



MEETING MINUTES

Yolo County Climate Action Commission

March 27, 2023 | 4:00 PM – 6:30 PM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS

625 COURT STREET, ROOM 206

WOODLAND, CA 95695

NOTE: Effective March 27, 2023, all meetings of the Yolo County Climate Action Commission will be held in person at the Yolo County Board of Supervisors Chambers, located at 625 Court Street, Woodland, Room 206. While the Board chambers are open for public attendance, members of the public are strongly encouraged to observe and participate in the meeting via Zoom at <https://yolocounty.zoom.us/j/87876273446> or by phone at (669) 900-6833 passcode 87876273446#. Further instructions on how to electronically participate and submit your public comments can be found in the PUBLIC PARTICIPATION note at the end of this agenda.

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
Chris White, Technical Lead (*arrived at 4:20 PM*)
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 (*absent*)

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Sarah Morgan, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation (*absent*)
Camille Kirk, UC Davis (*joined via Zoom*)

SUPERVISORS:

Supervisor Lucas Frerichs, Yolo County Board of Supervisors, District 2 (*absent*)
Supervisor Jim Provenza, Yolo County Board of Supervisors, District 4 (*joined via Zoom*)

MEETING MINUTES

1. Land Acknowledgement *(read by S. Reed)*

2. Approval of the Agenda

Decision: Approve

Approved By / Seconded By: S. Reed / A. Serena

Ayes: S. Reed, R. Datel, M. Aulman, A. Serena, NJ Mvondo, B. Austin, P. Alvarez, M. Bennett

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: A. Kim, K. Britten

3. Public Comment

- a. A commenter referenced the Yolo I-80 highway expansion project is adding 33% more lanes. The commenter requested that there be further discussion about the highway expansion project and whether it is truly sustainable and equitable as it is advertised.
- b. A representative of Tree Davis stated that a new project is aiming to secure a schoolyard greening grant funded by CalFire. The commenter stated that Tree Davis is looking to work with other agencies throughout the County.
- c. A commenter expressed gratitude for the remote accessibility that allows the public to attend Commission meetings via Zoom.

4. Approve February 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Decision: Approve with the amendments regarding Item 10 to the minutes.

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

Ayes: S. Reed, R. Datel, M. Aulman, A. Serena, B. Austin, P. Alvarez, M. Bennett

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: A. Kim, K. Britten

Additional Comments/Action Items:

- a. A commenter shared that a comment on Item 10 was missing a request for Dudek to provide estimates of projected CO2 reductions in the Consumption-Based Inventory for the community to reference.
- b. A commenter shared that a comment left in the chat was left out of the minutes regarding Item 10.

5. Staff Announcements/Reports (Staff)

- a. County Staff shared that they are preparing a survey for Climate Compact members to gauge the priorities and needs of the Compact and determine the best path forward.
- b. County Staff shared that there are many upcoming outreach events for the CAAP with opportunities for Commission Members to volunteer.

6. Discussion: Receive Update and Approve Updated Yolo Agricultural Equipment Retrofit Early Action Project Description (*Attachment C, D, E*) (G. James) (30 minutes)

Decision: Approve with the amended title “Yolo County Agricultural Equipment Replacement Program”

Approved By / Seconded By: B. Austin / A. Serena

Ayes: S. Reed, R. Datel, M. Aulman, A. Serena, C. White, NJ Mvondo, B. Austin, P. Alvarez, M. Bennett

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: A. Kim, K. Britten

- a. Gretchen James, CivicSpark Fellow, provided an updated on the Agricultural Equipment Retrofit Project. The project entails using American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to replace utility task vehicles (UTVs) to decrease greenhouse gas emissions. This project was approved in concept in June 2022, and was approved by the Board Subcommittee earlier this month. This project will come back to the Commission in April with hopes of seeking Board approval in May. Funding for this project will be released in the fall.
- b. A question was asked regarding whether this is a retrofit or replacement project.
 - i. County Staff responded that this will be a replacement project will be renamed the Agricultural Equipment Replacement Project.
- c. A question was asked regarding whether Staff will be able to have a conversation about how the CAAP will elevate and help the local economy by the creation of green jobs with the consideration of farmers’ perspectives.
- d. A question was asked about water pumping that is mentioned in the staff report.
 - i. County Staff shared that they are exploring the possibility of exploring water pumps as a separate project.
- e. A question was asked about if this project would be interchangeable with other vehicles (e-UTVs and EVs)
 - i. Staff responded that they would look into this.
- f. A question was asked regarding what the plan for extending outreach after the pilot program is complete will be.
 - i. County Staff shared that they plan to discuss outreach possibilities with the Natural and Working Lands Technical Advisory Committee along with the Farm Bureau.

