



OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

of a meeting of a City Board, Commission, Department
Committee, Agency, Corporation, Quasi-Municipal
Corporation, or Sub-unit thereof.

Meeting:	SUSTAINABILITY, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Members:	John Kroll (C), Carol Lukens, Scott Charette, Jay Coldwell, Mary Kluz, Jesse Kearns, Jean Abreu
Location:	Board Room of Wausau City Hall, 407 Grant Street.
Date/Time:	Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Public comment
3. Approve minutes of October 5, 2023 meeting
4. Updates: GHG Baseline, WLGCC, GTLC, Midwest Climate Resiliency Conference
5. Discussion and Possible Action: EJ Screen metrics selection
6. Discussion and Possible Action: City website Sustainability page
7. Discussion: Chair Kroll presentation to Stevens Point Council
8. Next meeting date: December 7
9. Adjourn

It is likely that members of, and a quorum of the Council and/or members of other committees of the Common Council of the City of Wausau will be in attendance at the abovementioned meeting to gather information. **No action will be taken by any such groups.**

In accordance with the requirements of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the City of Wausau will not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities on the basis of disability in its services, programs or activities. If you need assistance or reasonable accommodations in participating in this meeting or event due to a disability as defined under the ADA, please call the ADA Coordinator at (715) 261- 6622 or ADAServices@ci.wausau.wi.us to discuss your accessibility needs. We ask your request be provided a minimum of 72 hours before the scheduled event or meeting. If a request is made less than 72 hours before the event the City of Wausau will make a good faith effort to accommodate your request.

Questions regarding this agenda may be directed to the City Planning Office @ (715) 261-6760.

This Notice was posted at City Hall and emailed to the Media on 11/06/2023

Any person wishing to offer public comment may email City Clerk Kaitlyn Bernarde at clerk@ci.wausau.wi.us with "SEEC comment" in the subject line prior to the meeting start. All public comment, either by email or in person, will be limited to items on the agenda at this time. The messages related to agenda items received prior to the start of the meeting will be provided to the Chair.

Other Distribution: Media, Alderpersons, Mayor, City Departments

MINUTES

October 5, 2023

Members Present: John Kroll, Mary Kluz, Jesse Kearns, Carol Lukens, Jay Coldwell, Jean Abreu

Others Present: Tom Kilian, Andrew Lynch

In compliance with Chapter 19, Wisconsin Statutes, notice of this meeting was posted and transmitted to the Wausau Daily Herald in the proper manner.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Meeting started at 5:00pm

2. Public Comment

N/A

3. Approve minutes of September 7, 2023 meeting

Motion/second by Lukens/Kluz to approve minutes as amended. Passed unanimously.

4. Updates: GHG Baseline, Slow Mow information, WLGCC update

Lynch provided updates. There was no additional data gathered for the GHG baseline. Still waiting on some fleet info from Metroride and will have to re-request everything in January which will allow for a 2 year look at energy use and emissions. There are calculators from the EPA that will convert fuel and energy to carbon emissions. Kearns noted that it would be valuable to eventually look at the COVID years as a marker for improvement.

Article provided in the packet about the Now Mow movement and the next steps including Slow Mow.

Good information as the committee considers options for 2024.

Lynch virtually attended the recent monthly meeting of WLGCC. There will be a resource page on the website that outlines various grants to apply for and how they can be used. This will be very helpful. There was also a good conversation about integrating EV charging infrastructure into building design and parking lot repaving. This may be something Wausau could do in the future.

Coldwell noted he is attending the Midwest Climate Resilience Conference in Duluth and will report back on what he learns. The demonstration gardens program is Oct 9 and the UW Extension will look to expand the program through the winter and get it ready for 2024 sessions.

