

**From:** [Baloga, Jack](#)  
**To:** [Dargan, Denise](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Bloomington Sustainability Task Force -- Staff Support  
**Date:** Friday, March 25, 2016 7:11:07 PM

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Denise

See below for BSC sustainability commission members. If they added any one over the last 30 days, I do not know of them.

Jack Baloga  
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City of Bloomington  
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**From:** Timothy Sandry [tmsandry@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 21, 2016 12:10 PM  
**To:** Verbrugge, Jamie  
**Cc:** Baloga, Jack  
**Subject:** Bloomington Sustainability Task Force -- Staff Support

Jamie

As you know, the BSC is a strong proponent of establishing a “Sustainability” Commission in Bloomington. Based our conversations with council members and conversations that have occurred during council meetings, there appears to be strong council member support for the concept for such a commission. However, our conversations have also revealed uncertainty and some disagreement about the details of such a commission and about how to move forward. To help facilitate the council in their consideration and deliberations, the BSC is establishing a “Bloomington Sustainability Task Force” to put together a set of recommendations to serve as a starting point for the council. The list of task force members is below. **Task Force members have agreed that the outcome of our work is likely to be much effective if there is involvement, in some capacity, on the part of the city staff.**

I requested Councilman Baloga provide us guidance on how best to engage with the city staff and he suggested that I reach out to you and also suggested that the new asst. City Manager would be a good candidate. This seems consistent with prior conversations that we have had with you about the idea of a sustainability commission where you suggested that the asst. city manager would be the most logical staff person assigned to such a commission.

It is likely that you have questions about this Task Force concept. I am including some high level information below but it is likely that a conversation may be in order. I will be traveling on Tuesday and Wednesday this week but would be happy to discuss further via phone Thursday (2/25) or Friday (2/26) afternoons.

**TASK FORCE MEMBERS.** Task force members were recruited based on 1. Passion around sustainability, 2. Demonstrated expertise in some area of sustainability, and 3. Some experience working with government agencies (as staff member, on a commission, as a consultant, etc.). All are long term Bloomington residents.

- **John Jaimez:** Organics & Recycling Specialist at Hennepin County Environmental

Services. John was one of the leaders behind the convincing the city council to move organized collection.

- **Mike Dardis:** Retired from a career in health care finance. Volunteers Red Cross and Wild Life Refuge. Resident of Bloomington for 37 years and served on the Bloomington Public Health Commission include a stint as the chair.
- **Steve Thomforde:** Restoration Ecologist, Researcher, Educator, Presenter, and Project Manger at Great River Greening. Does a great deal of consulting with cities. Born and grew up in Bloomington before going away to college. He has recently moved back Bloomington. His father was a member of the original Natural Resources Commission.
- **Erica Sniegowski:** Education and Outreach Program Manager at Nine Mile Creek Watershed District. Has lived her entire life in Bloomington (except college and graduate school). Spends a lot of time working cities.
- **Rob Bouta:** Senior Environmental Scientist / Ecologist at Kjolhaug Environmental Services Company. Rob is technical and regulatory strategist and a certified senior ecologist and wetland delineator and has a lot of experience working with cities. Also heavily involved in CCL
- **Sherie Bartsh:** Landscape Architect training with a Master in Wildlife Biology. Member of BSC
- **Tim Sandry:** Sort of retired. Organizer for BSC.

**OVERALL PROCESS.** The task force will be meeting for the first time the first week in March (likely March 1st but this may change based on availability of someone from the city staff). We will likely be meeting on a weekly basis in the evening. The first two meetings will be focused on chartering and the overall process. One of the primary activities will be to identify and interview other sustainability commissions in the area who seem to be operating well and having an impact. We would like to understand how they operate and the secrets of their success. The basis of our recommendations will likely be strongly influenced by what we learn.

I look forward to your reply.

Regards

Tim

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Timothy M. Sandry

c: 952.303.9760

*Bloomington Sustainability Coalition (BSC) member*

*BSC Mission: **Creating a more sustainable Bloomington** through collaboration with fellow residents, businesses, and organizations.*