



Climate and Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Regular Meeting – November 30, 2023

Committee Members in Attendance: Vince Dauciunas – Chair, Kendra Smith, Janet Alderton, Luke Fincher, Chris Greacen, Adrian Kilpatrick, Jay Kimball, Barbara Marrett, Michael Shanks, Jerry Whitfield

Committee Liaisons in Attendance: Steve Bernheim, Jeff Dyer

Ex-officio and County Staff: Cindy Wolf, Angela Broderick, Debbie Boyer

Members of the public/guests: Phone #360-472-0003

Committee Members absent: Renee Koplan

Convene meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vince Dauciunas at 5:36pm. He confirmed that a quorum was present.

Public Comment

None

Business Operations

- **Approve Agenda** –The Agenda was approved as submitted.
- **Approve September 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes – MOTION: Barbara moved, and Jay seconded, to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2023 meeting as presented and the motion passed.**
- **Review Public presentations** –Vince reported on the presentation he and Jay gave on 10/12 as part of the Climate Speaker series at the Friday Harbor Labs. He shared details from the presentation and will make the slide presentation available on the SharePoint drive. Discussion followed regarding renewable energy, energy consumption, solar energy, wind energy, grid enhancement technologies, tidal energies, geothermal energy, and future energy needs in the county.

Staff Updates - Kendra Smith and Angela Broderick

- **Commerce Grant and workplan** – Angela reported that the County submitted the application to the Department of Commerce for the Climate Planning Grant, no official word received yet, but it should be received shortly. It is a non-competitive grant for \$300,000 and it will be used to develop the climate element for the Comp Plan and finalizing the CAP as part of that process. Angela reviewed the scope of work, discussed the process and, of particular importance, the community engagement strategy. She recommended everyone read the Comp Plan to help get a sense of the gaps that may need to be addressed.
- **EPA grant** – Angela gave the Committee an update on the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant opportunity, sharing that is very competitive - only two or three are likely to be awarded in the entire state of Washington and we must have shovel ready projects, so it is not a feasible option for us. She is asking to be looped into regional coalitions that may form in the process that the County could be part of. Janet asked about a possible electric foot-ferry grant and several on the Committee gave input on

the long road to get that federal funding.

- **Budget process update** – Kendra reiterated Angela’s suggestion that everyone read through the Comp Plan. She noted that it’s important that the climate elements be sprinkled throughout the document to keep the information from being missed by the various departments. The County continues to finalize the 2024-2025 Budget. She reminded the Committee that the Greenhouse Gas Inventory report is not available to the public, and the Sea Level Rise Analysis from the County Manager’s office is forthcoming. She noted that staff is currently in discussion about how to roll out these documents to the public noting their relationship with the Comp Plan. Kendra explained the maps being prepared from the Sea Level Rise Analysis report will be based on FEMA standards.

Discussion: Climate Action Plan Topic – “Public Engagement” – Vince Daucinas

The Committee discussed the recent public engagement experiences within the County. Kendra reminded the Committee to be looking to the youth of our community to be helping drive the Comp Plan which will be the planning document for the years 2025-2045. The Committee round-tabled several options of engagement for the community noting the different generations represented on the Island and different groups of Islanders and the need to adjust the information delivery for different platforms and audiences. They offered ideas like using social media to our advantage, creating “problem” statements or questions for discussion, creating short videos, figuring out how to give the younger generation a voice, and getting them involved in the process.

Angela shared a Public Engagement document on the committee’s SharePoint page with the beginnings of a list of groups and individuals that could be engaged in the process to help get the word out, as well as events and engagement methods. She asked for help adding to the list, especially the youth groups.

Links mentioned during the discussion:

What rural people actually think about clean energy <https://www.volts.wtf/p/what-rural-people-actually-think>

David Brooks: How to Know a Person https://youtu.be/YwENbKn3tqI?si=FMz3m609_HP03La-

Discussion – Next Steps

For the next meeting, Vince asked Kendra and Angela to be prepared to give an overview of what 2024 looks like and how the committee can best help out with the process. He also asked the members of the Committee to do some of their own research on Climate Action Plans with a close eye to the public participation process and bring back examples of work that has been done well. Kendra reminded the Committee that the public involvement plan is integrated into the County Comp Plan. She suggested hiring experts to get some outside help and advice.

Adjournment

Vince thanked the Committee for their contributions during 2023.

The meeting adjourned at 7:13pm.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 25, 2024 at 5:30pm.