



MEETING MINUTES

Yolo County Climate Action Commission

May 23, 2022 | 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Suzanne Reed, District 1 Appointee
Robin Dattel, District 2 Appointee
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 Benett – At Large
Ken Britten – At Large

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Sarah Morgan, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation (*joined at 4:39 PM*)
Matt Dulcich, UC Davis

SUPERVISORS:

Supervisor Don Saylor, Yolo County Board of Supervisors, District 2 (*joined at 4:10 PM*)
Supervisor Jim Provenza, Yolo County Board of Supervisors, District 4 (*left at 5:32 PM*)

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: Approved - no motion made.

- 2. Land Acknowledgement**
 - Read by S. Reed.
- 3. Approval of the Agenda**

Decision: Approve

Approved By / Seconded By: B. Austin / S. Reed

Ayes: S. Reed, R. Datel, M. Aulman, A. Kim, A. Serena, C. White, NJ Mvondo, B. Austin, P. Alvarez, M. Benett

Noes: None

Abstain: K. Britten

Absent: None

4. **Public Comment** – No public comment.

5. **Approve April 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Decision: Approve

Approved By / Seconded By: S. Reed / B. Austin

Ayes: S. Reed, R. Datel, M. Aulman, A. Kim, A. Serena, C. White, NJ Mvondo, B. Austin

Noes: None

Abstain: M. Benett, K. Britten

Absent: None

Additional Comments/Action Items: No additional comments.

6. **Staff Announcements/Reports (Staff)**

- K. Wraithwall announced that the Yolo Agricultural Retrofits Early Action Project will return to Commission for discussion in June.
- K. Wraithwall shared that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) will be given an update on climate action initiatives and will be walked through the first six early action projects descriptions on May 24th.
 - i. Noted that staff will be asking the BOS to approve the first six early action project descriptions along with American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding allocations for the Carbon Farming Partnership and Electrification Rebate Outreach Program Early Projects on June 7th.
- K. Wraithwall provided an update on Commission member advocacy.
 - i. Stated that Commission members can ask staff to consider a position on legislation or a proposed budget appropriation if the position 1) requests a change to the legislation or appropriation to reflect Yolo County climate action priorities; 2) opposes legislation or a proposed appropriation to reflect Yolo County climate action priorities.
 - ii. Explained that if a Commission member decides to request the County consider a specific position, they should email K. Wraithwall with a summary of the policy and the proposed position.

Additional Comments/Action Items:

- Supervisor Provenza shared that the staff report presents a good process; he added that he did not want Commission Members to lose sight of the primary goal of the Commission.
- Supervisor Saylor noted that he agreed with the staff report. He suggested the Commission review the County's legislative advocacy platform to understand the County's current positions and determine where advocacy requests can fit into the larger County platform.

Public Comment:

- C. Shewmaker asked how members of the public could make recommendations on legislative matters.
 - Email K. Wraithwall (kristen.wraithwall@yolocounty.org) with ideas on legislative matters from members of the public.
 - NJ Mvondo advised that if members of the public are contacting a Commission Member, they should CC K. Wraithwall.
- J. Beck asked if these advocacy guidelines will apply to federal legislation as well.
 - K. Wraithwall noted that the same process would apply for federal legislative matters.
 - A. Kim highlighted that the County needs to consider if the County has an opportunity to influence the outcome of the legislation.

7. Discussion Item: Consider and Provide Feedback on Draft Scope of Work Outline (Attachments D, E, F)

Additional Comments/Action Items:

- M. Aulman asked if the County's goal is to go carbon negative or carbon neutral by 2023.
 - M. McCormick said the County's goal is to be carbon negative by 2030.
 - M. Aulman suggested clarifying these terms in the scope of work
- A. Kim suggested hiring a consultant who will leverage connections to operate from the County's working hypothesis to move the needle on implementation and tracking. Noted that working groups could be used to assist the consultant.
- K. Britten stressed that the County needs to move faster than the timeline suggests and that one way to do this would be through concurrent activities, which should be reflected in the draft scope outline. He suggested a potential working group on concurrent activities and other early actions of high impact while the CAAP is being developed.
 - K. Britten also suggested more details be added to explain the Commission's involvement in the CAAP process.
- S. Reed highlighted the Center for Land-Based Learning's ambassador program as an example of a new outreach model that a future consultant should consider when developing the outreach and engagement strategy.

- S. Reed also asked about the interaction between the working groups and the consultant and added that it will be important to have those who farm at the table for discussions.
- NJ Mvondo noted that it is important to keep in mind that consultants can represent private interest. Suggested that County staff should be involved in any partnership building activities with consultants.
- M. Bennett advised centering frontline communities more in the decision-making process. Also suggested that the draft scope of work include more references and connections to water, including water policy, water storage, and the Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency. She said the “innovative and novel approaches” language that is used in reference to adaptation strategies should also be in the funding section

Public Comment:

- J. Beck voiced concern the Commission is not adhering to the importance of the resolution, which required a just transition.
 - She emphasized the need for the community to be at this table making decisions and that outreach beyond just putting on events is necessary.
 - Suggested that we involve youth early in the CAAP process by working with schools.
- C. Shewmaker stated that if we want to go carbon neutral then we need to electrify everything and that some early actions can be used as the foundation for additional concurrent actions. She added that she hoped there would be public outreach on meetings to inform the community when meetings are happening.

