



Climate and Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes Retreat Meeting, October 7th, 2024

Committee Members in Attendance: Jay Kimball– Chair, Chris Greacen-Vice Chair, Michael Shanks, Barbara Marrett, Kendra Smith, Vince Dauciuinas, Janet Alderton, Matilda Twigg

Committee Liaisons in Attendance: Faith Van De Putte, Tim Clark, Lovel Pratt

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

Members of the public/guests: David Bill, Nicole Gutierrez

Committee Members absent: Jerry Whitfield, Adrian Kilpatrick, Grant Carlton

Convene meeting

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jay Kimball at 08:52am.

Public Comment

David Bill encouraged the committee to find actionable climate action strategies, perhaps above the required Washington State levels. David Bill feels climate emissions are disproportionately contributed to by the wealthy populations in the islands and those privileged populations have the means to spend on energy efficient measures.

Business Operations

- **Approve Agenda** – The Agenda for the meeting was approved as presented. **MOTION: Vince moved, and Barbara seconded, to approve the agenda**
- **Approve July 25th, 2024 Meeting Minutes** – **MOTION: Chris moved, and Vince seconded, to approve the minutes of the July 25th, 2024 meeting with a correction to a name spelling error and the motion passed.**

Angela introduced Matilda Twigg, the new Youth Representative on the committee. Angela mentioned that Grant Carlton has joined as the new District 3 Representative.

Angela suggested the last meeting date of 2024 to be December 5th 5:30-7:30pm because of the holidays, no objections. Angela outlined the current meeting agenda and breakout sessions.

Project Update

Angela updated the group on the Climate Element and Action Plan development. This included an overview of engagement measures, including Climate Collaborators launch in the spring and efforts hosting community conversations, as well as the first public climate survey. Results from the first engagement phase are available on the Engage page. Currently, phase two has started along with the drafting of the climate elements. Dates have been announced for community Fall Open Houses on all islands in collaboration with DCD. She also outlined steps taken to complete the policy audit, assess impacts, and begin the vulnerability assessment and the greenhouse gas inventory management plan. She noted that preliminary draft policy was sent out to the committee for review and would be the focus of today's meeting.

Climate Element: Policy Development & Overview – Nicole Gutierrez

Nicole reiterated the sub-elements required by HB 1181 for Climate Elements. The Resilience sub-element is required for all jurisdictions and the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction sub-element is required for 11 counties, but San Juan County has opted to include it. Nicole highlighted the Environmental Justice aspect relating to both sub-elements.

Within the planning process, before drafting policy, the team collected facts and data to create a shared context involving diverse perspectives and promoting and seeking understanding. The process is now on to developing policy, currently iterating, reframing as needed, and seeking inclusive outcomes.

Concerns were shared about the Planning Commission's process of review and gave the example of language being changed from committee. Kendra will share this concern with Sophia Cassam, project manager for the Comp Plan Update.

Nicole went over the policy gaps Cascadia which emerged in the policy audit. Among the highlights was the need for environmental justice to be incorporated in community resilience policy, and that current reporting and monitoring frameworks are limited relative to mitigation and resilience policy implementation. The County will need to determine what is most important to monitor. There was discussion related to types of monitoring, examples from other nearby counties, and what kind of metrics already in place.

As determined by survey and community conversations with climate collaborators, areas of climate change concerns for residents are increased temperatures, variable precipitation and sea level rise. Cascadia Consulting utilized tools such as the Climate Element Explorer to selectively fill gaps in draft development. A participant asked if there was additional scientific data to cite for local climate change impacts for use in community discussions; Nicole referenced the Vulnerability slide summarizing those topics with citations of reports.

Break

In-Depth Strategic Review of Draft Policy – Session 1

Jay reconvened the group and started the review and introduced the Core Problem Reflection exercise before the group went into breakout discussions. Topics for each breakout group were announced and participants were sorted according to experience within the topics. Breakout groups used a discussion guide to review and discuss draft policy particular to their breakout group's focus.

Working Lunch – continued review and discussion in breakout groups

In-Depth Strategic Review of Draft Policy – Session 2

Feedback from each breakout groups was shared by a group representative. They talked about specific policies they found to be important, where revisions and/or additions might be made, and overall themes in what was missing or could be improved in the policy sector they worked on.

The groups were asked to forward their notes to Angela to collate, and an additional 2 week period was open to members to submit further feedback. Staff and Cascadia will be meeting with the internal policy working group tomorrow, and then will work on updating the draft policies based on all feedback received.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:47pm by Jay, with appreciation to all for their time and participation.