

FINAL
INTERNAL
MEETING SUMMARY
Yolo County Climate Action Commission
February 28, 2022 | 4:00 PM – 6:55 PM

COMMISSIONERS:

Suzanne Reed – District 1 appointee
Robin Datel – 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 Bennet – At large
Ken Britten – At large

Ex-Officio Members

Sarah Morgan, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
Matt Dulcich, UC Davis

SUPERVISORS:

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

ACTION ITEMS

Yolo County Staff Action Items

- County staff will amend the January 31, 2022 Commission meeting summary with the following changes:
 - On page 6, item 8.d.i in the January 31, 2022 Commission Meeting Minutes, S. Reed wants to ensure actions the Commission approves for funding have long-term benefits
 - On page 8, item 10.b.iii in the January 31, 2022 Commission Meeting Minutes, SWAT should be changed to SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats); S. Reed clarified she suggested a SWOT analysis to reveal the gaps, needs and strengths of the County
- C. Tschudin will send the details for the Community Alliance with Family Farmers California Small Farm Conference farm tour occurring in Davis this week to the group
- County staff will develop detailed project descriptions for priority early actions for the Commission to review in March
- T. Echiburú to see if funds could be distributed quickly through the County's existing channels for the Capay Valley Health and Community Center Community Resilience Hub
- County staff need to determine if they have A. Kim's Carl Moyer Program proposal

- Edits to the seven prioritized early actions:
 - K. Britten suggested adding “Essential Electric Bikes” to the ZEV Master Plan proposal
 - P. Alvarez wants staff to consider adding implementation of the Yolo County Resource Conservation District’s two existing carbon farming plans into the “Carbon Farming Partnership” proposal
 - County staff will revise the “Home Energy Labelling” proposal to ensure it benefits low-income homeowners
- County staff can move “Recommendations regarding best practices for evaluating the climate impact of proposed development projects” to the long-range calendar in July or August 2022 on the long-range calendar if those months are not filled with CAP-specific items.
- County staff to add S. Reed’s request to discuss the Commission’s role in state and federal advocacy to the long-range calendar at a future Commission meeting, the Commission’s role in state and federal advocacy.

Commission Action Items

- N. Mvondo will share the details for the Community Alliance with Family Farmers California Small Farm Conference farm tour occurring in Davis this week at 4pm with C. Tschudin to send to the group
- C. White to provide data to staff to include in the next Commission meeting demonstrating the energy reduction benefits of existing home energy labelling programs

SUMMARY

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. (Echiburu)**
Decision: Approved
Moved By: / Seconded By:
Ayes: 11
Noes: 0
Abstain: 0
Absent: 0

2. **Welcome New Commission Members & Commission Member Introductions (Chair Mvondo)**
 - N. Mvondo welcomed the two new Commissioners (Mica Bennett and Ken Britten) and asked the group to introduce themselves
 - Suzanne Reed
 - Resident of West Sacramento and has a Masters from Yale in Forestry and Environmental Studies. She also maintains the

- Healthy Planet Activism website and is co-founder of the Yolo Food Security Coalition
- Robin Dattel
 - Clarified her last name rhymes with “cattle”. She is a retire professor and current facilitator of the Climate Crisis Action Team for the Unitarian Universalist Church.
 - Mark Aulman
 - Lived in Yolo for 80 years and is interested in cross-jurisdictional alignment on climate action.
 - Andrew Truman Kim
 - Entrepreneur who has lived in Yolo for 15 years including Winters, Davis, Clarksburg and West Sacramento. He also serves in West Sacramento on the Economic Development Committee and works for a sustainable agriculture company called Acela Biotek and is a new farm owner in Clarksburg where he hopes to advance organic farming practices.
 - Adelita Serena
 - Pronouns are she/hers. Woodland resident for 20 years, long-time activist. Her father organized with Cesar Chavez and she organizes with Mothers Out Front, the Sierra Club and also a cultural practitioner of Calpulli Tlayotl (traditional Aztec dance group and embraces seasonal changes). She is a mother of 2 and both sons graduated from Woodland High.
 - Chris White
 - On the Commission as a technical lead. She works with Frontier Energy. She is working on climate change issues with a group in Sacramento. She volunteers with the food bank twice a week and is on the Board of the Yolo Basin Foundation.
 - NJ Mvondo
 - Environmental justice lead who does a lot of community organizing focusing on cultural diversity, ethnic studies, and climate change. She is completing a year long course on climate resilience planning.
 - Bernadette Austin
 - Also a subject matter expert; ED of Center for Regional Change – bringing the intersection between community development and equity; social determinants of health, American Planning Association, Cal Planning round Table; serves on advisory board for public health;
 - Pelayo Alvarez
 - Works with Audubon California
 - Mica Bennet
 - Lives in Rumsey and is on the Board of the Cache Creek Conservancy, and Yolo Fire Safe Council. She has evacuated three times due to fires in the past four years.
 - Ken Britten

