

Environmental Stewardship Committee Meeting Summary

October 8, 2020, 4:00 - 5:30 PM



Attendees: Matthew Barnett, Vinod Singh, Randy Olsen, Kieren Sikdar, Allison Puch Cahuich, Fawn Bergen, Nina Carlson, Hannah Cruz, Mia Hocking, Jeff Pazdalski, Kristel Griffith, Laura Trunk, Mac Martin, Tasha Johnson, Tina Chang, Tom Arnold, Tina Bailey, Tony Varela, Troy Gagliano, Peter Brandom, Jason Robertson, Dacia Bakkum, Matthew Blancas (guest)

Absent: Tom Lang, Audrey O’Brien, Steve Callaway, Makena Krause, Justin Green

Welcome + Introductions

Peter Brandom welcomed the group and asked for a round of introductions.

Committee Structure + Roles

Peter shared the Environmental Stewardship Committee’s structure and roles which include:

Structure/Members:

- 1 City Council liaison
- 2 youth reps
- 3-8 partners representing ES goal areas
- 5 utility providers
- 4 members representing businesses
- 2 members representing community orgs

Current Membership, to be confirmed and considered by Hillsboro City Council in January 2021:

Seat	Name	Affiliation
Council Representative	TBD post-election	
Utility	Tom Arnold	Hillsboro Public Works
Utility	Nina Carlson	Northwest Natural Gas
Utility	Troy Gagliano	Portland General Electric
Utility	Kristel Griffith	Hillsboro Water/Joint Water Commission
Utility	Mac Martin	Clean Water Services
Material Recovery	Vinod Singh	Far West Recycling
Material Recovery	Tasha Johnson	Community member, Master Recycler volunteer
Material Recovery – State DEQ	Audrey O’Brien	Oregon Dept of Environmental Quality

Natural Resource Conservation – Bee City USA Liaison	Laura Trunk	Hillsboro Parks & Rec / Jackson Bottom Wetlands
Natural Resource Conservation	Kieran Sikdar	WEST Consultants Natural resources management expert
Natural Resource Conservation	Justin Green	Working Theory Farm
Energy & Mobility	Jeff Pazdalski	Westside Transportation Alliance
Energy & Mobility	Hannah Cruz	Oregon Energy Trust
Hillsboro Business	Tina Chang	Genentech
Hillsboro Business	Fawn Bergen	Intel
Hillsboro Business	Tony Varela	MetaFab
Hillsboro Business	Matthew Barnett	R&D Plastics
Hillsboro Community Based Organization	Mia Hocking	Hillsboro School District
Hillsboro Community Based Organization	Randy Olsen	Community Action
Youth Community Member	Makena Krause	Glencoe High School Junior, Youth Advisory Committee member
Youth Community Member	Allison Puch Cahuich	Glencoe High School Freshman, Youth Advisory Committee member

Roles:

- Bee City oversight – Run by the nonprofit Xerces Society, Bee City USA is a program that supports pollinators by enhancing pollinator habitat and creating awareness of the importance of pollinators
- Tracking and reporting indicator progress
- Modifying and updating indicators as needed
- Reviewing Community Partner progress
- Modifying or adding stewardship actions
- Participating in quarterly meetings and events
- Advising City Council
- Producing an annual progress report
- Sharing best practices and new technology
- Conducting community engagement

Committee Questions + Answers:

Q: Will there be subcommittees formed to take a deeper look at some of the actions and indicators?

A: Subcommittees may be formed on an as needed basis.

Q: How long are committee members expected to serve?

A: Two year commitment; committee members are formally approved/recognized by City Council.

2035 Community Plan + ESC Action Overview

Jason Robertson provided a brief history of the Hillsboro Sustainability Task Force and Environmental Sustainability Plan (ESP). Adopted in 2015, the ESP included 48 projects and programs and 20 progress indicators. Implementation and oversight of the ESP was supported by the Hillsboro Sustainability Task Force.

The ESP was reintegrated with the Hillsboro 2035 Community Plan during the recent five year update. Environmental Stewardship is one of the five focus areas in the Plan and contains the following:

Goal Statement: Hillsboro is an environmentally sustainable community that takes proactive steps to protect natural assets, minimize greenhouse gas emissions, and recover, recycle, and renew resources. Residents, businesses, and community institutions understand the link between economic prosperity and environmental health and work collaboratively to maintain a thriving city for future generations.

- 16 Energy and Mobility Actions
- 12 Material and Recovery & Renewal Actions
- 17 Natural Resource Conservation Actions

As part of the 2035 Plan update, the original Vision Statement was also updated to include environmental stewardship (formerly 'environmental sustainability').

