



MEETING MINUTES
Yolo County Climate Action Commission
August 22, 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**)
Adelita Serena, District 5 Appointee
Chris White, Technical Lead (*not in attendance*)
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
Camille Kirk, UC Davis

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** (*read by A. Kim*)

- 3. Approval of the Agenda**
 - K. Wraithwall shared two corrections to the agenda:

- Update to the Staff Reports: The deadline for submission for the Yolo County Climate Action and Adaptation Plan RFP has been extended one week to Thursday, September 8th at 4 PM.
- Update to Agenda Item #7: Due to a staff conflict, K. Wraithwall requested that the Yolo RCD presentation be moved to after agenda Item #9.

Decision: Approve with corrections noted by K. Wraithwall

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

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: C. White

4. Public Comment

- Scott Steward commented that the scope of the Request for Proposal (RFP) remains to catalog the production of greenhouse gases (GHGs) but not the consumption of behavior of our residents. He noted that the current RFP speaks to about 20,000 out of 200,000 of the residents of Yolo County. He stated that consumption is the majority of our GHG footprint, and that we need to adopt a joint powers authority to take the required action the planet needs.
- S. Steward also corrected the spelling of his last name on the July Public Meeting Minutes.
- K. Wraithwall read aloud the names of the members of the public in attendance: Christine Shewmaker, Collin Miller, Donna Neville, Kate Reza from Yolo RCD, Richard McCann, Scott Steward, and Sierra Huffman from Valley Clean Energy.

5. Approve July 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Decision: Approve with the Correction to S. Steward's last name.

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

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

Noes: None

Abstain: P. Alvarez

Absent: C. White

6. Staff Announcements/Reports (Staff)

- K. Wraithwall introduced Camille Kirk as the new ex-officio member representing UC Davis.
- C. Kirk shared that she is the Director of Sustainability and Campus Sustainability Planner for the Davis Campus. She shared that UC Davis is working on a fossil-free plan and are on the path to fully updating their Climate Action Plan (CAP). C.

Kirk shared that she works with K. Wraithwall and S. Morgan on the University's new Campus Advisory Committee on Sustainability and that she also serves on the Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency Board in an ex-officio role as well as on the Yolo Sub Basin Groundwater Agency.

- K. Wraithwall shared that there will be a full presentation in September on UC Davis climate action and sustainability progress by C. Kirk.
- K. Wraithwall shared that the RFP deadline has been extended by one week to September 8th and asked that Commission Members help make individuals aware of that extension.
- K. Wraithwall shared that the July 26th Board of Supervisors meeting had two exciting approvals:
 - 1) the Grant Strategy was approved and
 - 2) 100% Renewable Electricity Accounts was funded. Yolo County is still looking at what to do with any accounts in PG&E territory with regards to the 100% Renewable Electricity Accounts.
- K. Wraithwall updated that Julia Olsen has been brought on as an Associate Administrative Services Analyst for a limited contract with the County for the next six months to carry out what she had been working on the past year with the County.
- J. Olsen provided an update on CAP Communications. She shared that the staff will be coming back to the Commission to share an updated Communications Strategy that includes long- and short-term goals for online communication. Additionally, she shared that the website is being updated and that a link to the beta-test will be available prior to the September Commission meeting.
- K. Wraithwall acknowledged the Inflation Reduction Act sharing a few high-level details such that it will provide additional funding for state and local climate action.
- K. Britten suggested we add a discussion to a future agenda item to put a working group together to examine contents of the legislation and look for grant opportunities to not miss any future funding opportunities.
- J. Provenza added that we have consultants looking for grants though having a volunteer committee or task force working on identifying grants as well would be helpful.

Public Comment:

- Christine Shewmaker asked if we are still planning on having the Chair Presentation to the Board of Supervisors on September 27th and if there was an update on the Ag Retrofit Project. K. Wraithwall responded that we are holding off on the Ag Retrofit Project to incorporate additional feedback and we will announce when it is ready to go back to the Board for a full vote.
- Sheila commented that when she served on the First 5 Commission, reimbursements were provided to cover the cost of childcare.