- Goes by Ken and lives west of Winters. He has noticed oaks on his property are dying and he is very concerned about climate change.
- Matt Dulcich
 - Representative from the University of California, Davis
- Sarah Morgan
 - Ex officio representative for the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. She has worked with the Tribe for 10 years. She lives in West Sacramento as well.
- Taro Echiburu
 - Director of Public Works and Community Development for Yolo County
- Charlie Tschudin
 - Natural Resources planner with County and Yolo Habitat Conservancy; originally from Sacramento
- Petrea Marchand
 - Worked for Yolo County for many years, president of Consero Solutions
- Michael McCormick
 - President of Farallon Strategies a consulting firm focused on climate policy across the US and regionally. He has worked on climate change for over 20 years, including with the state at OPR and in the Obama Whitehouse.
- Supervisor Saylor
 - County Supervisor for District 2
- Richard Reed
 - Retired, but filling in for Sheila Allen who is Supervisor Provenza's new deputy
- Julia Olsen
 - Civic Spark Fellow and Sacramento resident. She recently graduated from the University of California San Diego with a degree in psychology and environmental studies.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Decision: Approved

Moved By / Seconded By: A. Kim/R. Datel

Ayes: 11

Noes: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

4. Public Comment (Chair Mvondo)

- No public comment on the agenda

5. Approve January 31, 2022 Commission Meeting Minutes

- S. Reed clarified on page 6, item 8.d.i in the January 31, 2022 Commission Meeting Minutes, she wants to ensure actions the Commission approves for funding have long-term benefits
- S. Reed stated on page 8, item 10.b.iii in the January 31, 2022 Commission Meeting Minutes, SWAT should be changed to SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats); S. Reed clarified she suggested a SWOT analysis to reveal the gaps, needs and strengths of the County

Decision: Approved as amended (see above)

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

Ayes: 9

Noes: 0

Abstain: 2 (K. Britten, B. Austin)

Absent: 0

6. Staff Announcements/Reports

- R. Datel noted staff reports are also listed under item #11 on the agenda; N. Mvondo stated this is to provide Commissioners the opportunity to make suggestions for future agenda items
- N. Mvondo announced the Community Alliance with Family Farmers is hosting the California Small Farm Conference from February 27 to March 3 and there will be a farm tour in Davis this week at 4pm. N. Mvondo will share the farm tour information with C. Tschudin to send to the group.
- T. Echiburú doesn't have any announcements

7. Land Acknowledgement

- A. Kim presented the proposed land acknowledgement statement provided by County staff and thanked County staff for reaching out to tribal leaders. He recognized the land acknowledgement statement is a symbolic gesture, but a first step to intentionally being supportive of the native communities in climate action and beyond.
- A. Kim gave the floor to T. Echiburú for additional comments on County staff's development of the land acknowledgement statement. T. Echiburú added as part of developing this broad and inclusive statement, the County did reach out to Omar Carillo, Director of Government Affairs for Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation. The land acknowledgement stated has been approved by the Yocha Dehe Wintun National Tribal Council and by the Yolo County Board of Supervisors.
- N. Mvondo thanked Sarah Morgan for assisting with the development of the land acknowledgement statement and for participating in Commission meetings
- A. Serena read the land acknowledgement statement
- T. Echiburú stated with this vote, the land acknowledgement statement will be at the top of the agenda following the online authorization and Chairwoman Mvondo can read it aloud or have the Commissioners read it themselves.

