Environmental Advisory Committee
MEETING AGENDA

Thursday, February 6, 2020
100 N. King Street
3:00 pm

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:
Lucy Butler
Shane Laughter
John Harrison
Stefanie Wolf
Any Myers
Chris Grose

Others in attendance:
Autumn Radcliff

Meeting was called to order at 3:05 pm

1. Approval of agenda
   Lucy made a motion to approve the agenda, John seconded, agenda was approved unanimously.

2. Approval of Minutes
   Stefanie made a motion to approve the minutes, Lucy seconded, minutes were approved unanimously.

3. New Business
   a. Brainstorm questions for Duke Energy
      Duke Representatives will attend the April meeting to answer the EAC’s questions. Andy would like to discuss how to best use their time.

   Topics of Discussion:
   • Duke Energy’s policy for solar energy and selling back to the utility
   • Solar panels at the landfill and what they would look like
   • Since the Long Shoals plant has been converted to CNG, what is Duke Energy going to do with the area that the coal has been?
   • Where are they putting the coal ash when they close the plant?
   • Pay As You Save –
     o 90 second video
Utility partners with a low interest lender to fix up homes to make them more energy efficiency. As the customer saves with the upgrades, part of savings pays back the loan and the rest of the savings goes back to the customer. This program can help provide upgrades to more people, even renters, since the loan stays at the location. Less than half of the savings is applied to the bill.

NCDEQ released a study (Road Map to Energy Efficiency) last summer stating they want to explore PAYS programs but they want more data and pilots. For Henderson County to become a pilot community, Energy Efficiency Institute (HQ Vermont) created this program. Lucy asked if Andy has an outline of how to run a pilot. There was one pilot in NC - Roanoke Electric pilot (an EMC electric co-op) – but DEQ is looking for more data. The program is structured where the customer will never be in a deficit. Chris suggested we could contact Housing Authority and/or Housing Assistance Corporation.

What progress has Duke made towards PAYS? Have they had any new pilot programs? HC would make a great pilot because it already has interest and enthusiasm.

In the report, the concerns were the debt burden that would be carried by Duke, the setup costs and clarifying authority from the Utility Commission.

Chris wondered what the concerns are of the customers.

Stefanie asked how much do the repairs cost – estimated about $7500; what is the pay back? - 12-year loan that is attached to the house.

Stefanie asked how do they track payments? Usage reports?

Christine will provide questions to Duke Representatives ahead of time. The EAC will members will provide questions to Andy by mid-March.

Lucy wanted to ask about SMART meters.
- Can you opt out? If so, is there a fee? How much radiation do they produce?
- The EAC would just like to start the discussion on what we can do here.

4. Old Business
   b. Actions/Updates from December meeting
      o Andy wanted to check in about the discussion from the last meeting to make sure there wasn’t anything that required a follow up.

   c. PAYS
      See notes above.

d. LID Statement update
   Chris received an email from Bill that nothing has happened yet. Chris met with Bill and said he will take the project form here. Bill was going to talk to Commissioner McCall and then the rest of the Board for the consent agenda.
e. **Awards**
   Andy would like to set up a time to meet up with Lucy and Stephen outside of the meeting.

f. **Solid Waste Master Plan**
   Engineering will receive the draft soon and present it first to the EAC and environmental groups **Tuesday, February 18th at 4:00 PM in the Historic Courthouse 2nd Floor Community Room**. Christine clarified with Marcus that public comment will come later after the final draft is first presented to the commissioners.

5. **Environmental Programs’ Announcements**
   g. **Field Trips**
      - Solid Waste, COH Wastewater Treatment Plant, Material Recovery Center, Danny’s Dumpster or Atlas
      
      **Solid Waste Field Trip - Thursday, March 19 and 4:00 PM**

   h. **DEACS grant update**
      Henderson County is working with Advanced Compost Technologies for the compost pilot. Christine is working to become eligible to apply for next year’s funding to purchase a mixer. Lucy asked if the grant would pay for maintenance. Christine didn’t think so but we do have a maintenance plan for equipment.

      Andy asked about Dana Elementary compost pilot. The pilot is going well, they are composting about 4,500 lbs a month. Lucy suggested a lesson plan template and tools for teachers (teacher packet). Andy suggested a teacher train the trainer programs. Lucy suggested the EAC could also help with the compost. Students groups and environmental clubs were also suggested to help with the program.

   i. **Upcoming HHW Events**
      Christine shared the HHW flyers and upcoming dates: March 17th, April 14th, May 12th. Christine will send it out digitally.

   j. **Sustainability Showdown**
      Henderson County employee Sustainability Committee organized a Sustainability Showdown to help educate and engage employees.

      Lucy asked about the progress for the Sustainability program for the County. Christine is still working on creating benchmarks for the energy by updating the utility tracker. The benchmarks will be included in an overall plan for the county. Lucy asked about new projects and if renewables will be considered.
John asked how often the County update their building codes in terms of energy efficiency, so they are up to date. Lucy suggested all new construction would be in the plan. Andy reminded the group of other county’s regret of not dedicating a portion of the money saved from renewable for future sustainability projects. Andy asked if Christine has found out if that’s possible, even if it’s just a percentage.

Next EAC Meeting: April 2nd, 2020 at 4:06 PM

Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 4:06 pm