7. Action Item: Review and Approve First Two CAAP Working Groups and Select Commission Representatives

Decision: Approve the creation of two working groups: 1) Equity and Engagement Working Group and 2) Natural and Working Lands Working Group. Approve appointing Commission Members S. Reed, B. Austin, and A. Serena to the Equity and Engagement Working Group. Approve a follow-up conversation on the four Commission Members who volunteered to serve on the Natural and Working Lands Working Group.

Approved By / Seconded By: K. Britten / R. Datel

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: C. White

Additional Comments/Actions:

- K. Wraithwall introduced and highlighted the focus of the two working groups.
 - She shared that for the Equity and Engagement Working group the primary goals are: 1) engaging the community and the unincorporated area of the County in CAAP development and implementation process, 2) Providing input to CAAP development related to Yolo County's goals to establish a just transition, and 3) Providing input into CAAP development regarding ongoing community engagement during the implementation of the plan.
 - She shared that the Natural and Working Lands Working Group has the following primary goals: 1) Engaging the unincorporated area in climate action work related to natural working lands, and 2) Providing input and CAAP development related efforts to both sequester carbon on natural and working lands and reduce GHGs from agricultural operations.
- K. Wraithwall shared that the intent of the working groups is to have a blend of commission members and members of the public participate. She shared the RCD will be able to lead the Natural and Working Lands Working Group.
- K. Wraithwall shared that the ideal timeline would be for Commission Volunteers to meet and begin discussing the details of the working groups in September, the groups could finalize a Charter and additional members in October and begin meeting as a full body in November in line with CAAP process kicking off.
- S. Reed asked what the correlation and coordination will be with the State natural and working lands plan that has been issued pursuant to the executive order of the Governor and how to integrate that context.
 - K. Wraithwall responded that all the State information is important for our CAAP development, though she will defer to RDC for further guidance on alignment with State plans.
- S. Reed is interested in how equity and engagement will relate to the communications efforts J. Olsen is working on. She asked if staff is considering

having both a Communications Working Group and an Equity and Engagement Working Group. K. Wraithwall responded that staff intend for the Equity and Engagement working group to undertake communications-related efforts and that J. Olsen's work on CAAP communications should be seen as a phase one of many necessary updates.

- B. Austin volunteered for the Equity and Engagement Working Group, noting that her work as an Executive Director at the Center for Regional Change aligns strongly with the work that the YCCAC is doing.
- N. Mvondo asked if interpreter services will be offered to the working group and whether any information shared about the working groups would be available in both English and Spanish. K. Wraithwall responded that we should find a way to do both.
- M. Aulman shared that Valley Clean Energy (VCE) is confronting the same challenges regarding audience definition and non-English speaking populations. He suggested that when the equity and engagement working group forms that they have a dialogue with VCE.
- M. Bennett shared that she is very interested in serving on the Natural and Working Lands working group.
- P. Alvarez commended the County on choosing RCD as the Chair on the Natural and Working Lands working group and is equally excited and interested in serving on this group.
- A. Kim volunteered himself to serve on the Natural and Working Lands working group and is excited for this work.
- A. Serena volunteered herself to serve on the Equity and Engagement working group.
- S. Morgan volunteers to serve on the Natural and Working Lands working group.
- N. Mvondo asked K. Wraithwall to remind the group of the makeup up the working groups. K. Wraithwall shared that the RCD will be Chairing the Working Lands Working Group and that staff proposes that there be eight members max on each group: three Commission Members on the Equity and Engagement Working Group and two on the Natural and Working Lands working Group. She also shared that they proposed a Commission Member Chair the Equity and Engagement Working Group. She shared that they are suggesting having a representative liaison to update the full YCCAC on both working groups.
- N. Mvondo asked if there is an organization in consideration as a Chair for the Equity and Engagement working group. K. Wraithwall shared that it is the intent that the three Commission Members select the additional members and that one of the Commission Members serves as the Chair.
- K. Britten asked if the language in the staff report for the Natural and Working Lands working group should say "at least two" additional members in alignment with the language for the Equity and Engagement Working Group. He also asked what would happen if we had more Commission Members on the Natural and Working Lands working group and who the other seats would be. K. Wraithwall

added on that we are willing to have a conversation to discuss the membership of these groups.