Decision: Approved

Moved By / Seconded By: S. Reed/A. Serena and K. Britten

Ayes: 11

Noes: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

8. Receive staff report on proposed Yolo Climate Action Commission charter amendment

- T. Echiburú stated this item is info-only for the Commission and does not require Commission action. During the initial meetings about the formation of the Commission, the Board of Supervisors decided it is outside of the Commission's scope at this time to review projects. T. Echiburú felt it would be best to amend the charter to reflect this, and to clarify how charter amendments are handled. The charter amendments will be going to the Board of Supervisors.
- K. Britten asked if there can be more discussion on the Commission's ability to review projects. He stated for the City of Winters, there will be a formal liaison process between the Winters Climate Commission and the Winters Planning Commission. The Winters Climate Commission will have an early review committee to review Planning Commission projects.
- T. Echiburú stated it is not possible to have the Commission review County projects at this time, and the Board of Supervisors has been very clear about the charge of the Commission, which is to focus on the Climate Action Plan (CAP), however, once the CAP has been adopted, the Commission could focus on CAP project implementation.
- K. Britten stated this seems inconsistent with the state of climate emergency and he asked if the Board of Supervisors can consider allowing the Commission to review projects. T. Echiburú said he cannot speak for the Board of Supervisors, but if the Board of Supervisors wishes to modify the charter, then they can.
- R. Datel wondered if the amendment arrangement which requires a 2/3rd majority vote, is standard for any boards or commissions in the County. T. Echiburú stated it is and it was a recommendation from County Counsel to include the 2/3rd majority to maintain consistency with other boards/commissions.

9. Approve Recommended Early Action Priorities

- P. Marchand introduced the early actions and prioritization criteria and emphasized prioritization is a tool, not the final decision in what actions can move forward. Commissioners are welcomed and encouraged to recommend changes to staff's proposal
- T. Echiburú reminded the Commission to keep in mind County staff has limited resources. After the Commission selects priorities, staff will develop detailed project descriptions for these priorities, and the project descriptions will come

back to the Commission in March, and then everything will go to the Board of Supervisors in April. P. Marchand stated then staff will develop a funding plan to leverage ARP funds to seek state and federal grants.

- T. Echiburú stated the other proposals not selected as priority early actions will be folded into the CAP or implemented in the future. T. Echiburú added the Board of Supervisors have set aside \$1 million for this effort and the strategy is to use the \$1 million wisely as matching funds for existing grants.
- K. Britten asked for staff to explain how the early action proposals related to COVID-19. P. Marchand stated there is an opportunity for the County to use some ARP funds revenue for projects not related to COVID-19 impacts (the portion for loss of revenue during COVID-19), but that projects that benefit people impacted by COVID-19 will have broader applicability for ARP funding. K. Britten asked if the projects could be modified after they are prioritized, and P. Marchand stated yes.
- S. Morgan stated she appreciates the table layout, but was wondering about why some actions do not include cost estimates. P. Marchand stated the Commission approved the prioritization criteria, but for many early action proposals there wasn't complete cost information. Cost information will be further developed for the priority early actions.
- S. Reed is also interested in the cost of early actions. She emphasized she is interested in projects involving cross collaboration and partnerships, and she appreciates all of the projects can yield measurable benefits but can also serve as models for the cities within the County and for other cities. S. Reed asked if staff have a sense of the cost magnitude for the early action proposals and she asked staff if the proposals could be ranked from least to most expensive. P. Marchand responded early action proposal costs were ranked relative to each other based on best professional judgement if cost information was not provided.
- S. Reed has a particular interest in the Capay Valley Health and Community Center Community Resilience Hub and she wants to identify projects that are "shovel ready"
- A. Kim thanked County staff for their hard work but noted he didn't see his proposal to expand the Carl Moyer Program Proposal on the list. County staff need to determine if they have A. Kim's Carl Moyer Program proposal.
- C. White stated of the Carl Moyer funds that the Yolo-Solano area receives, there is very little directed to the County because most of the funding goes to Solano County. He said this is because Solano County provides matching funds for the program and Yolo County does not. She doesn't know if it is the role of the Commission to lobby Yolo-Solano Air Quality Management District.
- P. Marchand stated the Commission has two options 1) could discuss A. Kim's Carl Moyer Program Proposal tonight and decide it is a priority and staff will come back with additional details or 2) approve the rest of the priorities and caveat the motion to state the Commission holding open the option to add another proposal. K. Britten stated he didn't think they could discuss that tonight because of the Brown Act.

