



MEETING MINUTES
Yolo County Climate Action Commission
June 27, 2022 | 4:00 PM – 6:30 PM

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Suzanne Reed, District 1 Appointee
Robin Datel, District 2 Appointee
Mark Aulman, District 3 Appointee
Andrew Truman Kim, District 4 Appointee (**VICE-CHAIR**) (*absent*)
Adelita Serena, District 5 Appointee (*absent*)
Chris White, Technical Lead (*absent*)
NJ Mvondo, Environmental Justice Lead (**CHAIR**)
Bernadette Austin, Climate Scientist/Subject Matter Expert
Pelayo Alvarez, Climate Scientist/Subject Matter Expert
Mica Benet – At Large
Ken Britten – At Large

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Sarah Morgan, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
Matt Dulcich, UC Davis (*absent*)

SUPERVISORS:

Supervisor Don Saylor, Yolo County Board of Supervisors, District 2
Supervisor Jim Provenza, Yolo County Board of Supervisors, District 4

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.**
2. **Land Acknowledgement (*Attachment A*)**
 - R. Datel read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.
3. **Approval of the Agenda**

Decision: Approve the Agenda

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

Ayes: S. Reed, R. Datel, M. Aulman, N. Mvondo, B. Austin, P. Alvarez, M. Bennett, K. Britten

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: A. Kim, A. Serena, C. White

4. Public Comment

- S. Steward voiced appreciation for the work the Commission has done.
- N. Mvondo shared that S. Steward is one of the founding members of the Yolo Climate Emergency Coalition.

5. Approve May 23, 2022 Commission Meeting Minutes (*Attachment B*)

Decision: Approve the May 23, 2022 meeting minutes with M. Aulman's amendment as described.

Approved By / Seconded By: R. Datel / S. Reed

Ayes: S. Reed, R. Datel, M. Aulman, N. Mvondo, B. Austin, P. Alvarez, M. Bennett, K. Britten

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: A. Kim, A. Serena, C. White

Additional Comments/Action Items:

- M. Aulman clarified he contacted the County about leak detection in County gas wells after hearing from a County resident who had recently read an article on gas wells in Bakersfield.
 - i. M. Aulman stated the 5/23 minutes should change reference of "oil wells" to "gas wells" and that additional context should be added to the notes.
 - ii. M. Aulman stated that he would forward the response he received from the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District (YSAQMD) to K. Wraithwall.

6. Staff Announcements/Reports (Staff)

- K. Wraithwall provided an update on the California Climate and Energy Forum Panel. She said the County submitted a proposal to highlight the Commission's work. She referenced the proposal description included in the agenda packet (*Attachment C*). The Commission didn't have any feedback or questions for K. Wraithwall.
- T. Echiburú stated that the County's new CAO Gerardo Pinedo started last week.

7. Action Item: Review and Approve Early Action Grant Strategy (*Attachments D, E*)

Decision: Recommend approval of the 2022-2023 Climate Early Action Grant Strategy to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors

Approved By / Seconded By: M. Aulman / S. Reed

Ayes: S. Reed, R. Datel, M. Aulman, N. Mvondo, B. Austin, P. Alvarez, M. Bennett, K. Britten

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: A. Kim, A. Serena, C. White

Additional Comments/Action Items:

- P. Marchand noted a correction to the staff report, stating that the “RE” should say “Recommend approval of the 2022-2025 Climate Early Action Grant Strategy (“Grant Strategy”) to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors.”
- P. Marchand stated the Grant Strategy would allow the County to leverage limited resources to move forward on five early action projects. P. Marchand specifically called out the two projects which are not included in the Grant Strategy: 100% Renewable Energy Accounts and the Yolo County Agricultural Equipment Retrofit Program.
 - i. She added the Yolo County Agricultural Equipment Retrofit Program project description would go to the Yolo County Board of Supervisors in July.
- P. Marchand emphasized that the Grant Strategy is a living document and can be updated as project changes or funding sources evolve.
- P. Marchand shared that she received an email from C. White about a mobility voucher opportunity, and shared it would be a good fit once the Zero Emission Vehicle Master Plan project was in the implementation stage.
- R. Datel said she is excited about the Grant Strategy and asked how Consero Solutions identified grants.
 - i. P. Marchand shared that Consero Solutions reviews state and federal agency websites, calls grant managers, and reviews the state and federal budget to identify grant opportunities.
- K. Britten expressed interest in funneling Conservation Reserve Program funding to Yolo County.
 - i. P. Marchand shared that Consero evaluated this program and determined it only funded easements and would not be a good fit as a grant opportunity for development or implementation of the Carbon Farming Partnership.
 - ii. P. Marchand suggested later in the process, the Center for Land-Based Learning could potentially conduct outreach to growers who have land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program and ask these growers first to develop carbon farming plans since they are already interested in habitat restoration as a result of enrolling their land in the program.