5. Discussion and Possible Action: Environmental Justice resolution

Kroll recapped that two years ago this resolution was passed by City Council. This committee was in the preliminary discussions of the resolution. Kilian is encouraged by the positive discussions previously. He noted the large amount of data available on EJ Screen that could be used to fulfill the requirements of the resolution. He felt the limited English, poverty, and other demographics were immediately useful and those were available at the almost neighborhood level to help public participation. This local data can also be compared to national and state levels. He recommends comparing data from local to state and recognized

that some data would have levels that need to be explained. The DNR is using Wausau's southwest side and an area in Madison to use as a test for their state wide resolution. He recommended including maps in the alders mailboxes that show various indicators. The EPA also has a Model Plan for Public Participation that has EJ recommendations for local government. Kroll noted that the Strategic Plan has an item for communication that could include EJ initiatives. Lynch noted that this model could be used to make sure the various processes used now are fulfilling best practices. Kluz asked how the EJ process is triggered. Lynch explained that the City process could be examined for best practices to make sure information is accessible. Also to make sure that resources are distributed equitably. Lukens noted that the EJ Screen could be used to decide which areas are in need of additional resources. Kearns asked how information is distributed and who would be in charge of making sure this is done. Lynch did not have an answer on which person is or could be responsible. Kluz asked about the current City processes and that to her understanding, EJ needs would be on top of current requirements. Lynch noted that the recent public meetings regarding the Thomas St properties earlier this year. The meeting was noticed with flyers on the doors, translators were available in multiple languages, refreshments and child care were available and a follow up meeting is in the near future. Lukens sees the role of this committee to track the EJ efforts of the City government. Kearns noted that a good place to start is with the EJ Screen and presenting information to Council. Kroll spoke to the need for cohesive communications and a sustainability manager which could be the same position that this committee could prioritize. He also spoke to the need for orientation for new alders every 2 years regarding the EJ data. Lynch asked that the committee members dig through the EJ Screen information for the next meeting and decide which 10 or more metrics to include for the alder update.

6. Discussion and Possible Action: Sustainability Items for the City website

Kroll examined Eau Claire, Madison, Milwaukee, and LaCrosse websites for sustainability items. He enjoyed the listing of initiatives, plans, and touched on areas such as energy and transportation. He suggested putting the work of the Committee on the website so citizens have a method to reach out and stay informed. Kearns noted that recognition is important and the reward program or other stories should be included. Also local producers of food even if they are outside the City limits. Kluz noted that the Farmers Markets and garden programs could be highlighted and listed as a resource for people. Lynch noted common items in the packet material. Kroll agreed that that list is a good start. Kluz suggested asking the WLGCC for tactics on how to get information to the residents. There could be a redirect to specific websites that help people determine what they qualify for. Lukens suggested using the newsletter to inform people about the website. Kroll wants to include a link for the GHG resolution.

7. Discussion: Chair Kroll presentation to Stevens Point Council

Chair Kroll will hold this item until the next meeting. Stevens Point is looking to start a similar committee and asking Kroll for advice.

8. Next meeting date: November 2

9. Adjourn

Motion/Second by Kluz/Kearns. Approved unanimously. Adjourned at 6:25pm

Jay Coldwell's Notes from

Climate Resilience Conference Oct 25-27

I plan to take a deeper dive through this – reviewing slides and transcripts and delving into the various web tools. What follows is a summary of some notes taken at the various sessions, along with some web tool links.

Emily Schoerning – Communicating Socially Sensitive Messages to the Public Connect rather than escalate

- Search for meaning, emotional connection. Not reasoning behaviors
- People want to do a thing, not give up a thing. EX planting milkweed seeds rather than giving up beef.
- Building community energy.
- Stay with local experience, local facts.

Kalamazoo as a model for local food resilience

<https://zoocityfood.org/>

Panel discussion

- MN has 100% renewable energy by 2040 as a goal
- Lots of very organized activity, lots of use of IRA funds.

