

**PLEASE NOTE NEXT MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY APRIL 12 AT  
9:30 IN THE MORNING IN THE SACO CITY HALL  
SACO ENERGY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF MARCH 23, 2007**

Committee Members Present: Howard Carter (Waste Water Treatment Plant Director), John Sherman (Dep. Director Parks & Rec.), Travis Peaslee (Lab. Technician Treatment Plant), Ron Rochefort (Saco Police Dept.), Ed Dube (Deputy Fire Chief), Alden Murphy (Fire Chief), Maggie Daigle (Ferry Beach Ecology School), Mike Garrity (Director Maintenance Saco Public Schools), Eric Cote (Saco City Councilor), Joan Saxe (Maine Chapter Sierra Club)

Guests: Malcolm Burson (Deputy Director Maine DEP)

**1. EARTH DAY 2007**

The Ferry Beach Ecology School will be hosting an expanded Earth Day event at the school between 11-3 on Sunday April 22. See the following great leaflet publicizing the event. Maggie said the everything is shaping up well. Sponsors are still being sought. Maggie is still trying to set up a shuttle bus between maybe between 2 and 3 to transport people to see the wind turbine and solar heater at the treatment plant.

**2. MAINE CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB**

Joan said the PUC is starting a program to have 10,000 carbon free homes in Maine. The Sierra Club may be part of the public relations aspect. Joan said Saco is the Sierra Club's poster city in Maine. Joan handed out some well done leaflets.

**3. FIRE DEPARTMENT**

A number of small energy efficiency projects will be moving to the city council for consideration. Central Station has a skylight with a single pane of glass. A vendor miser will be installed in the vending machine. Two boilers will be replaced.

**4. TREATMENT PLANT**

Howard said the wind turbine shuts off at 11 degrees Fahrenheit, and the turbine is making probably 400 KWh per month. A bill is before the legislature to give a \$2,000 tax credit for a turbine 10 KW or smaller. The geothermal system is presently on hold. Travis will be buying a smart strip for \$30 to try out in the treatment plant.

## **5. POLICE STATION**

Ron said the needed improvement to the dispatch area will cost \$5,900. Ron thinks the payback is maybe \$1200 per year, but Ron will look at again for the next meeting.

## **6. REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INITIATIVE (RGGI)**

Malcolm gave a presentation on RGGI. See the following handout which explains the effort. It is estimated that the program will create a yearly pool of \$30 million for efficiency projects in Maine. Committee members agreed to put together a lobbying effort to the legislature.

## **7. FUEL PURCHASE AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES**

Mike said there are no problems with the maintenance service provided to the schools by Siemens, but there were problems with the prior vendor. Alden said there are no problems with Union Oil's maintenance of the fire stations. Mike said that we are paying \$2.31 per gallon for oil, one of the highest rates in the state. Lewiston/Auburn is paying \$1.78 according to Mike.

## **8. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be Thursday April 12 at 9:30 in the morning in the Saco City Hall. The proposed agenda at this time is:

1. Howard and Travis' reports on heat pump project, wind turbine project, solar hot water heating project, micro hydro project, and solar air heater
2. John's report on community center improvements
3. Earth Day 2007
4. Discussion of further projects for the present fiscal year and the next fiscal year
5. Purchase of Toyota Prius hybrid vehicle
6. Other business