



Climate and Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Regular Meeting, May 23, 2024

Committee Members in Attendance: Vince Dauciunas – Chair, Kendra Smith, Chris Greacen, Adrian Kilpatrick, Jay Kimball

Committee Liaisons in Attendance: Jeff Dyer, Steve Bernheim, Tim Clark

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

Members of the public/guests: Henning Semsdorf, Ande Finley (Transition Lopez Island)

Committee Members absent: Janet Alderton, Barbara Marrett, Michael Shanks, Jerry Whitfield

Convene meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vince Dauciunas at 5:30pm.

Public Comment

None

Business Operations

- **Approve Agenda** – The Agenda for the meeting was approved as presented.
- Approve March 28, 2024 Meeting Minutes – **MOTION: Adrian moved, and Chris seconded, to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2024 meeting as presented and the motion passed.**

Engagement Update - Angela

Angela gave an update on the community engagement for the Climate Element and Action Plan (CAP). She shared a few visuals, highlighting the big launch of the first phase of engagement efforts, including the Engage San Juan County project page. It includes links to surveys, mailing list sign ups and other resources for education and engagement. She encouraged everyone to review the Engage page and sign up for email updates.

Transition Lopez Island Public Transit Survey – Ande Finley

Ande shared the results of the “Fossil-Free Public Transit on Lopez Island” Survey. The survey included 1,016 responses, more than half of which were part or full-time residents. Ande and her group were pleased with the demographics of those taking the survey. It showed that 60% of the transportation that people used was gas powered; she noted that this was their target group. They found that people think that public transportation is inconvenient and unreliable and have concerns about the ability to get to their final destination. The survey asked about bike rental programs and the concerns were that adequate designated bike lanes are needed to make them feel comfortable. In another question, short-term visitors indicated a willingness to leave their car in Anacortes. There was support for the County involvement in providing, subsidizing, or overseeing public transportation.

The Committee asked about next steps. Kendra shared that there is a consultant working with County department heads on the Transportation element of the Comp Plan and she will ensure that they have this information. The Committee shared their desire to add bike lanes on all Islands; Angela shared some of the comments that were received from the Destination Management Plan regarding bike lanes. Ande suggested looking at both Federal and State grant funding to help with these projects when the time is right.

Engagement Update – Angela – Continued from above

Angela continued her update on the Climate Element and the CAP. The first Climate Survey has opened as part of the engagement launch and she asked the Committee to help with outreach to the community to fill out the survey. The Climate Collaborators are up and running with training and tools to help host conversations in the community about Climate. She shared a couple of slides discussing the engagement phases of Climate Resilience Planning; we are currently in Phase 1, and the second phase will begin in August.

Angela reported that we have kicked off an internal climate policy working group to ensure we are coordinating across all departments. Cascadia has started the work of exploring the local climate impacts using the University of Washington climate resilience mapping tool. They have also been conducting the first phase of the policy audit, which will be shared with the committee. Angela asked for suggestions of community members to interview who might have a good grasp of policy development or implementation as part of the policy audit process.

Angela discussed the Vulnerability Assessment (VA) that will happen parallel with other updates, including the Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan and the Community Wildfire Protection Plan updates. The project team is seeking to fill in the potential gaps and focus on three of the areas of vulnerability. She shared the possible areas of scope: Water resources and water supply, transportation and mobility, energy, housing, agriculture, economy, natural resources and land use. Chris added Fire Protection to the list. Angela will send out information on these options and get members' feedback.

Angela suggested an in-person meeting in the fall. She also noted that the next meeting will be on July 25th. She reminded the Committee that the Chair and Vice Chair positions will be coming up for a vote in July. She also noted that the department is interviewing candidates for our youth position and we should have a new member to welcome at the next meeting. There is still a vacancy in the District 3 position on Shaw/Lopez for a four-year term.

Liaison Roles and Updates – Vince Daucinas

Since Jeff was unavailable, Kendra provided an update from the Marine Resources Committee. She said they are focused on areas of salmon recovery right now, including large scale riparian revegetation and shoreline restoration protecting habitat. She stated that we will also start the flyovers to start counting vessels this weekend.

Angela introduced the new committee liaison, Tim Clark from the Land Bank. Tim reported that the Land Bank has been reviewing their management plan and that they applied for a grant from the Allen Foundation, dealing with anything from capturing carbon in soils to forestry management. Steve Bernheim reported for the Agricultural Resources Committee by reminding the Committee that the 2022 ARC Climate recommendations list is available for review. He also shared the draft report: "Five Climate Strategies for Agriculture in San Juan County". Discussion followed.

Vince closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation tonight.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

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