Hillsboro 2035 Vision Statement: In 2035, Hillsboro is an inclusive, welcoming multicultural community that supports a resilient, world-class economy and dynamic urban tapestry while continuing to honor our agricultural heritage and commitment to environmental stewardship.

Indicator Discussion

Peter Brandom and Laura Trunk provided an overview of four existing "Natural Resource Conservation" indicators and proposed several modifications. The indicators and resulting discussion and/or decisions include:

Current Indicators

08) # of riparian acres preserved/restored/under natural treatment within Rock Creek/McKay Creek drainages

11) # of upland acres of land under active habitat management in Rock Creek/McKay drainages

12) # of diverse bird species present at Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve

19) # of projects that naturally treat water before entering stream system

Discussion/Decisions:

- Combine indicators 8 and 11 so we're considering conservation holistically.
 - Consider using/defining sub-basins vs "upper Tualatin" – seems nebulous
 - Need to identify boundaries – look at areas that the City may expand into; which basins are most important to track
 - Develop a GIS shape file of the area you define so all groups can report consistently
 - Can we look at and compare wildlife corridors – could be larger than the area considered
 - Should private property be considered?
 - Should the Willamette River water shed be included? Willamette River Initiative is already tracking (it was advised that this area is too vast for local monitoring purposes)
- Update Water Quality metric to track water quality and # of projects, rather than just the # of projects
 - Important to define 'water quality,' as it is a big term and can mean different things. Should do so before landing on metric and data to support it
- Swap out Bird Monitoring for Amphibian Monitoring
 - Tracking birds does not include the health of the populations
 - Community identifying birds is not a great indicator – birds fly in and leave, birds can be misidentified in E-Bird
 - Look at number and abundance of amphibians at identified sites; for example, one site started with five egg masses (five females) – with restoration efforts there are now 160 egg masses/females currently, with spread to almost all of the wetlands
 - Is there an opportunity for funding through the state? Working on long term monitoring plan with Oregon Fish & Wildlife and Metro
 - What about monitoring bird nesting sites? Would require considerable time to do. May focus on one species but depends on staff capacity
- Add new Backyard Habitat Certification metric
Can community/school gardens become backyard habitat certified? Yes, they can! For residential sites, we work with properties that are one acre or less. For what we consider community sites (i.e. school, community gardens, religious institutions, etc), they can be larger than one acre. We approach these sites as demonstration sites. When they enroll in

the program, we'll typically focus on one area of the site instead of the entire area (as they are often larger and it's typically not possible, though can be, to focus on the entire site).

- Related to Integrated Pest Management – track soil health/chemical free acres? Will keep City IPM in mind related to question
- Should we have a native plants metric? Per Laura Trunk, there are many non-native flowering plants that provide valuable habitat, would not want to restrict many of them
- Should we track acres of lawn? City plans to do so in connection with the Bee City USA commitment
- Consider air quality indicator associated with landscape equipment; track electrification of equipment and potentially offer incentives; City organization is looking at nonvehicle motorized equipment – will flag and maybe consider as a sub-metric

Member Announcements

- New legislation was recently passed that will allow NW Natural Gas to create a Green Tariff (or other renewable purchasing options) that municipalities can participate in
- Westside Master Recyclers may partner with James Recycling to host another PlanetCon event to collect rigid plastics that can't be recycle curbside
- Jackson Bottom Wetlands Preserve (Friends of Trees) is giving away free native trees from noon – 2pm on Sunday, October 18 and 25.
- In collaboration with [EarthCapades](#), the Hillsboro Water Department is offering [free virtual assembly programs](#) for elementary school students at select schools. This webinar-style version of EarthCapades' award winning “H2O Show” is an interactive program that teaches students and teachers about the importance of water in our environment, including the source of Hillsboro’s water and water conservation practices and habits. The show runs for 45 minutes and includes some Spanish but is not bi-lingual at this time
- Hillsboro won the PGE Carbon Reduction Challenge. Participants in each of the three Smart Grid Test Beds in Hillsboro, Portland, and Milwaukie participated in the carbon reduction challenge by enrolling in Peak Time Rebates and other programs. Hillsboro had the highest percentage of participants
- In addition to curbside pickup, the Hillsboro Public Works Department will be offering free leaf drop off at the Public Works facility located at 4415 NE 30th Avenue (off Evergreen Road). Please [see the website](#) for more information

Public Comment

None.

Next Meeting

Thursday, December 10, 4-5:30 PM, Location TBD