



Climate and Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Regular Meeting, July 25, 2024

Committee Members in Attendance: Vince Dauciunas – Chair, Kendra Smith, Chris Greacen, Jay Kimball-Vice Chair, Michael Shanks, Matilda Twigg

Committee Liaisons in Attendance: Steve Bernheim, Tim Clark, Lovel Pratt

Ex-officio and County Staff: Angela Broderick, Debbie Boyer, Nathan Zapalac, Kai Ross

Members of the public/guests: Rick Hughes, Justin Paulsen, Sarah Severn, Gretchen Allison

Committee Members absent: Janet Alderton, Barbara Marrett, Jerry Whitfield, Adrian Kilpatrick

Convene meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vince Dauciunas at 5:33pm.

Public Comment

Sarah Severn is requesting Council to endorse the “No” stance on Initiative 2117 campaign to repeal the Climate Commitment Act (CCA).

Business Operations

- **Approve Agenda** – The Agenda for the meeting was approved, with the addition of a discussion of the CCA.
- Approve May 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes – **MOTION: Chris moved, and Kendra seconded, to approve the minutes of the May 23, 2024 meeting as presented and the motion passed.**
- **New members** - Angela introduced Matilda Twigg who is the new Youth Representative on the committee. Angela introduced Lovel Pratt as the new liaison for the Marine Resource Committee.
- **Elections** - Vince has reached the end of his term in the Chair position and Angela explained the typical committee process of Vice Chair moving into the Chair position (Jay Kimball accepted), which leaves open the Vice Chair position. Chris Greacen volunteered to begin as Vice Chair. Vince was thanked vociferously for his leadership as Chair, and appreciation was extended to Jay and Chris for their willingness to step up.

No on Initiative 2117 campaign – Sarah Severn

Working with Clean and Prosperous Washington (501c4), Sarah is recruiting businesses and organizations to stand with the No position on this upcoming initiative to repeal the Climate Commitment Act. The Act puts a price on Carbon and mandates polluting companies to purchase Carbon credits at auction. The Act takes the revenue from the auctions and applies the funds to a variety of projects supporting climate action. The website www.no2117.com contains a list of over 330 entities that have supported the No position. Vince confirmed with Angela that the committee’s next step would be to write a letter of support to council for their endorsement of the resolution. Kendra will facilitate submitting the letter to County Council.

Community Engagement Update – Angela

Angela recently submitted the analysis of the public comments from the draft Destination Management Plan, posted to the Engage page on the county website. In a slideshow, Angela illustrated the lessons learned from the analysis and how that may inform our continued work with climate action.

Vince suggested Angela also share with the committee group the methods of communication presentation, recently shared at Council, as a valuable insight.

Angela discussed the timeline for the continued work on the Climate Element and Climate Action Plan, closing engagement Phase 1 and initiating Phase 2, Identifying Climate Priorities. Survey results from Phase 1 included 657 completed responses and was open for 45 days. Phase 2 will utilize more graphics-driven posters at upcoming community engagement events like the County Fair. Summary findings from Cascadia's planned Policy Audit for San Juan County (assessing for policy trends, gaps and opportunities): 172 policies focusing around resiliency, 166 regarding mitigation and 24 policies regarding climate equity. A review draft will be coming to the Committee soon. Jay Kimball asked if Cascadia will also be handling the document writing for the CAP and Comprehensive Plan Update. Kendra Smith answered that Sophia Cassam (San Juan County Department of Community Development) is ultimately building the Comprehensive Plan. Sophia works alongside OTAC Consultants and Environmental Stewardship meets with Sophia regularly to build in the element of Climate Action. Angela finished her summary presentation with the sectors of vulnerability as determined by the Cascadia assessment: water resources and supply, transportation and mobility, buildings and energy. Next steps will be continued engagement and GHG Inventory Management Plan.

Kai Ross has been the summer Climate and Sustainability intern, leading youth engagement with groups like Youth Conservation Corp. Kai summarized suggestions for youth engagement such as reframing engagement questions in simpler terms, utilizing targeted social media content, and hosting discussions at outdoor events. Kai also suggests music and festivals as an effective medium to communicate the message regarding climate action and encourage action, he has not implemented this approach in the San Juans yet. Discussion regarding bridging the gap between generations and Matilda Twigg suggested the solution of a music-based gathering with the overall theme of climate action would be a great way to join community members of all ages.

Liaison Updates

Lynn Bahrych and Kendra confirmed that a memo regarding the water element was sent by the Clean Water Advisory Committee to Sophia for the Comp Plan Update. Awaiting the groundwater study from USGS, which will provide valuable info on the supply of groundwater. Monitoring the PFAS situation with Hannah Heights and bacterial count in freshwater at Zylstra. Kendra added that Clean Water staff are completing a drought storyboard and a sea-level rise storyboard is coming. Vince added two 2002 reports of particular interest that contribute the water availability info in the county: Appendix A to the current water element (graphic history) and WRIA by USGS. Based on the numbers from this report, Vince did his own math to move the numbers to present day regarding water availability for the current and growing population. Lynn also mentioned the situation with water availability on Guemes Island and will be watching how it unfolds.

Steve Bernheim reported from the Agricultural Resources Committee. They have proposed a composting zoning revision for commercial composting. The other proposal is re-zoning for farm stands which current wording is vague as to the structures themselves.

Lovel Pratt introduced herself as the new liaison for the Marine Resources Committee; she's also staff at Friends of the San Juans. She appreciated Sarah's information on Initiative 2117 as it would impact funding for a Conservation Shoreline Easement on Orcas and potentially a project on Blakely Island.

Tim Clark stated it has been a quiet time for the Land Bank, because REET funds have been lower.

Angela encouraged liaisons to consider submitting a memo for recommendations for the Comp Plan, as some are already in the process of. Sophia has requested these before the end of September to coordinate efforts for the Comp Plan.

Kendra thanked Rick and Justin for attending and invited them to reach out with any questions. Jay Kimball closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20pm. The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 7th, 2024 at 5:30pm.