MEETING MINUTES
Yolo County Climate Action Commission
February 27, 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 *(absent)*
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 *(joined at 4:32 PM)*

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.**
    a. Staff recommends the Commission make the following findings:
        i. The Yolo County Climate Action Commission has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency proclaimed for the COVID-19 pandemic; and
        ii. Local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.

2. **Land Acknowledgement** *(read by M. Bennett) (Attachment A)*

3. **Approval of the Agenda**
    a. Approve with an amendment of the Supervisors and their Districts on the list of attendees.

Decision: Approve
Approved By / Seconded By: S. Reed, A. Kim
Ayes: S. Reed, R. Datel, M. Aulman, A. Kim, A. Serena, NJ Mvondo, B. Austin, P. Alvarez, M. Bennett
Noes: None
Abstain: None
Absent: C. White, K. Britten

4. **Public Comment**
    a. A public comment was made from a Yolo Climate Emergency Coalition representative who thanked the Sustainability department for their newsletter. The commenter encouraged the Commission to continue outreach to youth leaders in the County. The commenter also invited Commission members to attend the Global Climate Strike occurring in Davis on March 3rd at 14th and B Street from 12:00 – 2:00 PM.

5. **Approve January 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes** *(Attachment B)*
    a. Approve with an amendment from the word 'headline' to 'deadline' on page 7 and check the reference to 'shallow wells contributing to flooding'.

Decision: Approve
Approved By / Seconded By: NJ Mvondo, M. Bennett
Ayes: S. Reed, R. Datel, M. Aulman, A. Kim, A. Serena, NJ Mvondo, B. Austin, P. Alvarez, M. Bennett
Noes: None
Abstain: C. White, K. Britten
Absent: None

Additional Comments/Action Items:
    a. A question was asked regarding a comment on shallow wells impacting flooding in the Yolo County Emergency Response section. It was asked whether the comment claimed that shallow wells contribute to flooding.
        i. County Staff revisited the meeting recording and verified that the comment was referencing shallow wells limiting water retention capacity in rural areas. Notes will be clarified.
    b. A comment was made to correct the word "headline" to be "deadline" on page 7.

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

a. Staff shared that the Commission is to return to in-person meetings next month due to the Brown Act; location to-be-determined, likely in Woodland.
    i. Staff shared that in the future, there may be the possibility of Commission Members meeting in two, dual meeting locations, although the goal is to find one meeting space that works for everyone. It was stated that a hybrid format for public participation is not required by the Brown Act but is a priority of the County to enable accessible public participation.
    ii. A suggestion was made for staff to consider a contingency plan and re-examine bylaws around quorum requirements.
    iii. A suggestion was made that ARP funds could be used to get spaces equipped with adequate tech.
    iv. A suggestion was made to rush the urgency of advocating for legislative change.
    v. A question was asked if the Yolo County Flood Control Board Room has been examined as a possible space for hybrid Commission meetings.
    vi. A question was asked about whether the requirement to meet in-person could be considered an ADA issue.
        1. Staff responded that in the updated guidelines, members are allowed to attend meetings in a hybrid format up to 2 times a year for cases of illness or emergency. ADA concerns will be part of the conversation regarding advocacy.
b. Staff shared that they are preparing to submit a Caltrans Sustainable Communities Grant application for the ZEV Action Plan with a heavy emphasis on the project being a regional effort.
c. Staff shared that they will be bringing an updated version of the Agricultural Equipment Retrofit early action project description to the Commission in March.
d. Staff shared that past newsletter editions are now available on the Yolo Sustainability Website: https://yolocounty.org/sustainability.

Public Comment:

a. A commenter shared that CoolDavis is happy to share support or provide insight on the Caltrans Grant application and is excited to see the collaborative effort of the ZEV project.

7. **Update on Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Progress** (J. Gray, Dudek) (*Attachment C)*
    a. Jane Gray from the Dudek Staff Team provided an update on the Climate Action & Adaptation Plan progress and provided an overview of the Equity and Engagement Communications and Engagement strategies and timelines.
    b. Dudek Staff provided an overview of the Land Use Summary used for informing the GHG reductions plan. The summary included Land Use data and assumed Land Use Growth in the County

i. A question was asked about what format feedback should be provided to the Dudek Team.
    1. Staff reiterated that questions and feedback should be directed to staff, who will coordinate with the Dudek team.
ii. A question was asked about the student population growth projections being larger in Woodland and West Sacramento than in Davis. It was asked if data was verified with the incorporated cities.
    1. Response that data used for population growth projections used SACOG models. It was shared that data goes through the jurisdictions, but projections are not made by the jurisdictions. It was added that student population numbers include students of all ages, not just university students.

