



MEETING MINUTES

Yolo County Climate Action Commission

January 23, 2023 | 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
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 (**ABSENT**)

SUPERVISORS:

Supervisor Lucas Frerichs, 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 B. Austin*) (*Attachment A*)
- 3. Approval of the Agenda**

Decision: Approve

Approved By / Seconded By: B. Austin / K. Britten

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: S. Reed, C. White

4. Public Comment

- A comment was made that mentioned congress's change in tone regarding climate action. The commenter encouraged the County and the public to push climate action initiatives forward and advocated for keeping elected officials accountable.

5. Approve December 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes (*Attachment B*)

Decision: Approved with amendments made by R. Datel

Approved By / Seconded By: B. Austin / R. Datel

Ayes: R. Datel, M. Aulman, A. Kim, A. Serena, NJ, B. Austin, P. Alvarez, M. Bennett, K. Britten

Noes: None

Abstain: M. Bennett

Absent: S. Reed, C. White

Additional Comments/Action Items:

- An amendment was made to change the word 'pretense' regarding working with Dudek collaboratively to 'preface'.
- An amendment was made on a section mentioning Dudek's presentation summary on the top of page 5 to replace the word 'efforts' with 'outcomes'.

6. Staff Announcements/Reports (Staff)

- Update on Commission/Working Group Stipends
 - Staff shared that the County is finally rolling out participatory stipends and reminded Commission members to submit the paperwork they were sent if they are interested in receiving a stipend.
 - If people are not able to complete a vendor agreement form, they can opt for a gift card.
- Yolo County Received a SolSmart Bronze Designation
 - Staff updated the Commission on Yolo County's Bronze Designation by SolSmart.
- Update on Early Action Projects
 - Staff provided an update on the Countywide Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Action Plan. They shared that the County has been coordinating with partners in each of the four cities as well as with SACOG and the Yolo Transportation District to talk about the best strategies for

- approaching this project as a regional effort. The County is also pursuing a Caltrans Sustainable Communities Grant to fund this effort.
- Staff provided an update on the Agriculture Equipment Retrofit Program. They stated that staff is in discussion with RCD to explore creative options to reframe this project. Staff plans to bring an updated project description to the Commission in March.
 - Staff stated that the updated Governor's budget has potentially impacted the timeline of the Electrification Retrofit Rebate Outreach program, though Staff are currently working with Valley Clean Energy (VCE) to determine next steps.
 - Staff shared that initial conversations on the Carbon Farming Partnership are occurring, and that project is in its planning stage.
 - It was added in the chat that the Center for Land Based Learning (CLBL) is making progress on a carbon farming plan for their headquarters at The Maples Ranch and the Yolo Resource Conservation District (RCD) is working with River Garden Farms. Draft plans are scheduled to be completed by the end of March.
 - Staff shared that they are still working on switching accounts in PG&E territory to 100% renewable electricity. It was shared that coordinating with PG&E has been a slower process than switching over accounts with VCE; County staff will provide an update in the coming months.

Additional Comments/Action Items:

- A question was asked about whether there is a strategy in case the County is not awarded the Caltrans grant.
 - Staff responded that the Early Action Grant Strategy identified other funding options in the case that the Caltrans grant does not work out.
- A question was asked to provide a short summary on the complications of the Agriculture Equipment Retrofit Project.
 - Staff shared that delay on this project is in part due to limited staff capacity. Staff also received feedback that they needed to better quantify the emission reduction benefits of Utility Task Vehicles (UTVs). Staff plan to come back to the Commission in March with a clearer vision on whether to move forward with the project description as it was or to change course.
- A question was asked about how fast the Agriculture Equipment Retrofit project can be launched, as many walnut orchards are ready for processes such as whole orchard recycling
 - Staff shared that this project would not likely be approved until at least May.
 - The following link was shared: <https://orchardrecycling.ucdavis.edu/>
 - A commenter shared that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) Program is something that tribes are

looking into for orchard work on their farms. It was suggested to look into this program for the next round of applications.