- C. Kirk added that some experts out in the community could be treated as subject matter experts who are not necessarily required to serve in an enduring fashion. She shared that this is what UC Davis is doing for their Fossil Fuel Plan.
- Heather Nichols from the Yolo County Resource Conservation District (RCD) shared that they have groups in mind such as Yocha Dehe and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. She shared that they are also interested in bringing members of the Farm Bureau and the Yolo Land Trust onto this group as well to work on conservation-related issues.
- N. Mvondo confirmed that A. Serena, B. Austin, and S. Reed are the current volunteers for the Equity & Engagement Working Group.
- K. Britten suggested that there be someone in the Natural and Working Lands working group with political or negotiation expertise.
- J. Provenza agreed with K. Britten, suggesting consideration of someone from the Farm Bureau to be a member of this working group. He then asked if there is the intent for these two working groups to merge or is the overlap? K. Wraithwall responded that the intent was not to have the groups merge, but to coordinate when necessary.
- Kate Reza from the Yolo RCD shared a brief update on the Yolo RCD's intentions on working with the County. She shared that Yolo RCD will provide strategic support to the consultant and County with respect to resilience, strategies, and monitoring approached. K. Reza shared that the next steps are to work with K. Wraithwall to recruit Natural and Working Lands working group members and to get outreach to key people and groups such as growers, ranchers, workers, affiliated ag entities (Farm Bureau, etc.), and to gather initial feedback to inform expanded efforts.
- M. Aulman asked if the RCD gets involved in other GHG components such as nitrogen, oxides and other things of that nature? He also asked if there is somewhere on the Yolo RCD website where the data points K. Reza mentioned are available for Yolo County. K. Reza answered that they have not gotten into nitrogen or other GHGs and they also have not done this type of analysis yet for Yolo County. M. Aulman asked that if they have a guess on how the local farming community would respond to a focus on carbon sequestration? K. Reza responded that since there is incentive to be sustainable, the response from Yolo County farmers is likely to be positive.
- A. Kim asked if there is a plan to integrate UC Davis Ag technologies into Yolo County's work.
- P. Alvarez commented that nitrous oxide and methane are included in measurements. He shared that the RCD has been working with the Carbon Cycle Institute and other partners to develop top methodologies to capture the complexity. He responded to A. Kim that since new technologies are emerging, there isn't quantification yet that will give us figures and numbers, but that they

are interested in monitoring in real time farmers that are implementing new practices and technologies.

Public Comment:

- Scott Steward and Chris Granger gave public comment, however their comments were not captured on the Zoom recording.

8. Presentation by Yolo RCD:

- K. Wraithwall introduced Heather Nichols from the Yolo County Resource Conservation District (RCD).
- H. Nichols introduced herself and the Yolo RCD.
 - H. Nichols highlighted the Yolo RCD 2019 Strategic Plan Areas of Strategic Focus such as invasive weeds, biodiversity, water quality and quantity, riparian and aquatic habitats, soil, wildfire, and carbon.
 - She shared their 2022 Program Areas as: Open Space Lands Management, Forest Health and Wildfire Resiliency, and Planning Monitoring and Studies. She also shared the conservation outcomes and scopes of each of these projects.

9. Action Item: Provide Recommendations on Compensation for Public Meeting Participation

Decision: Approve recommending all four compensation proposals in concept and that they first move forward as a package to be first referred to the Board Climate Subcommittee with the Equity and Engagement Working Group acting in an advisory capacity to the Subcommittee, and second, be brought back in the form of a refined proposal for final review and further action by the Climate Action Commission.

Approved By / Seconded By: R. Datel / K. Britten

Ayes: S. Reed, R. Datel, M. Aulman, A. Kim, A. Serena, N. Mvondo, K. Britten

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: C. White, B. Austin, P. Alvarez, M. Bennett

Additional Comments/Actions:

- K. Wraithwall introduced this item and shared that staff met with Supervisors Don Saylor and Jim Provenza and are now returning to the Commission for feedback.
- K. Wraithwall shared that staff developed four different recommendations for compensation based on methods other jurisdictions are following:
 - 1. One hundred dollar stipends for each Commission Member and an extra fifty dollars for the Chair and Co-Chair.