Public Comment:

a. A comment left in the chat asked if there is an intention to tie the lands that are covered in the County jurisdiction with UC Davis land/resource use. It was asked if there is a way to plan for that possibility and how Dudek is working in the Highway expansion within Yolo County.
    i. Response that highway expansions being presumed are included in the model. Currently data reflects what is assumed by SACOG.

7. Discussion: Provide Feedback on Outreach Materials to Agricultural Community (K.Wraithwall) (*Attachment D, E, F*)

a. Dudek Staff provided a summary of the Natural and Working Lands Ad-Hoc Working Group Meeting from February 21, 2023. Ad-Hoc Working Group members provided feedback on the outreach interview questions, which aims to understand how climate change is impacting farming/ranching operations, along with questions on the agricultural community's familiarity with carbon farming practices. The Working Group also reviewed a list of Natural and Working Lands sequestration and emissions reduction strategies.
b. County Staff added that the intent and purpose of this initial list of questions is to serve as a precursor to a broader outreach survey. The purpose of the questions is to guide conversations that Working Group members and County Staff will have with the agricultural community to gauge initial responses and thoughts on topic areas to then inform future outreach and survey development.
c. A question was asked how to expand outreach to farmers who are less concerned with climate change.
    i. County Staff shared that the Resource Conservation District (RCD) has longstanding relationships with the Yolo County Ag community. It was decided to do initial rounds of high-level conversation with a selective group of farming community representatives which would inform the development of a survey, with roundtable discussions with different subsets of the population moving forward. RCD and/or County Staff will

be at all interviews, with NWL Working Group members attending as capacity allows.

ii. Dudek Staff added that RCD and County Staff will serve as the "face" of outreach efforts to further strengthen relationships to the community.

d. A question was asked about AB-1757, which is State legislation that regards setting sequestration targets on California Natural and Working Lands by January of 2024 with reported measuring methodologies by 2025. It was added that if outreach does not include context on state-level legislation, targeted communities might not be able to provide input.
    i. Dudek Staff shared that they will incorporate the context of AB-1757 when doing outreach. Dudek Staff added that co-benefits are a major consideration to be included in outreach efforts along with context to statewide legislation.
e. A question was also asked if there are plans to have in-person conversations with farmers.
    i. County Staff responded that they are in the process of identifying presentation opportunities and meetings that can be targeted for those types of conversations. Staff are trying to make conversations as accessible as possible and are prioritizing meeting the farm community where they are.
f. A question was asked regarding if Commission Members should leverage their networks to conduct personal outreach.
    i. Staff responded that Commission members should absolutely leverage their networks.
g. A question was asked regarding what the participation amount should be for the quantitative survey to be statistically significant.
    i. Dudek Staff responded that every single component of the Equity and Engagement Strategy will be personalized for various sectors of the population, which will inform how interview questions will be phrased and phased out.
    ii. A commenter added that statistical significance should be less of a concern considering the small population size of Yolo County.
h. A question was asked regarding how the Dudek Team plans to approach potential biases when having conversations with farmers across a range of political beliefs.
    i. Dudek Staff responded that there is a recent uptake in understanding that climate has been undergoing change and impacting farming operations.

Public Comment: No public comment.

9. **Discussion: Receive Update and Provide Input on Carbon Sequestration Methodology** (S. Halterman and M. Howard, Dudek) (*Attachment G*)

a. Dudek Staff provided an overview of the Carbon Sequestration Methodology Analysis. It was stated that sequestration is necessary to meet the County's goal of a carbon-negative footprint by 2030. The Dudek Team is collaborating with RCD to summarize existing land use and land cover types, existing carbon sequestration practices, and total sequestration potential with 100% participation.
b. A question was asked regarding if the Commission will look at what rates of adoption need to be done in different places to meet County goals, and what incentives may be necessary to meet these goals.
    i. Dudek Staff responded that there will be conversations with the Natural and Working Lands Working Group to discuss the potential for incentives. It was added that Dudek will consider both worst-case and best-case scenarios of participation.
c. A comment was made mentioning that there are different carbon storage capacities in different lands and a question was asked about how solutions will be congruent with an understanding of current land qualities. It was asked if Dudek already knows the carbon capacity of certain soils and land use types in other areas.
    i. Dudek Staff responded that every agriculturalist uses their soil differently and that microclimates and other variables can prevent baseline understandings of soil capacity specificity from being used universally.
    ii. Dudek Staff added that the rates being used to account for differences across land types, and that these nuances emphasize why it's important to have the baseline understanding of what current storage rates are, although it is not necessary to quantify sequestration potential in the future.
    iii. Dudek Staff added sequestration potential over-time can be calculated without specific soil storage capacity analysis.
d. A comment was made that many carbon sequestration strategies are incentivized through the USDA EQIP program, with 100% of costs being covered for BIPOC farmers. It was asked if there can be regulatory options to ensure a certain level of participation.
    i. A response was made that all options should be on the table to determine how to meet county goals. It was added that incentive-based options would be ideal but that regulatory options can be considered as well.

