



Climate and Sustainability Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
Regular Meeting – October 27, 2022

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

**Committee Liaisons in Attendance:** Paul Andersson, Lynn Bahrych, Steve Bernheim, Jeff Dyer, Sandy Bishop, Jessa Madosky, Jim Skoog

**Ex-officio and County Staff:** Debbie Boyer, Grant Carlton, Faith Van De Putte

**Members of the public:** James McCubbin

**Committee Members absent:** Vince Dauciuas, Jay Kimball, Renee Koplan

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**Convene meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Kendra Smith. She confirmed that a quorum was present and then opened the meeting with the Coast Salish Acknowledgment.

**Public Comment**

None

**Business Operations**

- Approve Agenda – The Agenda was approved as presented.
- Approve August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Meeting Minutes – M. Shanks moved, and B. Marrett seconded, to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2022 Meeting as presented. The motion passed.
- Approve September 12, 2022 Special Meeting minutes – B. Marrett moved, and A. Kilpatrick seconded, to approve the September 12, 2022 Special meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed.

**Staff Updates**

Kendra gave an overview of the Council Presentation from September 27<sup>th</sup>. She noted that the Council had approved a \$50,000 contract with Cascadia Consulting, currently in routing for signatures. She is hoping they can get started by Thanksgiving and, when finished, they will give a presentation to the Committee. Barbara mentioned they have some money budgeted for an energy audit for the airport and suggests we may be able to work together.

Kendra reported she has been working on the budget and there was discussion about any additional items that need to be added. Janet suggested funds for improvements to the County website, Lynn suggested funds to help the Coho salmon infrastructure in Cascade Creek and Paul suggested

earmarking funds for ongoing tracking and monitoring as well as infrastructure improvements.

## **Advisory Committee Liaisons & Working Groups**

### **Realign Food**

- Steve Bernheim reported for the Agricultural Resources Committee
  - F-1 – recommends collecting data, recognize benefits of existing low impact livestock
  - F-2 – supports increasing local production and consumption of plant-based foods
  - F-3 – supports increasing support for regenerative farming practices to improve soil health and carbon sequestration
  - F-4 – supports increasing composting but cautioned that it must be handled properly
  - F-5 – supports decreasing edible food waste, question of focusing and executing
  - F-6 – supports promoting eating more plants and reducing beef & dairy consumption
  - F-7 – agrees that protecting farmland from development to ensure future local food production is of paramount importance
  - Omitted issues include: recognize the agricultural value of carbon sequestration, impact of all three major greenhouse gasses (CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, CH<sub>4</sub>), regulatory framework, and educating for community buy-in/consensus.

Additional discussion followed Steve's report including: Janet shared a [link to a seaweed agriculture grant](#), Faith Van De Putte noted that livestock farmers on Island cannot keep up with local demand and highlighted local processing limitations.

- Jessa Madosky reported for the Noxious Weed Committee
  - F-1 – lower priority, noted that cows raised on Island are low emission and more research is needed.
  - F-2 – high priority, helpful for CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and maintaining ag character, nutrition and resilience for community. Committee agreed that increased help/subsidy to farmers helps the entire community.
  - F-3 – high priority, for emissions reduction and building system resilience
  - F-4 - very high priority, composting would create a huge reduction in waste shipping, educational opportunity
  - F-5 – high priority, decreasing edible food waste especially with focus on those with limited access to food, look at synergies with waste products to local farms
  - F-6 – low priority, challenge to measure and control, educational opportunity
  - F-7 – medium priority, good if it can be combined with programs to help young farmers access land and address affordable housing/farmland issues

Jim reported that the "Farmer to Farmland" program seemed to be in limbo, but a renaissance may be happening with new, younger entrepreneurial farmers. LB assists with private farmland leasing.

### **Curb Consumption**

- Paul Andersson reported for the Solid Waste Advisory Committee  
Noted the committee would like to come up with a different names for both: not objective/too objective
  - C-1 – agrees that County should adopt and use green purchasing practices
  - C-2 – this item is popular in Europe, but not in the US – this is a place where the County can provide policy support to state level
  - C-3 – agrees that the County capital improvement process should include review to ensure sustainability and GHG emissions impacts.
  - C-4 – the committee felt that the language was not concise and needs work.
  - C-5 – educational item, policy in a very ambitious way, could it cause burnout?
  - C-6 – reduce the number of part-time owners in the Islands is not feasible, needs more objective language in the Plan. Perhaps create a taxing structure to encourage unused homes to be occupied.
  - C-7 – supports the expansion of free/reuse/exchange programs
- Population Growth
  - Items P1 – P4 seem too regulatory, this is a land use type of section. Need to incentivize people to do the right thing.