- A commenter shared that the Healthy Soils Program will fund individual farmers doing whole orchard recycling. It was recommended to defer to the RCD on whole orchard recycling as an option to pursue in the short term.
 - Healthy Soils Incentive Program:
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/oefi/healthypoils/IncentivesProgram.html>
- **Public Comment:** A comment was made from a proponent of the 100% Renewable Energy Accounts Early Action Project asking if delays on the PG&E end are also a problem at the individual level. The commenter added hopes that it is less difficult to make changes at the individual level than it is at the municipal level. It was also suggested to mention how many tons of carbon the County avoided with the Early Actions.

7. Update on Yolo County Storm Response (*Kristin Weivoda, Yolo County Chief of Emergency Services*) (*Attachments C, D, E*) (20 minutes)

- A presentation by Kristin Weivoda was given. K. Weivoda shared that the Yolo County Office of Emergency Services (OES) and Special Districts started identifying needs and concerns heading into the storms, and that the un-forecasted storms did much more damage than the forecasted storms. It was shared that Yolo County declared a state of emergency in January with wind and power outages as the biggest concern. The rural areas were hit the hardest, and after learning that the county's levee pump systems run on electricity, OES had to work quickly with PG&E to get those running to avoid more flooding. The levee systems held up, likely because there was a lot of pre-flooding mitigation, though they were severely impacted by the storm.
- It was shared that the county is in the recovery stage and a tour of the damages will be conducted. The damage totaled \$11M with most of the damage costs coming from the levee systems and flooding, as well as tree damage. It was shared that OES hopes to get public assistance they are applying for.
- A question was asked how Regional Emergency Alert System announcements were determined with regard to the severity of the different storms.
 - OES Staff responded that Yolo Alerts is separate from Regional Alerts but they are working on more education on emergency alerts.
- A question was asked regarding damaged roofs and if any families had to be displaced due to the storms.
 - OES Staff responded that they were not aware of anyone who was forcefully displaced. It was shared that some residents opted to go to hotels. It was shared that there were no evacuation orders.
- A question was asked if OES was aware of any loss of crops/farms.

- OES Staff responded that they are not yet aware of the damages, but damage claims often come up months later after the storms. Staff will keep an eye out to support farmers who experienced crop damages.
- A commenter mentioned the sudden weather changes Yolo County has been experiencing and asked about education efforts on this issue.
 - OES Staff shared that Yolo is operating in both drought and flooding state of emergencies. It was noted that sharing more information on how to become more resilient would be helpful. It was shared that the county has shallow wells, which limits water retention in rural communities. The long-range plan captures some of these issues and contains water-capture ideas during high flood/storm times.
- A question was asked about whether the County has worked with the utilities to anticipate points of failure when disaster strikes. It was also asked if they are considering critical medical tools being available in homes or how to get medical care/equipment to those in hard-to-reach places.
 - OES Staff shared that they have been trying to stay ahead of infrastructure since 2017, acknowledging that PG&E infrastructure is often a point of failure when it comes to wind. When it comes to messaging, Yolo County gets a list of those clients with critical medical equipment who they then notify. Yolo County works to notify people about charging stations and ways to keep medical equipment running. They also send out information through In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), though there are still gaps in outreach to older communities. OES is working with the Fire Department/Emergency Dispatch so they are aware of people who are bed-ridden and in need of critical services during an emergency. It was shared that there is still a lot of work to do to make sure all critical groups are identified, and OES is working on improving this to help enable the community to be more resilient.
- A commenter mentioned that they did not have electricity for several days, and the local food co-ops did not have backup generators, thus losing all their perishable foods. It was asked if there are steps in place to prevent this.
 - OES Staff responded that this is an ongoing effort to make the community more resilient. It was mentioned that OES is also working on identifying more grants to assist local stores during emergencies. The Disaster Service Council is going before the Board of Supervisors in February and hopes to come up with more collaborative approaches and services when it comes to emergency response.
- A question was asked if emergency preparation/readiness would fall under the scope of work of the Commission.
 - County Staff responded that this is something for the Commission to think about during the CAAP update. It was shared that the CAAP update could be linked with the local Hazard Mitigation Plan update.
- A question was asked regarding whether there should be a policy working group that the Commission could consider on the long-range calendar.

- County Staff responded that this could be discussed during the Long-Range Calendar agenda item and that this type of working group is a possibility during the planning stages of the CAAP.

Public Comment

- A comment was made to note that people in Yolo County are looking into developing community resilience centers, and that County Staff should look into coordinating this with OES's work.

