SUSTAINABLE PLACES POLICY COMMITTEE
March 8, 2019 Meeting Summary

Members Present
Commissioner Jim Walters, Unified Government, Co-Chair
Brian Alferman, Johnson County
Rob Binney, City of Lee’s Summit, Co-Chair
Jon Birkel, Hunt Midwest
Mary Cyr, Mattie Rhodes Center
Councilmember Lindsey Constance, City of Shawnee
Janell Friesen, UG Public Health Dept.
Michael Frisch, UMKC
Jim Harpool, Evergreen Real Estate
Matt Kauffman, KCRTA
Mayor Mike Kelly, City of Roeland Park
Edwin Lowndes, Housing Authority of KCMO
Michael Park, City of Lee’s Summit
Cliff Poupirt, Westside Housing Org.
Josh Powers, Johnson County
Allison Smith, KDOT
Eva Steinman, MoDOT
Kelly Woodward, City of Gardner

Online Participants
Jessy Innocent, DOE
Mark O’ Hara, HOK
Janet McRae, Miami County
Tom Scannell, City of Independence
Jeffrey Williams, City of Kansas City

MARC Staff Present
Ron Achelpohl, Beth Dawson, Tom Jacobs, Marlene Nagel, Martin Rivarola, Jermain Whitmore – MARC staff

Welcome and Introductions – Commissioner Jim Walters welcomed those present and asked for self-introductions.

Approval of January 2019 Meeting summary – Edwin Lowndes made a motion, seconded by Jim Harpool, to approve the January meeting summary. The motion carried.

Climate Drawdown
Mayor Mike Kelly & Councilmember Lindsey Constance gave a presentation on the Climate Action Coalition and a report Climate Drawdown. According to the IPCC report, human activities are estimated to have caused approximately 1.0º C of global warming above the pre-industrial level. It is estimated that global warming is likely to reach 1.5 ºC between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to rise at the current rate. Limiting warming to 1.5 ºC will require transformative systemic changes, integrated with sustainable development. A Weather Channel report ranked Kansas City 5th in the top 25 list of U.S. cities to be most impacted by climate change. Increased drought and flooding and urban heat islands are expected in the Kansas City region. Compared to 1950, CO₂ has risen by approximately 190ppm, and now sits around 490ppm.
Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed To Reverse Global Warning states that “The goal of the Climate Drawdown is to determine whether it is possible to reverse global warming by identifying, measuring and modeling the most impactful solutions to either reduce emissions or remove greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.” It lists several potential solutions in various sectors which could reverse the effects of global warming, showing their effect on total atmospheric CO2-EQ Reduction, as well as each of their impacts in cost and savings. They are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Solution</th>
<th>Sector</th>
<th>TOTAL ATMOSPHERIC CO2-EQ REDUCTION (GT)</th>
<th>NET COST (BILLIONS US $)</th>
<th>SAVINGS (BILLIONS US $)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Refrigerant Management</td>
<td>Materials</td>
<td>89.74</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$-902.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Wind Turbines (Onshore)</td>
<td>Electricity Generation</td>
<td>84.60</td>
<td>$1,225.37</td>
<td>$7,425.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Reduced Food Waste</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td>70.53</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Plant-Rich Diet</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td>66.11</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Tropical Forests</td>
<td>Land Use</td>
<td>61.23</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Educating Girls</td>
<td>Women and Girls</td>
<td>51.48</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Family Planning</td>
<td>Women and Girls</td>
<td>51.48</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Solar Farms</td>
<td>Electricity Generation</td>
<td>36.90</td>
<td>$-80.60</td>
<td>$5,023.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>SilvoPasture</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td>31.19</td>
<td>$41.59</td>
<td>$699.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Rooftop Solar</td>
<td>Electricity Generation</td>
<td>24.60</td>
<td>$453.14</td>
<td>$3,457.63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Regenerative Agriculture</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td>23.15</td>
<td>$57.22</td>
<td>$1,928.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Temperate Forests</td>
<td>Land Use</td>
<td>22.61</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Peatlands</td>
<td>Land Use</td>
<td>21.57</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Tropical Staple Trees</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td>20.19</td>
<td>$120.07</td>
<td>$626.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Afforestation</td>
<td>Land Use</td>
<td>18.06</td>
<td>$29.44</td>
<td>$392.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Conservation Agriculture</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td>17.35</td>
<td>$37.53</td>
<td>$2,119.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Tree Intercropping</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td>17.20</td>
<td>$146.99</td>
<td>$22.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Geothermal</td>
<td>Electricity Generation</td>
<td>16.60</td>
<td>$-155.48</td>
<td>$1,024.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Managed Grazing</td>
<td>Food</td>
<td>16.34</td>
<td>$50.48</td>
<td>$735.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Nuclear</td>
<td>Electricity Generation</td>
<td>16.09</td>
<td>$0.88</td>
<td>$1,713.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Metro KC Climate Action Coalition was formed to further explore these options. Their mission is to enact and foster proactive strategies, systems and structures within the KC region that will drawdown greenhouse gases, improve climate resiliency and generate corresponding economic, social, health and quality of life benefits. The Coalition consists of state senators, state reps, mayors and city councilmembers, school board members, chief environmental officers, KU professor, county sustainability director, district sustainability director, and nonprofit directors who are dedicated, motivated, informed, and connected. Their goals include: creating a Climate Action Plan (including a greenhouse emissions inventory), develop annual legislative platforms that will influence public policy and a policy playbook for elected officials. They plan to have a Climate Summit on September 14, 2019 at Johnson County Community College.