(Need to update with transcript)

Applying the 5th National Climate Assessment (NCA) in your community & work

- Unfortunately the 5th NCA has not yet been released. It is scheduled for release in October or November – so in November, apparently. It is based on data through 2019.
- The NCA is revised every 5 years. It provides data and forecasting tools for state-by-state analysis. Emily Schoerning has done this for many states, including Wisconsin on her American Resiliency YouTube channel, based on the old forecast.
 - It provides a credible / official source of data and analysis – a common starting point for planning.
 - Here is an example of a county-level presentation, done by Emily Schoerning: <https://youtu.be/li0zn4Ls0zc?si=OUaoJM6cam-x2bQi>
- Climate-ready Communities is a good resource:
 - <https://climatereadycommunities.org/>
- Here is the website for the 4th NCA
 - <https://nca2014.globalchange.gov/>

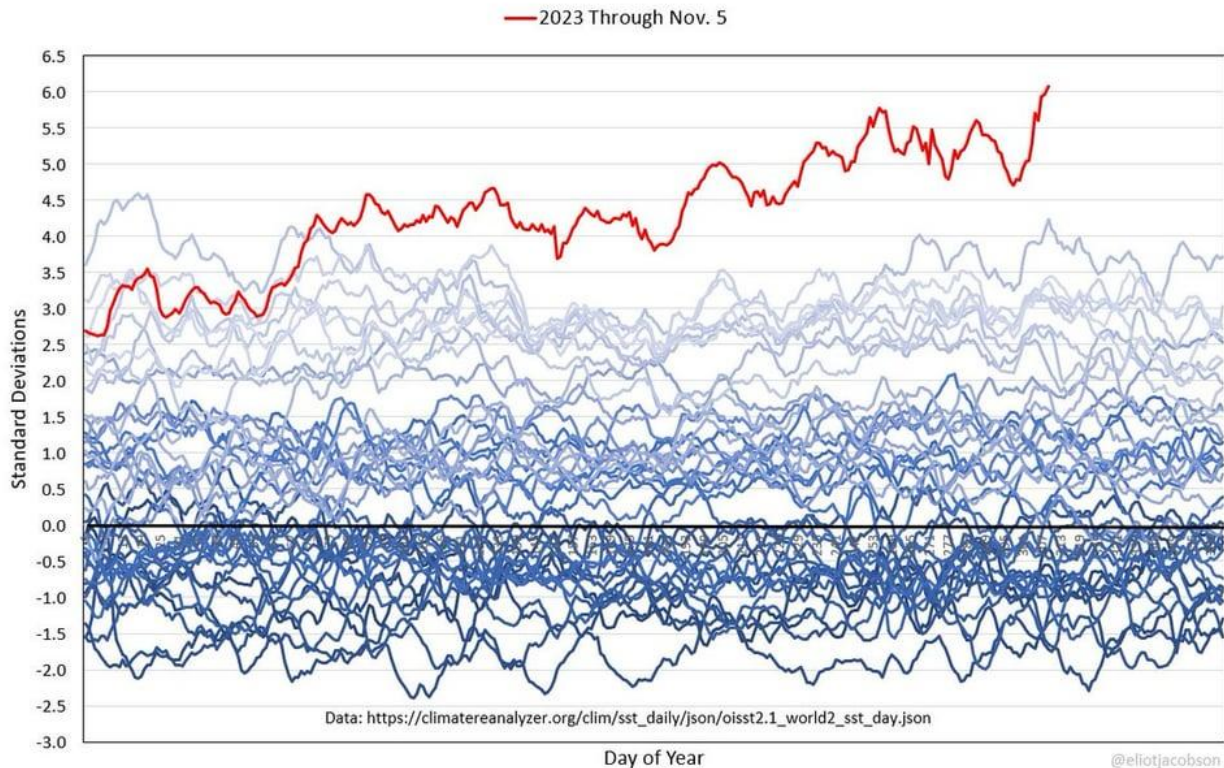
- Here is a link to the National Climate Resilience Framework, which is a new publication, just released in September of this year.
 - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/National-Climate-Resilience-Framework-FINAL.pdf>

The tone of the NCA presentation, which was given by the authors of the midwest section, was somber. A sense of grieving. In fact, there is a companion book of poetry that has been released as a companion to the 5th NCA called Dear Human: At the Edge of Time. It's already on Amazon.

There is also a sense that what has happened since 2019 is compressing timelines by maybe a decade or two.

Another piece of gossip: FEMA is planning to ask all communities to prepare to survive three weeks without assistance in the event of a major emergency. I guess some areas have already been given similar notice for a two week period, such as in fire-prone areas.