Public Comment:

a. A commenter mentioned using co-use and co-benefits of land in the county, such as Agrovoltaics. It was asked if such considerations are being taken to pair carbon sequestration benefits.
b. A question was asked about what the methods might be to incentivize agricultural partners to adopt carbon sequestration strategies. It was added that

receiving incentives has been a barrier for the farming community in the past. It was also mentioned that agricultural practices may have to change in face of the climate crisis.

10. **Discussion: Receive Update and Provide Input on Consumption-Based Inventory** (M. Hendrix and J. Reed) (*Attachment H*)
    a. Dudek Staff provided an overview on the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories included in the CAAP. This includes a Municipal Inventory, a Community-Wide Sector-Based Inventory, and a Consumption-Based Inventory Narrative. The Municipal GHG Inventory consists of emissions from county owned facilities, equipment, and vehicle fleets. The Community-Wide GHG Inventory consists of emission sectors within the community that the County serves. The 2016 GHG Emissions by Sector data revealed that on-road transportation was the largest GHG emitter, followed by agricultural practices. The Consumption-Based Inventory consists of emissions associated with the consumption of goods, materials, and services. This will work to inform the public about how lifestyle changes can impact emissions in the County.
    b. A question was asked if current trends are being looked at along with the dataset from 2016 for the Community-Wide Inventory.
        i. Dudek Staff responded that trends are included in the monitoring process and that trend lines will be shown from all previous inventories
    c. A comment was made recommending that accessibility be factored into what solutions communities are asked to participate in to bring down their carbon footprint. The commenter provided the example of promoting bike transportation over gas-powered gar transportation, addressing that Davis has large bike infrastructure while Woodland is less safe and more financially risky to bike in.
    d. A question was asked regarding if the 2016 GHG Emissions by Sector is the latest data collection for Yolo County, and if it is serving as the baseline goal for the county.
        i. Dudek Staff responded that the analysis will look at whether ag productivity and population is growing while emissions levels are shrinking.
    e. A question was asked regarding whether the 2016 emissions by sector dataset is the most recent collection of data is available.
        i. Dudek Staff responded that the Ag sector should be able to continue growing with lowering emissions, while other sectors may shrink. It was added the division of sectors in the County can be used to see where emissions reductions efforts can be effective.

Public Comment:

a. A comment was made that relying on the community to make lifestyle changes may inhibit the County's ability to meet decarbonization goals. The commenter

suggested having Dudek provide a preliminary estimate of the amount of CO2 offsets expected to come from reduction in the Consumption-Based Inventory for the community to reference while more precise figures are being assembled.

11. Ad-Hoc Working Group Updates

a. Equity and Engagement (*B. Austin*)
    i. The Equity and Engagement Working Group has met with candidates across the County and is working on restructuring the approach for reaching underserved communities. The Working Group will provide more details in March.
b. Natural and Working Lands (*K. Wraithwall)*
    i. The Natural and Working Lands Working Group has been assessing the best mode and manner for communicating with the ag community. The Working Group will be able to provide a greater update in March.

Public Comment: No public comment.

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

a. A reminder was made that CivicWell is accepting conference proposals for California's Adaptation Forum. Proposals can include networking sessions.
b. A commenter mentioned that Yolo County is serving as a role model for the rest of California in climate work.
c. A commenter mentioned that Valley Vision and UCANR is hosting a workshop with farmers in Woodland on March 9th at the UCCE facility from 8-1. The workshop is open to growers and the invitation will be shared with Commission members.

Public Comment: No public comment.

13. Long Range Calendar

a. A question was asked regarding whether there would be an opportunity to examine the details and engage with the process of creating the inventory analysis.
    i. County Staff responded that if Commission members want to discuss this further it could be added to a future agenda.

14. Adjournment

a. Meeting adjourned at: 6:49 PM