



MEETING MINUTES
Yolo County Climate Action Commission
March 28, 2022 | 4:00 PM – 6:30 PM

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Suzanne Reed, District 1 Appointee
Robin Datel, District 2 Appointee (*not in attendance*)
Mark Aulman, District 3 Appointee
Andrew Truman Kim, District 4 Appointee (**VICE-CHAIR**)
Adelita Serena, District 5 Appointee
Chris White, Technical Lead
NJ Mvondo, Environmental Justice Lead (**CHAIR**)
Bernadette Austin, Climate Scientist/Subject Matter Expert
Pelayo Alvarez, Climate Scientist/Subject Matter Expert
Mica Bennett – At Large
Ken Britten – At Large

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Sarah Morgan, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation (*not in attendance*)
Matt Dulcich, UC Davis

SUPERVISORS:

Supervisor Don Saylor, Yolo County Board of Supervisors, District 2 (*not in attendance*)
Supervisor Jim Provenza, Yolo County Board of Supervisors, District 4

MEETING ACTION ITEMS

Yolo County Staff Action Items

- K. Wraithwall to amend the February 28, 2022 Commission meeting minutes per the requested changes by Commission Member Reed, noted in item 5 below.
 - Staff to update and amend Early Action Project Descriptions.
 - K. Wraithwall to update Long-Range calendar.
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MEETING MINUTES

- 1. Authorize remote (teleconference/videoconference) meetings by finding, pursuant to Assembly Bill 361, that local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Decision: Approve

Moved By: / Seconded By: S. Reed / K. Britten

Ayes: Reed, Aulman, Kim, Serena, White, Mvondo, Austin, Alvarez, Bennett, Britten

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Datel

- 2. Land Acknowledgement**

- Read by A. Serena.

- 3. Approval of the Agenda**

Decision: Approve

Moved By: / Seconded By: S. Reed / A. Serena

Ayes: Reed, Aulman, Kim, Serena, White, Mvondo, Austin, Alvarez, Bennett, Britten

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Datel

- 4. Public Comment**

- No public comment.

- 5. Approve February 28, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Decision: Approve

Moved By: / Seconded By: N. Mvondo / S. Reed

Ayes: Reed, Aulman, Kim, Serena, White, Mvondo, Austin, Alvarez, Bennett, Britten

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Datel

Additional Comments/Action Items:

- S. Reed requested an amendment. Clarified that Commission should receive a presentation on Yolo County Climate-Related Planning Efforts and based on that presentation, decide if County should host a workshop.
- K. Britten inquired about revising the EV Master Plan Early Action to include essential bikes.

6. Introduction of Kristen Wraithwall (T. Echiburu)

7. Staff Announcements/Reports (Staff)

- M. McCormick reported that the Ad Hoc Working Group met in March to discuss the history of climate related efforts in Yolo County.
- Next Ad Hoc Working Group meeting will discuss best practices/findings based off interviews with other jurisdictions and the relationship/role of the Commission and Ad Hoc Working group.
- S. Reed requested a timeline on concluding the work of the working group and preparing the RFP/Draft Plan as well as the selection of a consultant.

8. Action Item: Approve Project Descriptions (P. Marchand)

8.1. Recommend Carbon Farming Partnership Project Description to Board of Supervisors for Approval

Decision: Approve with one amendment:

- Performance metrics to be added into section on GHG emissions.

Moved By: / Seconded By: K. Britten / A. Kim

Ayes: Reed, Aulman, Kim, Serena, White, Mvondo, Austin, Alvarez, Bennett, Britten

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Datel

Additional Comments/Action Items:

- K. Britten asked how GHG reduction was calculated.
 - P. Marchand clarified that this project does not itself reduce GHG emissions, it is a plan.
 - P. Alvarez clarified nature of Carbon Farming Plan is to focus on carbon capture, not GHG reduction.

- P. Alvarez proposed implementation of previously existing plans.
 - J. Wirka from Center for Land Based Learning (CLBL) stated their focus is on partnership with RCD and Carbon Cycle Institute and that these plans are living documents with implementable projects. If Commission requests the addition of implementation elements to the proposal, it would not fit within the proposed budget.
- S. Reed supported moving forward as all early action projects are in flux and subject to future conditions.
- M. Bennett asked if there is data on degree of uptake of carbon farming with or without incentives but was OK with the approval of this action knowing this project description could be amended to include this information.
 - P. Marchand noted possibility of adding project to measure potential sequestration if plan is implemented, pending approval of CLBL.
 - Recommend adding to motion for approval.
- There was discussion of programs/plans that could accelerate project implementation.

Public Comment: Tracy DeWit asked Commission to remember the farmer while setting expectations in these matters.

8.2. Recommend Electric Retrofits and Natural Gas Appliance Replacement Rebates Project Description to Board of Supervisors for Approval

Decision: Approve with the following amendments:

- Remove “natural gas appliance” from title and throughout document and change wording to focus on electrification (or natural gas appliance removal).
- Include outreach to contractors.
- Update phone number in personnel section.
- Remove references to Grid Alternatives from description.
- Make broad enough to include other electrification rebates.

Moved By: / Seconded By: M.Aulman / M. Bennett

Ayes: Reed, Aulman, Kim, Serena, White, Mvondo, Austin, Alvarez, Bennett, Britten

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Datel

Additional Comments/Action Items:

- C. White stated that rebate program would be administered through HVAC contractors and we need to engage with contractors equally with homeowners.