Global Sea Surface Temperatures: 1982-2023
Standard Deviations from 1982-2011 Mean
(each horizontal line represents the daily SDs for one year of SSTs)



Tracking for Impact: Developing Climate Resilience Metrics 10/26/23

Metrics: tracking progress toward the indicator

Indicators: what we want to achieve

Minnesota has their own state-level climate resilience framework. Minnesota is a leader in US.

<https://climate.state.mn.us/>

Wisconsin apparently does not have this.

Many tribes have had climate adaptation plans since 2016.

Resilience metrics are still developing / not mature.

Identified 6 Americas regarding climate:

- Alarmed, concerned, cautious, disengaged, doubtful, dismissive
- Focus efforts / communication on the middle 4.

National Flood Insurance Program

David Maurstad – Asst Dir of National Flood Insurance program

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grants – application period closes 2/29/24 (for communities)

There has never been so much funding for hazard mitigation before.

Flood insurance rates now are much more sensitive to the specific risk, so there will be disruption in that space.

State of the Upper-Midwestern Climate: trends, extremes, impacts, and future

Midwestern Climate

- Long term trend: warmer, especially winter, and wetter
- Increase in freeze-free season of 3-7 days per decade
- The Midwest is the warming hole – summer temps have cooled in midwest, at least thru 2016
- High heat index, however, is becoming more common, due to higher humidity
- But the last few years are still in drought during the warm season. Hotter and drier, but still the overall trend is wetter.
- Temperature whiplash seems to be increasing – but not much data reported. Yes, does need more research. Impact on tree migration plantings.
 - Last Dec in OH dropped from 42 to -8 in 12 hours. Banana trees died.
- Apiaries – temp swing impact is a problem
- Projection is that summers will eventually start to warm.
- Don't know if temp increase will supercede the expected increased moisture.
- So can plan for expected intra-annual variations. Plan for the extremes.
- So it's both drier and wetter in the same year.

- With rain coming in larger amounts interspersed with drought weeks, agricultural yields can drop even with more total rain.

Here's an example of a resilience website focused on agriculture:

<https://weather-ready.unl.edu/#:~:text=Field%20to%20Market-,Weather%20Ready%20Farms.extreme%20weather%20and%20climate%20events>.

Engaging communities in climate change planning

Public Participation as a catalyst to Mobilize action on climate change

Dane Co GHG climate action plan == 50% reduction by 2030

City of Stoughton Experience:

Community engagement – action and agency – not deflecting responsibility to government and industry

- Put the public in the Climate Action Plan planning process.
- Share information
- Build community culture of sustainability – its all of us, the norm
- Provide individual choices
- Inform, consult, involve collaborate, empower

Stoughton SEEC came to the UW extension to ask for help with engagement

- Community meeting with flip charts, etc.
- Put together a community survey based on that.
- Focus groups

Committee recommends to the city council

Over 200 actions writing the sustainability plan, and measurable metrics

Hoping to hire a sustainability coordinator with ARP funds.

Donnelle Scaffidi is the SEEC chair – she is open to contacts and would share their plan once it is done

Websites

<https://zoocityfood.org/>

<https://climatereadycommunities.org/>

<https://nca2014.globalchange.gov/>

<https://climate.umn.edu/>

<https://adaptationprofessionals.org/ready-to-fund-resilience-toolkit/>

<https://statesummaries.ncics.org/>

<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar5/wg1/summary-for-policymakers/>

<https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>

<https://climategen.org/>

<https://glisa.umich.edu/engagement/scenario-planning/>

Environmental Justice Indexes

- Particulate Matter 2.5
- Ozone
- Diesel Particulate Matter
- Air Toxics Cancer Risk
- Air Toxics Respiratory HI
- Toxic Releases to Air
- Traffic Proximity
- Lead Paint
- Superfund Proximity
- RMP Facility Proximity
- Hazardous Waste Proximity
- Underground Storage Tanks
- Wastewater Discharge

Supplemental Indexes

- Particulate Matter 2.5
- Ozone
- Diesel Particulate Matter
- Air Toxics Cancer Risk
- Air Toxics Respiratory HI
- Toxic Releases to Air
- Traffic Proximity
- Lead Paint
- Superfund Proximity
- RMP Facility Proximity
- Hazardous Waste Proximity
- Underground Storage Tanks
- Wastewater Discharge