Paul shared additional SWAC recommendations, referred to the SWAC and MRW Management Plan regarding waste reduction, reuse and recycling plans. It is being updated; suggested many actions could be lifted from here. He shared the Environmental Stewardship Strategic Plan from 2013 from the City of Bellevue and showed some layout and language that may be applicable examples. He suggested we consider asking for \$100,000 planning budget for the plan.

Jerry commented that from his expertise, biomass to electricity conversion on the island scale is not economically feasible. Encouraged pushing waste management towards making biochar, mixing it with compost, etc.

- Jim Skoog reported for Land Bank  
Jim gave an update on the Land Bank Adaptation Strategy, including that the Land Bank authorization renewal will be on the ballot in 2024 and if needed, again in 2025. The current funding will sunset in 2026. He reported that three of the seven Land Bank commission members will be turned over next year. They would like to acquire more land to combat subdivision – hoping some will be farmland, and some will be forested land, shoreline acquisition is a priority. LB is doing more intensive forest management, and the Commission intends to move forward with all actions looked at through the lens of climate change. Would like to increase the amount of public land from the current 18% to more near 30%. Jim thanked the Committee for their work and encouraged others to consider serving on the Land Bank Commission.

Kendra reported that she has been working with Land Bank and Parks to complete the ROSS (Recreation, Open Space and Stewardship) plan which is required in order to get grant submittals to the State. She spoke about off-road trail development and trails connectivity being

a high priority.

- Lynn Bahrych reported for the Clean Water Advisory Committee  
Lynn reported that the Committee has been very busy this summer on Element 4 of the Comp Plan – Water Resources, making extensive recommendations and the committee felt optimistic about the response. These changes they focused on shifting from exploration to more planning to action oriented. Several areas noted are: Immediately manage water based on data we currently have, coordinate water resources for all County departments, reinstate water resources for Ag lands, website for water resources management, reviewing the County water budget, funding a Hydro-geologist position, strengthening wetland protections, managing existing artificial ponds, and strengthening plans for recovery of native freshwater fish. They are currently working with Council to implement this plan. Ongoing riparian restoration efforts – intense, complex dynamics but generally going well.

Kendra followed up with a note on the riparian corridor and wetlands restoration work that it is targeted to address temperature management not just for state compliance but critical to slow the rate of harmful algal blooms.

- Jeff Dyer reported for the Marine Resources Committee  
Jeff gave an update on the MRC activities. Committee currently working on the Marine Stewardship Area Plan revision, currently working on stressors and threats. Noted severe storm events and other climate-related impacts. Adaptation and resiliency is the focus of the Committee, asking ‘what can be done?’. Reducing local sources of organic nutrient runoff to address ocean acidification, managed retreat through land acquisition especially through salmon recovery efforts.

Kendra also noted additional work areas addressing climate impacts including eelgrass protection work, boating impacts, and warm temps on shellfish, that is being done. Barbara noted there are lots of opportunity to add more rain gardens and voiced concern about polluted run-off. Jeff suggested coastal wetland protection, carbon sequestration, removal of hard barriers degrading shoreline and consider things like traditional Tribal clam gardens to help keep water clean. Lynn voiced support for Barbara’s comments about filtering runoff from the ferry parking lanes, mentioned that grass filters are inexpensive and effective. She referenced a study that showed how little runoff it takes to kill off herring.

- Grant Carlton, County Management Analyst, discussed managed retreat policies. He has been spearheading the sea level rise and managed retreat policies for the County. A consultant has been retained to help develop a Sea Level Rise Risk and Vulnerability Assessment. He discussed the project, which is in its early stages. He stated there are about 15 miles of vulnerable shoreline roads in the county and they hope to have the stepping stones to an implementation plan. Barbara mentioned that the Port of FH would be interested in working with the County as they are doing some environmental cleanup at Jensen’s Bay Marina who is also consulting on sea level rise and they don’t want to duplicate the efforts.

- Micael Shanks reported for the Education and Communication Working Group  
Michael reported that the working group feels we need better communication and is invigorated to work on this. Luke said the website needs to be improved and expressed a need to figure out demographics and who we are targeting. Janet prioritized fixing the search engine on the County website for accessibility and reinforced the idea of being able to reach people in as many ways as possible. Barbara noted that Erin Wygant, the County's new Communications Coordinator, could be a good resource to help make needed improvements.
- Kendra will refine the Work Group prioritization list and redistribute when it is done.

**Discussion – December meeting date**

The next Regular meeting will be held on **Thursday, December 15, 2022.**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:25pm