8. Update from the Dudek Team (*Jane Gray, Project Director/Regional Planner*)

- Dudek Staff Project Director, Jane Gray, shared an update on behalf of the Dudek team on the CAAP work that has been completed to date. The team has been dialoguing internally and with the County to plan for community equity and engagement work. It was shared that the Dudek team is about 90% of the way towards completing an initial information request effort.
- Dudek shared that they are working on an outline for the Equity and Engagement Plan but plan to coordinate with the Equity and Engagement Working Group before bringing it forward to the full Commission.
- Dudek shared that they will be updating the Community and Municipal inventories in relation to activity data updates.

Additional Comments/Questions:

- A question was asked regarding how Dudek will coordinate with incorporated municipalities of Yolo County.
 - Dudek Staff responded that they would like to get in contact with municipality sustainability teams to work closely on collaboration and see what efforts are ongoing in municipalities.
- Dudek staff were asked to elaborate on the consumption inventory and how it will relate to the overall CAAP processes.
 - Dudek Staff responded that the updated inventory will set a baseline for goods and services that come in and out of the county to generate a robust spreadsheet that represents consumption-based data. Transportation of goods was provided as an example of consumption data.
- A commenter asked what partners the Dudek Team has reached out to.
 - Dudek Staff responded that they will commence outreach once the Equity & Engagement Working Group is meeting in full.

9. Working Group Updates (*20 minutes*)

- Equity and Engagement Working Group (*B. Austin*)
 - It was shared that the Equity and Engagement Working Group received fourteen applications for working group seats by the application deadline of January 20th.

- A question was asked about how many formal seats the Working Group is planning to fill.
 - Staff responded that the Working Group is planning to fill approximately five additional seats.
- Natural and Working Lands Working Group (*Kate Reza, Resource Conservation District*)
 - Kate Reza from the Yolo Resource Conservation District shared that the Ad-Hoc working group is planning on filling four additional seats in representation of large-scale conventional farming, small-scale farming, ranchers, and organizations that are represent farmworker perspectives. She added that outreach is going to be conducted via one-on-one interviews, surveys, and roundtable discussions.
 - The Ad-Hoc working group also discussed the division of responsibilities between working group members and the Dudek Team members involved in the Natural and Working Lands outreach program.

Additional Comments/Action Items:

- A question was asked about if there is intent to reach out to the Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF).
 - The Working Group does intend to conduct outreach and discussions with CAFF.
- A question was asked about how farmworker vulnerability is considered in greenhouse gas reduction strategy planning.
- A commenter mentioned that they attended the latest annual Farm Bureau meeting. It was added that a speaker at the meeting expressed concern about not being recognized for the sequestration efforts that farmers are currently doing while being presented with new legislation regarding Diesel fuel.
 - Staff responded that the Working Group intends to listen to farmers about where they currently are and acknowledging existing efforts.

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

- It was shared that the Climate Action Commission in Winters is looking to fill two seats. It was added that the Commission is looking to diversify their members and that interested residents within and nearby Winters can contact cityclerk@cityofwinters.org.
- It was shared that there is a live survey asking electric vehicle users who have experienced a power outage how they coped with the situation. Since it is a non-scientific survey there is no harsh deadline.
- It was shared that theclimatecenter.org has an ongoing webinar series that has been useful to hear about new ideas and community education. Recordings for past webinars are also available on the website.
- It was shared that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is doing an environmental justice survey for all of California that will be shared with the County to share.

11. Long Range Calendar

- Staff shared the staff report on the long range calendar, stating that the County and Ad-Hoc Working Groups will shortly launch major outreach campaigns. It was suggested that any long-term planning items should be added to the calendar ahead of time to ensure that they are allocated the proper amount of time. Commission members were asked to bring up planning items that they would like to see added as agenda items in the upcoming months.
- A commenter mentioned that a discussion on strategies and priority of strategies should be given time on the long-range calendar along with an update on outreach efforts and engagement.
- A comment was made that the discussion on food security, food systems and food waste are of interest to be added to the calendar for upcoming months along with an outreach update. It was also added that there is interest in a discussion on a policy working group.

Public Comment:

- A commenter added that they would like the Commission to discuss a second wave of Early Action projects in this year.

12. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at: 6:28 PM.
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