

City of Brookings

Sustainability Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 11, 2023 4:00 PM City & County Government Hall Room 300

Sustainability Council Members: Bruce Pengra, Cynthia Kunkel, Kyle Jamison, Louis Hesler, Albert Patin, Samuel Krueger, Anthony Shanks, Robin Buterbaugh, Betty Beer, Emily Abele, Kiley Rath, and SDSU Student Representative Gabrielle Bolwerk. City Staff: Jacob Meshke Deputy City Manager, Samantha Beckman Assistant to the City Manager.

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by A. Patin

2. Approval of the Agenda

Moved: A. Shanks Second: B. Pengra

Aye: All Opposed: None

3. Approval of the Minutes

Moved: S. Krueger Second: A. Shanks

Aye: All Opposed: None

4. Open Forum

At this time, any member of the public may request time on the agenda for an item not listed. Items are not typically scheduled for the end of the meeting; however, very brief announcements of invitations will be allowed at this time.

R. Buterbaugh: Presentation of current research.

5. Speaker: Solar Update - MRES/BMU

a. Tim Blodgett. Missouri river energy services

MRES / WMMPA: serving approximately 330,000 people. Formed in 1965. Supplying 55% of members power needs. 45% renewable power supply 73% carbon-free power supply. (average of the prior three years) creating a cleaner energy future. Currently in Brookings energy supply is coming primarily from Solar and Hydro plants: 31% is solar, 32% is hydro.

Property location

75 acres, north-east edge of town.

Siting study

Within a 2-mile radius of the distro substation, above the 100-year flood evaluation.

Project summary

Going to be a 5MW AC solar project: estimated annual generation of 10,995 MWh, expected to be operational for 30+ years, estimated cost \$20M.

Current state:

- a. Conceptual design
- b. Site grading
- c. Easement acquisition
- d. Routing study
- e. Grant funding

Next steps:

- a. Permitting
- b. Details
- c. Project interconnection studies

- d. Contracting
- e. COD Q1 2025

Will be presenting to the city council Tuesday, October 24th.

Nick Fanning: project manager for the Brookings Solar Project

- G. Bolwerk asked a question about the potential for dual habitat use of solar farmland.
- Fanning replied and explained that conversations about pollinator habitat, and the potential for such an opportunity have been brought up, another option would include possible grazing land for livestock, these ideas have been explored and will continue to be explored as the project progresses.

As of now, the public support for the project has been substantial and the discussions surrounding the project have been received in a positive manner. Always ready to communicate with the community, and eager to address any questions or concerns, and the project moves forward.

Russ Halgerson: Electric manager at BMU

- A. Shanks asked how this might affect electric bills, and would that be communicated to the public?
Nothing has been set in place, but the BMU is eager to explore marketing options with the BSC as a way to create an effective campaign.

6. City Update

Samantha Beckman:

- 7% of the city land that is currently mowed is under the No Mow May ordinance
- Updates to fire department
- City council adopted the updated solid waste master plan. Currently focusing on route optimization study, and fees.
- Running into complications with the BMU regarding the Urban Food Forest, and site selection.

7. 2023/2024 Strategic Plan - Accomplished/Future Objectives

E. Abele: 1. 2023 BSC Strategic Plan: Goals met / updates

Outreach and education:

Mayors awards have been submitted

Adds regarding No Mow May, Presentations, Garden Discovery festival, SDSU Earth day event. (add in a note for 2024 to participate in community events to support the goals of BSC)

Continue to promote No Mow May, Stormwater master plan, and pollinator habitat incentives, and local plants planting initiatives

Foods

(Update) Participate / partner with the local Brookings Farmers Market a minimum of once a year.

Energy

(Update) support for proposed Brookings solar energy plans.

Waste

Remove fabrics waste initiative.

8. Discussion on Budget Priority 2023

- Use excess from the 2023 budget to purchase tickets for the sustainability summit conference in Iowa. (Early bird Price \$255 per person) with hotel and transportation expenses. Total: 2,01

- Purchase updated event table items. Total: 500
- Purchase promotional event giveaway items (Reusable Packable bags, seed packets) Total: 500
- Print more No Mow May signs for next spring: Total: 650

Motion to approve rough draft of budgetary spending outlined above:

Moved: A. Patin Second: A. Shanks

Aye: All Opposed: None

9. Sustainability Chair Update

E. Abele is looking to step down from Chair at the end of the year.

10. Updates/Reports from Subcommittee

- a. Marketing and Communication: N/A
- b. Climate Action Plan: N/A
- c. Waste: N/A
- d. Energy: N/A
- e. Local Foods: N/A

11. Updates from Liaisons

- a. Parks Commission: N/A
- b. Human Rights Commission: N/A
- c. CLEAR: N/A

13. Call for Future Agenda Items

- Budget details

- Laura from SDSU

- Charly city engineer

4. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn

Moved: A. Shanks Second: L. Hesler

Aye: All Opposed: None

Respectfully submitted, Samuel Krueger