- iii. K. Britten suggested an offline follow-up on this matter.
 - iv. P. Alvarez stated the Conservation Reserve Program is not popular in California because payments are done by acres. He added that the application for this program would need to come from the landowner.
- P. Alvarez asked who would apply for the grants listed in the Grant Strategy.
 - i. P. Marchand said the County would take responsibility for evaluating the applications six months in advance and determining whether the County would apply, a partner would apply, or if the County would help facilitate an application.
 - ii. P. Marchand shared that the County is only committing to evaluate whether to apply, not to apply.
- K. Britten asked if we could move up applying for the Healthy Soils Program grant to 2022-23 under the Carbon Farming Partnership.
 - i. P. Marchand said this isn't possible because the Center for Land-Based Learning would need time to develop the carbon farming plans first. The Healthy Soils grant programs would fund implementation of the carbon farming plans.
- K. Britten commented on the Electrification Retrofit Rebate Outreach Program and shared that he had previously discussed wanting to coordinate with the cities to include incorporated areas and unincorporated areas.
 - i. P. Marchand said the County cannot implement a program in the incorporated areas because they don't have jurisdiction.
 - ii. P. Marchand reminded the Commission that both the Commission and the Board of Supervisors have already approved the Electrification Retrofit Rebate Outreach Program project description and it is specific to the unincorporated area.
 - iii. K. Wraithwall said she understands where K. Britten is coming from and expanding outreach to incorporated areas to share information about climate action efforts is something County can coordinate on.
- M. Bennet said she thought the Healthy Soils Program contained two programs and one included planning funds.
 - i. P. Marchand said this was a good catch and agreed both should be included in the Grant Strategy. K. Wraithwall agreed. Consero will include the Healthy Soils Incentive Grant Program and the Healthy Solis Demonstration Program in the Grant Strategy.
- S. Reed suggested the County use models for outreach such as the Regional Climate Collaboratives. She also noted that she did not think this program was appropriate for our participation this year but that it should be on our long-term watch list (*Amended per comment at July 25, 2022 Commission Meeting*).
- S. Reed asked about the FARMER program and whether the County could try to influence allocation guidelines of the FARMER program.
 - i. K. Wraithwall said she did not know how the state determined the funding allocation.

- ii. K. Wraithwall knows the Yolo/Solano allocation is a property tax difference based on a specific tax, but would look into the formula before this item goes to the Board of Supervisors.
- P. Marchand shared that Consero would help the County apply for one grant-California Sustainable Communities Grant for the ZEV Master Plan. The County is still reviewing the budget and determining future grants.
- N. Mvondo asked County staff to determine how the Commission could assist with talking to cities without violating the Brown Act.
- K. Britten offered assistance in writing grants and suggested a grant writing working group.
- S. Morgan suggested including key partners and who would be responsible for identifying and collaborating on projects in the Grant Strategy.
 - i. K. Wraithwall added that the County is working to develop scopes and budgets for these early action projects and would include this information in the documents.

Public Comment:

- C. Shewmaker asked if County staff received a cost estimate for the 100% Renewable Electricity Program.
- K. Wraithwall shared that Valley Clean Energy estimated the cost at about \$32,000.

8. Action Item: Review and Approve Yolo Agricultural Retrofits Early Action Project Eligibility Criteria (*Attachment F*)

Decision: Approve the Yolo Agricultural Retrofits early action project eligibility criteria as presented in points 1, 2, and 3 of the Staff Report.

Approved By / Seconded By: K. Britten / M. Bennett

Ayes: S. Reed, R. Datel, M. Aulman, N. Mvondo, B. Austin, P. Alvarez, M. Bennett, K. Britten

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: A. Kim, A. Serena, C. White

Additional Comments/Action Items:

- K. Wraithwall presented on the Staff Report (*Attachment F*), proposing the following:
 - i. Changing “historically underserved” to “socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and/or priority populations” in the Yolo Agricultural Equipment Retrofit Program project description;
 - ii. Approving the addition of outreach to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in the project description; and

- iii. Approving the addition of language stating that all farmers are eligible to apply, regardless of meeting any/all priority criteria.
- K. Wraithwall informed the group that the USDA definition of historically underserved is currently under litigation, however the CDFA definition (Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers and/or Priority Populations) is wider in scope, but still not without risk.
- S. Reed asked County staff to build flexibility into the language of this definition.
 - i. K. Wraithwall said the CDFA definition will give the County flexibility.