- A. Kim stated he would like to motion to approve the recommendations of the staff now, knowing the Commission wants to start some of these projects, and in the future the Commission can account for other projects, like the Carl Moyer Program Proposal. (Later in the meeting A. Kim withdrew this motion). K. Britten state he feels a motion is premature, and he has several specific question and suggestions. B. Austin agrees with acting tonight and leaving open the possibility to add other projects. N. Mvondo stated the Commission will save all motions for the end of the discussion.
- P. Marchand listed the recommendations on the seven and opened the floor to questions
 - i. Remove Fossil Fuels from Yolo County Operations
 - ii. Transition All County Electric Accounts to 100% Renewable Energy
 - iii. Electric Retrofits & Natural Gas Appliance Replacement Rebates
 - iv. Mandate Home Energy Labeling
 - v. Capay Valley Health and Community Center Community Resilience Hub
 - vi. Develop a Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Master Plan and Climate Action Outreach Strategy
 - vii. Carbon Farming Partnership
- K. Britten stated for **“Removing Fossil Fuels from Yolo County Operations”** scored as “high” for co-benefits, but none are listed. P. Marchand stated the Commission could decide to deprioritize this early action. M. McCormick stated the proposal does significant co-benefits.
- C. White clarified the “gas-powered equipment” referenced in the “Removing Fossil Fuels from Yolo County Operations” paragraph refers to gasoline powered equipment, not natural gas powered equipment. She stated there is a regulation coming later this year requiring this, and the Commission shouldn’t spend time on discussing this element of the proposal.
- S. Reed stated she thinks the benefits are quite valuable for the proposal to **“Develop a Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Master Plan and Climate Action Outreach Strategy”**
- A. Kim provided a point of information for the **Capay Valley Health and Community Center Community Resilience Hub** that there is urgency to fund this project because construction costs go up each month. Supervisor Don Saylor stated the County has already provided a substantial investment to the Capay Valley Health and Community Center and asked T. Echiburú to see if funds could be distributed quickly through the County’s existing channels.
- K. Britten stated his biggest concern is about the proposal **“Mandate Home Energy Labelling”** because he doesn’t see an immediate need since it leaves it up to the consumer and the market. C. White stated this will be rolled out statewide and the County has the option to do this first for almost free. It can include job training for at-risk youth to conduct home energy audits, where they can also inspect homes for mold and asbestos. Homeowners are provided with a home energy score after the audit. In Berkeley and Portland,

homeowners must do this when they sell their home and must disclose the home energy score upon selling.

- P. Alvarez expressed concern that simply providing homeowners with information on energy efficiency isn't enough to result in energy reduction and he asked about data associated with the existing home energy labelling programs. C. White suggested she can provide data to staff to include in the next Commission meeting demonstrating the energy reduction benefits of the program.
- S. Reed stated she supports home energy labelling. When she was on the California Energy Commission, she helped develop the first Title 24 standards in the country, but what was left out of that process was how to retrofit existing structures. The proposal to mandate home energy labelling has real benefits, multiple co-benefits and opportunities to partner with other organizations.
- P. Alvarez is concerned about the impact home energy labelling could have on low-income homeowners who are trying to sell their home. He recommended making the program voluntary. C. White stated she believes the program would benefit low-income families who are purchasing a home by providing them a sense of how much their energy bill will be. P. Alvarez stated he thinks it depends on how the program is structured.
- S. Reed stated she thinks home energy labelling could be massaged to make sure it is targeting and benefitting low-income homeowners potentially by providing funds for retrofits to reduce energy costs. County staff will revise the "Home Energy Labelling" proposal to ensure it benefits low-income homeowners
- P. Marchand suggested the rebate program could be connected to home energy labelling. C. White stated setting the level of rebates has to be approved by the California Public Utilities Commission and P. Marchand clarified the County could do outreach about the rebates, not set rebates themselves.
- C. White stated where home energy labelling has been implemented in the Bay Area (she disclosed the company for which she works, Frontier Energy, is implementing it in Berkeley), it has been a slow ramp up because realtors need to be on board. C. White added she doesn't want to make people pay for something they can't afford, but she sees a lot of benefit for the County being first to implement, especially if synced with job training. If the County waits, it will miss the opportunity to create jobs. K. Britten that if the project has a slow ramp up, then it is really an early action.
- N. Mvondo's understanding is whatever proposals are prioritized will be further developed by staff and consultants. N. Mvondo asked if there is a proposal the Commission feels should be removed from the list of seven prioritized actions. No commissioners wanted to remove a prioritized action.
- N. Mvondo moved to public comment made by Christine Shewmaker
- C. Shewmaker is a retired molecular biologist, was a natural resources director for the League of Woman Voters, and she is on the Valley Clean Energy's Citizen Advisory Committee. She has also worked with Fossil Free California which helps divest pension funds from fossil fuels. C. Shewmaker is happy one of the