Pollution and Sources

- Particulate Matter 2.5
- Ozone
- Diesel Particulate Matter
- Air Toxics Cancer Risk
- Air Toxics Respiratory HI
- Toxic Releases to Air
- Traffic Proximity
- Lead Paint
- Superfund Proximity
- RMP Facility Proximity
- Hazardous Waste Proximity
- Underground Storage Tanks
- Wastewater Discharge

Socioeconomic Indicators

- Demographic Index
- Supplemental Demographic Index
- People of Color
- Low Income
- Unemployment Rate
- Limited English Speaking
- Less Than High School Education
- Under Age 5
- Over Age 64

Health Disparities

- Low Life Expectancy
- Heart Disease
- Asthma
- Cancer
- Persons with Disabilities

Climate Change Data

- Flood Risk
- Wildfire Risk
- 100 Year Floodplain
- Sea Level Rise (NOAA)

Critical Service Gaps

- Broadband Gaps
- Lack of Health Insurance
- Housing Burden
- Transportation Access
- Food Desert

Pick indicators to include as information for City Council members. Updated every 2 years per the EJ resolution.

<https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper/>

City of Wausau website example

Sustainability items:

- Municipal energy use
- Solar initiatives (Task force)
- Slow Mow/etc
- Awards
- Get involved
- ...

The screenshot shows the City of Wausau website. At the top left is the Wausau Wisconsin logo. To the right are links for 'JOBS', 'CONTACT US', and 'SIGN UP'. Below this is a navigation bar with 'ABOUT WAUSAU', 'FOR RESIDENTS', 'YOUR GOVERNMENT', and 'SERVICES'. A search icon is on the right. The main content area is titled 'GARBAGE & RECYCLING' under the 'Your Government > Public Works >' breadcrumb. A left sidebar lists 'PUBLIC WORKS' with sub-items: Annual Street Projects, Garbage & Recycling (selected), Yardwaste, Snow Removal, Street Maintenance, Surplus Auction, and Fall Leaf Pick Up. The main text states: 'The city provides curbside pick-up of household garbage weekly and recyclables bi-weekly. The city contracts with Harter's Fox Valley Disposal for these services. You can find more details in each of the drop downs below.' Below this are four expandable sections: 'GARBAGE', 'RECYCLING', 'RECYCLING & HAZARDOUS WASTE', and 'DISABLED CART SERVICE'. The 'DISABLED CART SERVICE' section is expanded, showing a 'Special Cart Service for Disabled Residents' heading, a paragraph about the program, a list of four qualification requirements, and a list of two guidelines. At the bottom, contact information for Customer Service is provided.

Wausau Wisconsin

JOBS CONTACT US SIGN UP

ABOUT WAUSAU FOR RESIDENTS YOUR GOVERNMENT SERVICES

YOUR GOVERNMENT > Public Works >

GARBAGE & RECYCLING

Font Size Share & Bookmark Feedback Print

The city provides curbside pick-up of household garbage weekly and recyclables bi-weekly. The city contracts with Harter's Fox Valley Disposal for these services. You can find more details in each of the drop downs below.

- GARBAGE +
- RECYCLING +
- RECYCLING & HAZARDOUS WASTE +
- DISABLED CART SERVICE -

Special Cart Service for Disabled Residents

In order to assist residents with disabilities who do not have another person to help them with their property responsibilities, the City has established a program to help residents manage cart placement on collection day.

To qualify for the roll out cart service a resident must:

1. Be unable to wheel their cart to the curb for collection
2. Have no one else who can assist them
3. Be certified by a physician as needing assistance
4. Fill out and return the required [Application for Residential Disabled Roll Out Service](#)

Guidelines:

1. On collection day your carts must be placed where they can be seen from the street
2. In the winter, a path must be clear of snow and ice so workers can safely transport the carts to the street and back.

Once completed the [application](#) should be returned to: City of Wausau, Customer Service, 407 Grant Street Wausau WI 54403. If you have additional questions about the disabled program please contact 715-261-6610.