



Climate and Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting, March 28, 2024

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

Committee Liaisons in Attendance: Lynn Bahrych, Tim Clark, Sheila Gaquin

Ex-officio and County Staff: Jane Fuller, Angela Broderick, Debbie Boyer

Members of the public/guests: Chom Greacen, Andrew Munson, Faith Van De Putte and Alyssa Rodriguez - Cascadia Consulting

Committee Members absent: Luke Fincher and Renee Koplan

Convene meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vince Dauciunas at 5:33pm. He confirmed that a quorum was present.

Public Comment

Faith Van De Putte requested that the Committee consider adding a “least conflict solar siting” process as part of the public engagement process for the Climate Action Plan (CAP). She shared a link to that information with the Committee.

Chom Greacen spoke about the community engagement plan for the Climate Element and CAP. She suggests maximizing ownership of the public in the process and engaging with the Community members in order to reflect community values, and recommended additional qualitative metrics of success.

Business Operations

- **Approve Agenda – MOTION: Adrian moved to approve the Agenda as presented, Lynn seconded the motion and the motion passed.**
- **Approve January 25, 2024 Meeting Minutes – MOTION: Chris moved, and Janet seconded, to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2024 meeting as presented and the motion passed.**
- **Recognize outgoing members Luke & Renee –** Vince thanked outgoing Committee members Luke Fincher and Renee Koplan. He suggested an appreciation e-mail go out to them sharing the Committee sentiment of thanks.

Engagement Plan Climate Element and CAP – Alyssa Rodriguez, Cascadia Consulting

Vince introduced Alyssa Rodriguez from Cascadia Consulting. She reported that Cascadia Consulting has been hard at work planning for engagement for the Climate Element and the Climate Action Plan (CAP). She shared a Power-Point presentation including discussions about Climate Collaborators, Planned Engagement Activities (three phases) and Community Conversations. The Committee strategized and prioritized quick feedback questions in each of four categories outlined below.

Questions that the Committee determined could be used in their Climate Outreach to the Community (prioritized)

Envisioning a Resilient San Juan County:

In the face of climate change, what does a resilient, thriving San Juan County look like to you?

What are some defining characteristics and values that would make climate planning in San Juan Islands successful?

Priorities for Climate Action:

What climate impacts are you most concerned about?

Are there specific types of climate actions that you think should be prioritized?

Challenges & Barriers:

What do you envision as the biggest challenge to accomplishing our goals of reducing emissions and enhancing resilience to climate impacts?

What is one thing you wish you knew more about regarding climate impacts and climate action?

Opportunities for the future:

In what ways could San Juan County support (you/your business/your community) to take climate action?

What suggestions or ideas do you have on how San Juan County can reduce GHG emissions and build climate resilience?

During the discussion, committee members gave feedback about the framing these Community Conversations. Input included:

- Abstraction doesn't work well in casual conversation; it needs to be more about lived experience
- Focusing on experience also helps engage with people where they are at in their awareness of climate impacts
- Emphasis on feedback rather than informing, but an opportunity to educate and build awareness
- Need for Spanish-speaking assistance highlighted; Michael and Adrian offered to help

These questions will be reviewed again for final feedback in the coming weeks so that we can move forward with the launch of Community Engagement. Alyssa left the meeting at this time.

Staff Update – Kendra Smith and Angela Broderick

Process Framework Review – Kendra provided context to the Framework process, working with several different groups and thinking through different aspects of engagement to make sure we can cover all the bases; opportunities, constraints, political challenges, etc.

Angela had sent out the draft Framework to the committee. It has been previewed with Council and will be used to ensure a collaborative process. She discussed the process and timeline overview that was included in the Framework, and outlined the upcoming items that the committee would be asked to review. The Committee offered some feedback on the document. Angela shared the Engagement Phases and discussed the three phases of the project.

Angela shared the plans for Climate Collaborator training. An e-mail will be sent asking you to sign up to learn more about being a Climate Collaborator and sign up for the training, which will be available in-person and via video. She asked for volunteers to be a point person for each Island.

Janet asked about helping Islanders with the costs of programs. Angela shared that this process will help understand those needs, and Vince spoke to the challenge of San Juan County's demographic profile. Jane suggested being creative about how to engage people's minds and thanked Janet for raising the for meeting people where they're at.

Janet asked about the initiative on the ballot to repeal the Climate Initiative and if the committee should be sharing their thoughts or not. Vince replied that from his energy point of view, repealing that initiative would be a disaster.

Angela also noted that part of the focus group effort will include a Spanish speaking focus group, which is really important in our outreach programs. Jane asked Kendra to touch on the tribal engagement process; Kendra shared that a separate tribal engagement framework is in process and will go to Council before being incorporated into this work.

Liaison Roles and Updates – Vince Daucianas

Lynn, Liaison for the Clean Water Advisory Committee, gave a report that CWAC has been working on the Water Element in the Comp Plan with some added emphasis on conservation; for example, not using drinking water to wash cars. She is very happy to be involved with the group where a lot of good conversations are happening. Kendra added the committee that we will be working to advance the Drought Management Plan.

Sheila told the group that the Planning Commission will be getting rolling with the new consultant for the Comp Plan update in April.

Faith shared that the ARC is deeply engaged in the conversation around balancing the needs of food production and energy production. She highlighted the need to have these kinds of conversations early to enable us to make well thought out decisions. She wants to encourage clarity in what the baseline information we want everyone to know and be able to answer for the groups. Angela let the group know that we are developing a factsheets as part of the engagement materials.

Vince closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their work.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 5:30pm.