- 2. Stipends for working group members at fifty dollars per meeting per working group member.
- 3. Mini grants for outreach partners which would create partnerships with community-based organizations that would be responsible for different parts of the Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP). The Equity and Engagement Working Group could assist with this.
- 4. Incentives for public meeting and survey participation by setting aside money for material items such as gift cards or food, or being entered into a drawing if you attend a meeting or complete a survey.
- K. Wraithwall shared that Commission Members would not be required to take compensation, and could choose not to opt in.
- K. Wraithwall commented that the input from the Commission is going back to the Subcommittee in September, then we will either come back to the Commission for additional feedback or take it to the Board of Supervisors for approval.
- N. Mvondo shared that it is important not to assume that everyone is able to contribute their time without compensation and to keep this in mind when we are requesting input from incorporated areas. She shared that she hopes to move forward with compensation for the Commission since Commission Members can turn down compensation and this sets a precedent for other regions.
- M. Bennett stressed the importance of this process of accepting or rejecting payment being anonymous. She supported all methods for incentivizing the public excluding raffle drawings.
- N. Mvondo agreed with M. Bennett in recommending option four with the elimination of a drawing as an incentivizing method.
- M. Aulman suggested we separate out recommendations three and four, saying that many grants for partner organizations can be separately considered and budgeted depending on those relationships. He shared he favors item one and two but thinks item three should be on a case-by-case basis and item four should be subject to a promotional budget.
- K. Wraithwall responded to M. Aulman and said that she interpreted these items as essentially being grouped and staged. Her recommendation was that a decision on how to pursue those first two items would come out of a discussion with the Equity and Engagement Working group, then we will have a follow-up conversation about items three and four to decide how these recommendations would break down further.
- S. Reed voiced support for all items but mostly three and four. She shared that she would like to see working group members be compensated. She said that she is less attracted to compensating Commission Members and cautioned that if Commission Members are being compensated, it should be presented in a package with compensating other members of the public so that the Commission's intent is not misconceived. She shared that she would not vote to advance options one and two unless it was packaged with three and four.

- B. Austin voiced support for the Equity and Engagement Group working through items three and four. She also shared that the reason for a drawing is because it is difficult to budget for every participant to be funded to participate in a survey and that this is a way to control budget costs. She supported S. Reed's comments and added that it is important to look at investing in Commission Members and honoring the expertise that is brought to the table.
- A. Kim voiced support for all four recommendations though he noted that the Commission should determine a priority ranking of the recommendations in case only one gets approved.
- P. Alvarez supported pushing forward items two, three, and four and ensuring that is our priority and that we push those prior to pushing item one.
- K. Britten suggested the group do a straw poll to determine a rank order for these items.
- J. Provenza proposed a confidential self-certification of a need. He mentioned the issue of setting a precedent for how other Commissions will do this going forward.
- N. Mvondo asked if the Commission is comfortable making a motion to explore these two recommendations further in the equity and engagement working group.
- M. Aulman suggested they motion in which package item three and four together as being referred to the Equity and Engagement Working Group.
- K. Wraithwall clarified that the motion specifically is to make recommendations to the Subcommittee before it could even go to the Equity and Engagement Working Group.
- S. Reed asked if the Commission will be able to comment forward before these recommendations go before the Board. K. Wraithwall responded yes and that we will ensure that any conversations with the Subcommittee will come back to this group prior to going to the Board.
- K. Wraithwall summarized that the Commission is recommending all four of these options in concept, understanding that they are a package and that the Equity and Engagement Working Group would serve as an advisory board for options 3 and 4.
- S. Reed shared the motion she typed out which is that the Commission recommends all four compensation proposals in concept and recommends that they first move forward as a package to be first referred to the Board Climate Subcommittee with the Equity and Engagement Working Group acting in an advisory capacity to the Subcommittee, and second, brought back in the form of a refined proposal for final review and further action by the Climate Action Commission.

Public Comment:

- Scott Steward echoed the importance of the equity issue within Yolo County and encouraged that the Commission continue to pursue this and not lose item one and two and that it is a necessary part of how the conversation around climate change take place.

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

- K. Britten shared that he was appointed to be Chair of the Winters Climate Action Commission. He offered to serve as an informal liaison to this group and proposed we consider a more formal liaison relationship down the road.

11. Long Range Calendar

- N. Mvondo noted that the Long-Range Calendar (Attachment F) is available for review.

12. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at: 7:10 PM
-