9. Action Item: Review and Approve CAAP Scope of Work Outline (Attachments G, H, I)

Decision: Approve the scope of work as presented, discussed, and amended by the Commission. Amendments were read by M. McCormick and included the following:

- Bring title of the County's resolution forward into the first section to highlight "inclusive" part of the narrative.
- In section 3ii, take out "elements of"
- In section 3v, replace "creativity" with "equity"
- In section 3vi, highlight "achievable"
- In section 3vii, replace "acknowledges" with "reflects"
- In task 1.1c, add building management and large businesses
- Add clarity around production vs. consumption and add a clarification about the County's carbon negative goal in respect to scope 3 emissions
- Include references to circular economy and economic development
- In task 4.2.2, add a component dealing with the increased costs associated with utility bills and resource consumption
- Add references to "labor" in the context of the equity and engagement strategy
- Provide clarity around decision making on proposals in the RFP document that would be released publicly

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

Ayes: S. Reed, R. Datel, M. Aulman, N. Mvondo, B. Austin, P. Alvarez, M. Bennett, K. Britten

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: A. Kim, A. Serena, C. White

Additional Comments/Action Items:

- M. McCormick provided an update on the CAAP scope of work and the timeline for the RFP:
 - i. CFP released in August.
 - ii. Contract approved in October.
 - iii. CAAP Kickoff in November.
 - iv. CAAP draft in June 2023.

- v. CAAP finalized in December 2023.
- S. Reed said M. McCormick has done great work on developing the scope of work and wanted to add a parallel priority to include just transition in the scope.
- K. Britten thanked County staff and consultants for the scope preparation. He asked when designing what the outcomes will be, had the team considered the system boundary of the County?
 - i. M. McCormick stated this scope is focused on a production-based analysis rather than a consumption-based analysis. He said it is standard practice in California to do production-based CAAPs. He added emissions could be framed as scope 1, 2, and 3. This includes decisions that the County might not be able to influence, such as air travel (scope 3). He noted that he would clarify that emissions would focus on the boundaries of the County and would be production-based.
- M. Aulman asked if M. McCormick interviewed any jurisdictions that achieved carbon negatively.
 - i. M. McCormick said no jurisdiction was able to do this.
- K. Britten asked where working with other jurisdictions to achieve the ambitious goal would appear.
 - i. N. Mvondo shared that this is a general guideline that this Commission wants to uphold and is a comment that has been made throughout several items.

Public Comment:

- S. Steward suggested the County make clear who will be selecting the applicant. If the County isn't addressing carbon negativity and scope 3 outputs, then it needs to be explicit in the RFP/scope.

10. Discussion Item: Receive Update and Provide Input on Climate Action and Sustainability Communication Plan (*Attachments J, K, L*)

Additional Comments/Action Items:

- J. Olsen introduced herself and provided an update on the Climate Action and Sustainability Communication Plan.
 - i. She noted that task one for establishing an online presence for CAAP engagement is to redesign the Sustainability website to make it easier to navigate; task two is creating a social media presence for CAAP outreach; and task three is to develop a monthly newsletter to share CAAP and sustainability updates, events, and resources.
- N. Mvondo said when it comes to involving the youth, she wants to consider internship opportunities.
- S. Reed suggested the timeline presented by J. Olsen might be overly ambitious. She suggested beta-testing the website, especially among minority communities.

- i. S. Reed suggested we vet key words with people unfamiliar with climate action to better build the website. She also suggested staff cleanse the website by removing old documents and duplicated links. She suggested we work with existing organizations, such as the Fire Safe Council, to not reinvent the wheel.
 - ii. S. Reed wanted to include links to the Yolo RCD on the website.
- N. Mvondo suggested creating a Commission Subcommittee for the website.
- S. Reed suggested including a feedback mechanism to get public feedback on the website.
- M. Aulman suggested emphasizing action on the website and suggested reaching out to the population for feedback on the website.
- M. Bennett shared that she wanted to track the GHG emissions of each project and to see that on the website.
- S. Morgan asked for a mock-up of the website design and if the entire Commission would be able to beta-test. She also suggested County staff consider developing a TikTok account.
 - i. She also suggested Yolo County’s ambitious carbon negative goal be highlighted on the website.
- K. Britten suggested making sure the website is phone-friendly.
- N. Mvondo reminded the group that feedback on the website has to go live and has to be a part of public record, but that a Subcommittee could allow the Commission to beta-test the website.

Public Comment:

- C. Shewmaker is interested in press releases. She also suggested Commission Members attend in-person events and/or present at city council meetings.
- N. Mvondo suggested adding a non-online communication plan section so that if Commission Members are invited to give a presentation on the Commission’s work, that they let the group know. She also suggested tabling at farmers markets and radio interviews.

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

- T. Echiburu shared that Mat Ehrhardt, the executive director of the Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District passed away unexpectedly yesterday.
- Members of the Commission extended their condolences.

12. Long Range Calendar (*Attachment M*)

13. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at: 7:02 PM.