In Attendance

Committee Members: Casey Lewis, Hilary Lindh, Jen Sybrant, Joe Page, Karin Hilding, Kate McMahon, Sierra McCartney, Sophia Valenzuela, Melissa Hartman

City Staff: Craig Workman, Richard Hildner

Public: N/A

Whitefish Water & Sewer Update

- Replacing current wastewater lagoon system with a sequencing batch reactor (mandatory to reduce nutrient loading and allow Whitefish River to meet DEQ water quality standards)
- SBR system uses 33% less concrete, 20% less energy, and has a 50% smaller footprint as well as lower total capital cost
  - Planning to include infrastructure for future sustainability projects, such as a tree farm, composting site, or solar array
- Water system needs refurbishments for contact absorption clarifiers and the addition of two new units to increase water availability during peak months and support growing population
  - Conservation MUST be part of the solution
  - Need more hydraulic capacity on the south end of town (several possible solutions)

Implementation Planning Matrix

- Add spreadsheet tab for non-city staff and include which projects they’re working on so we can keep track of what everyone’s working on
- Keep sustainability information (home energy saving, water conservation) in a section at the library and the CSE
- Flathead Conservation District will be building a demonstration garden to show xeriscaping, native grasses, rain gardens (will need advertising help when finished)
- Look into creating a neighborhood composting pilot program (partnering with Alissa LaChance)
- Next step: start creating timeline for projects

Public Comment

- Consider encouraging businesses to buy solar panels in solar farms as a carbon offset
- Include sustainability requirements in bid criteria for City construction projects