8. Discussion Item: Request for Input on Regarding the Establishment of Working Groups (Attachment G)

Additional Comments/Action Items:

- K. Wraithwall said that working groups will be an important part of the CAAP development process. She noted that County staff will use feedback to develop a proposal to get working groups established before the CAAP consultant is onboard.
- K. Britten suggested the following working groups: working group to electrify, justice and equity/outreach to vulnerable or economically disadvantaged communities. Suggested 2-3 working groups total.
- K. Wraithwall said that County staff would like to consider 3-4 working groups.
- S. Reed noted that there is an active group in the County focusing on food security and food waste. She requested an agriculture working group.
 - Suggested that not all working groups need to come online at once. Additionally, noted that some topics would be best handled by bringing in outside groups; suggested using workshops as tools of engagement.
- N. Mvondo suggested leveraging help from UC Davis.

- C. White suggested that working groups focus on education and gathering more information.
- B. Austin emphasized that the Commission will not do the work, but rather the working group will be gathering information.
 - Suggested the Commission think deliberately about the most impacted communities and be careful not to set or create policies they will be unable to meet.
- NJ Mvondo noted that when we are discussing centering communities, we should determine who the communities are.
- A. Kim suggests that the working groups serve as a force multiplier for consultant team.
- M. Aulman suggested utilizing working groups to liaise with cities on their climate actions.
- R. Datel advocated for a group that is focused on outreach and equity.
 - Suggested the Commission improve the outreach work it is doing.
 - Suggested a working group on circular economy/just transition.
- K. Britten suggested a transportation working group that liaises with the cities on transportation issues.
- P. Alvarez suggested a working group for agriculture and that the working groups develop communication strategies to target specific areas. He also expressed interest in a working group that identifies “no regret” early actions and discusses how to best communicate with different sectors.
- B. Austin suggested we think of working groups differently. Noted that a working group focused on food systems could focus on transportation related to the food system and a working group focused on environmental justice could focus on transit issues for communities.
 - B. Austin wants to give dignity to environmental justice groups and asked the Commission to think about inclusivity when naming working groups.
- M. Dulcich noted that he would be happy to share a presentation on UCD’s CAAP efforts and lessons learned but noted that UCD is unique and shouldn’t necessarily be the model for other agencies.
- N. Mvondo requested that any data regarding Yolo County and climate from UCD be presented and made available to the County.
- T. Echiburú said that he agrees with all of the Commission points about working groups but noted that staff is limited in scope. Highlighted the Yolo Resiliency Collaborative as a venue for connection and noted that the idea for a collective green procurement policy came out of this group.

Public Comment:

- J. Beck suggested thinking about the working groups as engaging in strategic doing as a more innovative approach to planning. The working groups are where the County can implement the organizing of the resolution.
 - J. Beck noted that working groups should focus on systematic change and be open spaces to bring ideas forward to be worked on by the County.

Working groups don't need staff oversight and shouldn't be bottlenecked by staff.

- Suggested that a Commission member serve as a liaison to each working group.
- Suggested partnering with UCD for grant writing and include a working group for youth empowerment.
- L. Ayers noted that she is part of the regenerative agriculture community and is interested in the carbon sequestration benefits of mycorrhizae fungi. She noted that she wanted to take advantage of fungi and the associated agricultural practices, such as no till and cover cropping.
 - N. Mvondo encouraged L. Ayers to review the Yolo Climate Action Commission's website. Noted that there is a form at the bottom of the page where individuals can submit their name and email address.

9. Commission Member Reports, Comments, Future, Future Agenda Items

- *(Amended based on feedback from June 27, 2022 Commission Meeting)* M. Aulman reported that he was put in contact with Mat Ehrhardt, Executive Director of the Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District ("District") regarding a question about leak detection in Yolo County gas wells after learning from a County resident about gas wells in the Bakersfield region that have been leaking methane.
 - i. M. Aulman shared that he asked M. Ehrhardt about how the wells in the County are monitored and what the monitoring schedule is. M. Aulman reported that the District is responsible for monitoring active gas wells in the County, and that abandoned wells are not monitored, but that the District does enforce the California Air Resources Board regulations.
 - ii. M. Aulman added that all active wells are monitored for leaks on a quarterly basis, conducted by a third-party independent contractor. The District then reviews these reports and conducts an annual inspection.
 - iii. M. Aulman was asked to share the GIS layer of the gas wells with K. Wraithwall.
- S. Reed noted that she is interested in community solar as a means of providing rural communities with independence from the grid. She noted that she is researching this topic further and suggested that having a community solar project could be a capstone project.
- A. Serena reported that she and R. Datel met with a group called MíoCar (<https://miocar.org/>) recently. Noted that MíoCar provides zero emission vehicle car share services in the San Joaquin Valley, and that there is a program director at the University of California, Davis who is considering implementing this program in the County. A. Serena requested the Commission considers this for a future agenda item.
- R. Datel shared that the Yolo Youth Commission would be a great way to engage with youth on climate action. She will send papers on youth engagement from the Yolo Climate Emergency Coalition to Commission/staff.

- R. Datel suggested all cities in the County endorse Climate Safe California.

10. Long Range Calendar

- K. Wraithwall said the long-range calendar is in the agenda packet and that the calendar would be updated based on feedback received at today's meeting.
- K. Wraithwall reiterated that her email is available on the Commission agenda.

11. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at: 6:40 PM
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