

City of Oregon
Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee Meeting

The Sustainability Ad Hoc Committee met Tuesday October 14th, 2025, at 9 am.

Present: Tim Benedict, Melanie Cozzi, Darin DeHaan, Cheryl Hilton, Joyce Lewis, Tom Pacey, and Steve Rypkema.

Meeting called to order at 9:00.

No public comment.

Steve Rypkema moved to approve July 14th, 2025, minutes, Seconded by Tom Pacey.

Motion carried. No Nays.

Update from Rock River Sweep: Steve Rypkema said they had around thirty volunteers for the event. They discussed selecting a date earlier for next year's event to allow time for marketing and collaboration with other organizations. Marketing for next year would include creating flyers to be handed out at local businesses, creating a new Facebook page, as well as a two-page mailer to be sent to all homes in city limits. The committee also discussed holding the event on a Saturday afternoon. There are multiple things they need to consider when scheduling the event such as the school athletic calendar and the water/air temperature. They also discussed securing business sponsors, an after party or gathering, collaborating with other groups/clubs, and the inclusion of other towns along the river. Next years proposed date is September 12th, 2026, with September 19th, 2026, being the rain date. The committee will reach out to organizations that participated this year.

Student Involvement: The committee discussed working with high school students to help with social media and keeping the website updated. The student group could focus on a resource from the Sustainability Plan and provide information to the community about that resource.

Retention Pond/Green Space: The committee discussed the retention pond by the dog park, water shed, and green space for pollinators. U of I has a huge water shed program. The group will look into this.

Solar: Federal solar incentives are ending this year. Solar companies are offering their own incentives. The State of Illinois may also introduce their own incentives. The group discussed holding an educational event once the state incentives become clearer. They would like to discuss resources, advantages, and disadvantages for wind energy.

EcoOregon Program: They discussed starting the program with a business nomination to create interest and growth. The nominee would be recognized at a City Council meeting. They continue to work on the logo. Incentives for business recycling were also discussed.

Other Projects: Nachusa held a public open house for the community.

Steve Rypkema moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:17 a.m., Seconded by Tim Benedict.

Motion carried. No Nays.

Submitted by City Clerk Cheryl Hilton