**Adoption of the Green Infrastructure Framework**

Tom Jacobs gave a recap of the Green Infrastructure Policy Framework, as well as the primary recommendations, and invited input from committee members regarding ways to further its progress. The Green Infrastructure Framework offers a planning and design approach to grow communities in ways that simultaneously tend to neighborhoods, jobs and nature. As green infrastructure becomes part of the mosaic of all local land uses, it can be designed and managed in ways that meet local needs while providing both local and
broader community environmental benefits. When green infrastructure is an integrated part of land use, it can also have a significant and positive impact on mobility planning. Forests, streams, wetlands and prairies provide ecological benefits as well as great walking and biking environments. Linking communities through trails and complete green streets not only increases quality of life and economic vitality, but also provides health benefits and increases equitable opportunities to access education and jobs.

During the Regional Green Infrastructure Policy Study, three overarching policy recommendations emerged from stakeholder discussions: creating model ordinances; updating stormwater management guidelines and engineering standards; and linking conservation and transportation planning. Participants framed progress on these three priorities within a larger context of supporting strategies. They noted substantial needs regarding regional collaboration, leadership development and capacity building, communications and education, tools and data, integrated regional/local planning, funding, and implementation of multi-benefit projects. Implementation of the study’s recommendations will focus on convening and mobilizing the diverse communities of our region to use the data and tools at our fingertips and create new policy to support resilient decision-making together.

Approval of Green Infrastructure Framework – Michael Frisch made a motion, seconded by Kelly Woodward, to approve the Green Infrastructure Framework. Jon Birkel voted Nay. The motion carried.

Introduction to the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan
Marlene Nagel reported on the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan that is under development and invited the committee to provide input. The planning process involves 5 steps, which consist of:

A. Organize:
   - Define planning area.
   - Identify participants (jurisdictions and other stakeholders).
   - Determine schedule for process including opportunities for public comment.
B. Review hazard occurrences since last plan and goals and objectives from last plan.
C. Assess and prioritize current risks to people, property and other assets.
D. Develop new (mitigation strategies) goals, objectives and activities.
E. Adopt and implement plan.

A steering committee was formed in January. A kickoff meeting will be held on April 2, 2019. Local jurisdictions that adopted a plan in 2015 have been asked to review information from the 2015 plan and provide any updates. There will be county level meetings held to review hazard occurrences since last plan and discuss possible strategies. The planning work is expected to result in a draft plan ready to submit to SEMA by February 1, 2020, and then local jurisdictions must adopt the plan and submit to FEMA by 5/1/2020.

On the Kansas side: Johnson, Leavenworth, and Wyandotte counties are working together on a new plan that must be adopted by April 2019. The Kansas plan activities included work with a consultant to update annual hazards review and identify mitigation actions and public involvement, including a public survey.

MARC is working with Cass, Clay, Jackson, Platte and Ray counties on a new regional plan, and the counties, cities, school districts and fire districts within those counties are involved. The plan must be adopted by participating local jurisdictions by May 1, 2020. There are 3 potential grants available to those jurisdictions that choose to participate, including the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant, & Flood Mitigation Grant.

This will in turn help reinforce other strategies such as regional resilience, transportation and stormwater planning, as well as sustainable places.

Committee Discussion:
One of the committee members acknowledged that the key benefits may help get costs down in relation to climate work, and applauded MARC for combining them. They suggested a concurrences study of all planning
processes.

**Committee Member sharing.**

Brian Alferman –
- Solid Waste Management Plan is being updated and should be completed by September. They plan to have stakeholder meetings in April.
- Energy Management Program is changing, but they are maintaining & operating buildings to make them more efficient through behavioral management.

Kelly Woodard –
- Working on developing an interface with their climate work
- In the process of adopting new building codes.
- Looking for funding to address flooding on roadways.
- Adopted new stormwater regulations, but need more staff to help manage.

Jim Harpool –
- He will be retiring in May or June of this year. Committee members thanked Mr. Harpool for his participation on the Sustainable Places Policy Committee and his support for regional planning work and wished him well.

Commissioner Jim Walters –
- They have a number of vacant homes & properties in their program to address blighted structures in older neighborhoods. The county took ownership of the houses that were tax delinquent and placed the properties in the Land Bank. The UG pre-qualified developers who were able to bid on purchasing the properties, and once renovation was completed, the county transferred title to the developer. The program has pre-qualified 46 developers/rehabbers and 26 properties have been renovated and either resold or rented. The county wipes out back taxes with the sale to the developer.

**Other Business**

There was no further business to discuss.

The next meeting of the committee is May 10, 2019. The meeting was adjourned.