these ships.

Jim says that he didn't know that we would actually need to build more capacity for this to work. Erich shared the annual Crater Lake levels and talked about how AEL&P manages that. He reiterates that AEL&P has studied the option of adding sheep creek to deal with that time when the lake levels are very low.

Duff says that studies about Kensington are in conflict with what we are seeing here. He also says that it is unfair that Docks and Harbors is presenting this to the public instead of AEL&P providing the background info. He provides an example, and suggests that Docks and Harbors actually be looking for background and studies from AEL&P instead of AEL&P's opinions.

In response to Jim's questions, Kirby reports that the larger Princess ships connect at about 11.5 KV at the Franklin Dock. He thinks that is about 1/3 of the total load used by the community. Duff says that Juneau is substantially higher than 30 or 35MW. He says that winter peak is over 70MW and the system might be able to handle 20% more.

Anjuli asks the rhetorical question about how long will our community's sustainability vision and potential be dictated by AEL&P's business prerogative?

Gretchen emphasizes that the big picture is important. She asks if Sheep Creek would be big enough to help other interruptible customers. Erich says that Sheep Creek would be nominal.

Steve says it is of course not Docks and Harbor's job to facilitate between community and AEL&P, but he does hope that the study considers the full picture of demand and supply, since we are not requiring AEL&P to provide the full picture to the community.

Duff talks about the fact you could do 11 princess docks for HECLA and that Princess can move to firm if interruptible is not available.

The commissioners thank Erich for an informative session.

2. JCOS media

a. Notes

Christine and Beth provide update on how to update the website, etc. Everyone is reminded to feed news items to Christine.

Beth says she is working on efforts to make sure sub-committees can meet.

3. October 7 Energy Efficiency Day proclamation

a. Notes

Steve just updated from last year but it was passed last time so we don't need to take action.

4. Electric car rally

a. Notes

Duff reminds all that there will be electric car rally planned for September 26.

b. Action taken

Gretchen makes a motion for Duff to draft a proclamation in support of the electric car rally; Anjuli seconds the motion. The motion is approved.

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

Anjuli says Heat Smart and REAP are working on a heat pump presentation. Christine reports that JCOS will try to jump on as a co-sponsor in order to try its first virtual "sustainability session." Duff thinks this is a good idea to have sustainability sessions virtually.

Gretchen reminds us that the Sustainability Awards goes to the HRC on September 21.

It is reported that the USDA CBJ Composting pilot project that JCOS supported was not selected. It is reported that Laurie Sowa said there would be another round and that CBJ would likely try again next year. It is reported that staff is trying to work with Juneau Composts on using cardboard and shredded paper as a carbon source for composting trials. Anjuli suggest we could actually advocate for funds to do that. Gretchen suggests we hand that to the Solid Waste committee but Christine says that that particular handoff is probably not appropriate from a conflict of interest perspective. Duff suggests that instead we could do related comments as a group on the CIP. Gretchen asks Beth about the CIP schedule and Beth says she will look into that.

V. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting Adjourned 1:19

**Submitted,
Christine Woll, Secretary for Meeting**