- K. Britten asked if rebate is for improving natural gas appliances or whether it would be exclusively for electrifying existing fossil fuel-powered heating units.
 - C. White clarified it is a fuel switching program and will not upgrade natural gas appliances.
 - K. Britten recommended amendment to clarify that rebates are only for electrification.
- S. Reed stressed importance of staying informed on State capacity to generate electricity and the status of transmission systems relative to distributed energy sources.
- C. White noted typo in Rebecca’s phone number.
- K. Britten noted lifespan of natural gas equipment would lock in emissions associated with new appliances.
- There was discussion about pivoting this early action to an educational campaign and what communication and nonprofit collaboration would look like. P. Marchand noted that staff would ensure language is broad in describing the elements of the outreach campaign.
- C. White recommended removing mention of Grid Alternatives in project description.
- M. Aulman stressed importance of clarifying that we are replacing the fuel source in this project description. ‘Natural gas’ replacement could create a loophole; ‘electrification’ or ‘electric only’ is clearer.

Public Comment:

- M. Sears from Valley Clean Energy supported effort of energy efficiency and electrification. Encouraged Commission to speak on energy related issues especially with regards to low-income households.
- C. Schewmaker, Citizen of Woodland, stressed importance of educating contractors on this issue.

8.3. Recommend 100% Renewable Energy Accounts Project Description to Board of Supervisors for Approval

Decision: Approve

Moved By: / Seconded By: M. Aulman / M. Bennett

Ayes: Reed, Aulman, Kim, Serena, White, Mvondo, Austin, Alvarez, Bennett, Britten

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Datel

Additional Comments/Action Items:

- C. White stated that PG&E has a renewable energy rate and that all of Yolo County Buildings should be enrolled in most green program available regardless of energy provider.
- Staff agreed to add language to clarify the County will also enroll accounts for buildings outside of Valley Clean Energy’s territory in Pacific Gas and Electric’s green energy program.

Public Comment:

- C. Schewmaker, Citizen of Woodland, noted confusion on policies from the Energy Section of the 2011 CAP and the CCA program. Recommended naming project “100% Renewable Electricity”.
- M. Sears noted that VCE territory includes Clarksburg and PG&E does have companion program for 100% renewable energy.

8.4. Recommend Home Energy Labeling Project Description to Board of Supervisors for Approval

Decision: Approve on the condition that the Commission’s concern about the project potentially creating a burden for low-income families would be relayed to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors.

Moved By: / Seconded By: N. Mvondo / B. Austin

Ayes: Aulman, Kim, Serena, White, Mvondo, Austin, Alvarez, Bennett, Britten

Noes: Reed

Abstain: None

Absent: Datel

Additional Comments/Action Items:

- Staff added language stating the County will develop a system for measuring greenhouse gas emission reduction from this project.
- There was discussion about whether other Counties have deployed a similar scorecard program, and how these Counties have conducted outreach.
- C. White shared home energy score website (homeenergyscore.gov).
- P. Alvarez recommended the inclusion of data that shows that this would lead to more energy efficient households.
 - C. White responded that BayREN data is referenced in the project description and that CPUC data has lagged due to the pandemic.
- There was discussion about the impact of this proposal on low-income community members, and the importance of emphasizing lower cost upgrades and subsidies.

Public Comment: No public comment.

9. Action Item: Review Additional Early Action Prioritization & Recommended Additional Early Actions (P. Marchand)

9.1 Approve County Staff Recommendation for Prioritization of Carl Moyer Early Action Decision

Decision: Approve

Moved By: / Seconded By: S. Reed / P. Alvarez

Ayes: Reed, Aulman, Kim, Serena, White, Mvondo, Austin, Alvarez, Bennett, Britten

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Datel

Additional Comments/Action Items:

- K. Britten recommended the prioritization of electric tractors when appropriate for the scale of the farm receiving subsidy.

Public Comment:

- C. Shewmaker, Citizen of Woodland, is happy to see ag retrofit program added and questioned the withdrawal of the Resiliency Hub Project.

9.2. Approve moving presentation of project descriptions to BOS in May, grant strategy to Commission in June, and back to BOS for approval in July

Decision: Approve

Moved By: / Seconded By: S. Reed / K. Britten

Ayes: Reed, Aulman, Kim, Serena, White, Mvondo, Austin, Alvarez, Bennett, Britten

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Datel

10. Action Item: Consider Recommending the Board Endorse Climate Safe California (T. Echiburú)

Decision: Approve

Moved By: / Seconded By: K. Britten / S. Reed

Ayes: Reed, Aulman, Kim, Serena, Mvondo, Austin, Alvarez, Bennett, Britten

Noes: None

Abstain: White

Absent: Datel

Additional Comments/Action Items:

- M. Aulman in favor.

- A. Serena supported as this is in line with carbon-negative goals.
- S. Reed was supportive and wanted to point out that the Commission needs to be mindful of how specific goals would be taken to heart in the development of the County's CAP.

Public Comment: S. Allen thanked Commission for considering request.

11. Presentation on History and Progress of Climate-Related Efforts in Yolo County (M. McCormick)

- Presentation Moved to April Meeting.

12. Commission Member Reports, Comments, Future Agenda Items

13. Long Range Calendar

- K. Wraithwall provided update on Long Range Calendar.
- In April, the "Recommend Early Actions to BOS (tentative)" will be removed and replaced with "BOS Considerations of Early Actions" in May. Will add "Early Action Grant Strategy" to June.

14. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at: 6:30 PM