two proposals she submitted prioritized for early action. She doesn't think transitioning all County electric accounts to 100% renewable energy will be very costly, and she thinks it will set a model for individuals to do the same. She would like to see the County go further than UltraGreen. She is glad to see the seven proposals are diverse. She suggested perhaps the home energy audits could use the carrot approach instead of a stick.

- K. Britten asked if there any proposals that should be elevated? He suggestions combining the carbon farming and USDA program outreach and expanding Essential Electric Bikes beyond the unincorporated areas. P. Marchand stated the carbon farming and USDA program outreach have already been combined and the prioritization criteria specifically requested projects target the unincorporated area.
- P. Alvarez stated for the **Carbon Farming Partnership** he wants to add implementation of the Yolo County Resource Conservation District's two existing carbon farming plans to the proposal
- T. Echiburú clarified the suggestion by Supervisor Saylor doesn't have to be part of the motion because it will happen regardless
- M. Dulcich thanked Chairwoman Mvondo and reminded the Commission he can help connect the Commission with resources from the University of California, Davis
- B. Austin stated she appreciates the robust discussion and having a diversity of expertise on the Commission, and she acknowledged C. White specifically. She reminded the Commission for whoever decides to make the motion, these proposals are not set in stone, and the Commission will be able to direct staff as part of the motion to address issues and concerns that have been raised at this meeting.
- K. Britten suggested adding "Essential Electric Bikes" to the ZEV Master Plan proposal.
- S. Reed asked A. Kim to withdraw his motion. A. Kim withdrew his motion.
- S. Reed moved to adopt the list of recommended early action items as proposed by staff and inclusion in the next month's report back to the YCCAC, an analysis and possible inclusion of the proposals to increase Carl Moyer funding, an update on the opportunity to expedite funding for the Capay Project noting the potential increase in project costs, and the possibility of incorporating the essential electric bicycle access for farm workers and rural residents into the master ZEV plan proposal. In addition, I move that we ask the staff to analyze opportunities for focusing the home energy audit and efficiency score project to assist low-income residents to afford energy efficient modifications while they live in their homes or upon sale.

Decision: Approved

Moved By / Seconded By: S. Reed/M. Aulman and A. Serena

Ayes: 11

Noes: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: 0

- No additional public comment

10. Update on Ad-Hoc Working Group for Climate Action Plan Scope of Work (M. McCormick)

- M. McCormick stated the Ad-Hoc Working Group to develop the Climate Action Plan scope of work will have their first meeting on March 17, where he will present on the history of climate action planning in the County, and best practices for climate action planning.
- N. Mvondo asked if K. Britten or M. Bennett had any questions about the Ad-Hoc Working Group. K. Britten stated he did not.
- S. Morgan asked whether M. McCormick's presentation be available to the entire group. M. McCormick stated he intends to present a shorter presentation for the entire Commission on climate action planning at a future meeting, but the Ad-Hoc Working Group would have a more detailed discussion.
- The Commissioners on the Ad Hoc Working Group include P. Alvarez and R. Datel. N. Mvondo asked if there are any Commissioners who want to join the Ad-Hoc Working Group. No additional Commissioners wanted to join the Ad-Hoc Working Group.
- N. Mvondo asked if there was any public comment, and there was none.

11. Commissioner Reports, Comments, Future Agenda Items

- S. Reed asked for an update on the CAP workshop; T. Echiburú stated currently the workshop is a presentation. S. Reed suggested after the presentation the Commission can decide if a workshop is needed.

12. Long-Range Calendar

- K. Britten suggested moving the "Recommendations regarding best practices for evaluating the climate impact of proposed development projects" currently scheduled for September 2022 to July or August on the long-range calendar. T. Echiburú thanked K. Britten and T. Echiburú agreed County staff can move this item to July or August 2022 on the long-range calendar if those months are not filled with CAP-specific items.
- S. Reed asked to discuss at a future Commission meeting, the Commission's role in state and federal advocacy

13. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm
-