



Memo

City Manager's Office

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TO: Mayor and Ames City Council Members

FROM: Steven L. Schainker, City Manager

DATE: October 7, 2011

SUBJECT: Extension of Sustainability Advisory Services Contract With ISU

On July 1, 2010, the City entered into a one year contract with Iowa State University to utilize the services of their full-time Director of Sustainability. According to the contract, the City will contribute to the University \$2,083.33 per month, or \$25,000 annually, towards the total cost of this position. This arrangement represents another example of how the City and University have partnered to the benefit of both parties.

The initial assignment from the City Council for the Director of Sustainability was to work with a community task force over a twelve month period to develop a plan to reduce electric consumption throughout the community. While the task force worked diligently to complete the assignment within the year, it was not possible to accomplish this initial assignment as hoped. Therefore, in July 2011 the City Council agreed to extend the contract with ISU through September 2011 to allow time for the task force report to be completed.

In accordance with this new schedule, the final report was presented to the City Council in September. At the September 27, 2011 meeting, the Council delayed making any final decisions regarding the next steps towards accomplishing your sustainability goal until after the next goal setting session in January.

In the interim, there is much for the Director of Sustainability to do for the City. At that same meeting, **the Council directed staff to work with the three sub-committees suggested by the task force and develop a plan to implement the various electric consumption reduction recommendations. In addition, the Council requested information prior to the goal setting session on how the three proposed frameworks that were being suggested by the task force have impacted other communities.**

Since the contract with the University was extended only through September 2011, additional Council direction is needed at this time. **I would recommend that the**

contract with the University be further extended through January 2012 with the understanding that Merry Rankin would assist City staff with the two assignments listed above. Once your goal setting session is complete, we will be able to identify the next assignment and extend the agreement accordingly. It should be remembered that you have appropriated the necessary funding to continue this partnership through June 2012.