- g. A question was asked if this program would be exclusive to farmers, or if it would be applicable to recreational use.
 - i. County Staff responded that UTVs are not just used for agriculture but recreational use as well. Staff added that the need for UTVs varies on the size of the farm and the projects being done. It was shared that the value of eUTV replacements would depend on the type of farming operation.
- h. A question was asked regarding how outreach for the program will be expanded to the public, beyond those who the program applies to and are already educated about electrification replacement programs.
 - i. Staff responded that the County is about to begin CAAP outreach that will include information on the AER program once it has launched. It was also stated that further outreach specific to the program can begin once the County determines scoring and priority criteria with the Air District. It was added that the Natural and Working Land Technical Advisory Committee will assist in developing outreach plans.
- i. A commenter asked what elements of this project can be expected to help make this project successful, considering farmers' concerns that the funding be supplemental and ongoing.
 - i. Staff responded that the FARMER program is usually used to supplement farming for heavier-duty equipment and this project is intended to streamline funding for eUTVs. The Air District shared with Staff that if using the ARP funds for this trial run is successful (meaning significant reduction in GHGs) then they would provide funding annually after this year.
- j. A question was asked about how the reductions of GHGs resulting from the program would be measured.
 - i. Staff responded that the FARMER program has a tracking tool based off usage and charging of the vehicle that give estimates on GHG emissions reduced.
- k. A question was asked if the vehicles would be surveyed to determine an accurate reduction in GHGs.
 - i. Staff responded that the tool has space to provide specific inputs but can also be used to get general estimates.
- l. A comment was made requesting a solidified idea of realistic emission reductions estimates and how best to leverage the replacements with farms that will make the most impact.
- m. A commenter shared that many farmers would love the possibility of having equipment cooperative tools and was curious if this came up during the research, and additionally wanted to know if farmers could apply for this program to own this equipment for the first time.
 - i. Staff responded that farmers could be eligible for funding for first-time equipment purchasing if they could prove that the use of equipment would result in emissions reductions.

Public Comment:

- a. A commenter emphasized the fact that this is a pilot project and one that needs to be prioritized. The commenter stated that although the fuel emissions reductions from electrifying UTVs are significant, it may be outweighed by an increase of emissions from highway expansion.
- b. A commenter asked if farmers use UTVs in addition to tractors or if smaller operations use UTVs in place of tractors. It was added that this could be advertised as a lower-emission alternative to tractors for first-time UTV users. It was added this is a starting point of what Yolo County can do for farmers.

7. Discussion: Approve Dissolution of Equity & Engagement (E&E) and Natural & Working Lands (NWL) Working Groups, and Provide Input on New E&E and NWL Technical Advisory Committees (Attachment F) (K. Wraithwall) (25 minutes)

Decision: Approve dissolution of working groups

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

Ayes: S. Reed, R. Datel, M. Aulman, A. Serena, C. White, NJ Mvondo, B. Austin, P. Alvarez, M. Bennett

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: A. Kim, K. Britten

- a. County Staff provided a brief overview of the staff report included as Attachment F.
- b. It was added that members of the public who would like to receive the agendas for Technical Advisory Committee meetings beforehand can email sustainability@yolocounty.org to be put on a direct distribution list.
- c. It was also added that Technical Advisory Committee meetings would not be locked into strictly virtual or strictly in-person format, rather it would allow for the flexibility to alternate or conduct hybrid meetings depending on group needs. For example, there is a lot of benefit to having some Natural and Working Lands meetings take place on actual County farms to see practices in place.

Public Comment:

- a. A comment was made urging the County to advocate for amendments to the Brown Act if the Brown Act is causing accessibility issues.
- b. A comment was made that there are current efforts underway to advocate for remote participation options at volunteer commission meetings.

8. Discussion: Receive and Provide Feedback on Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Equity and Engagement Strategies (Attachments G, H) (J. Gray) (45 minutes)

- a. Dudek Staff shared that there is a new Climate Action & Adaptation Plan logo derived from ADA accessible colors along with colors currently reflected in the Yolo County logo.

- b. Dudek Staff provided an update on the Communication and Engagement Plan (CEP) which outlines the overall strategy for community engagement in the unincorporated Yolo County residents throughout the CAAP process.
- c. Dudek Staff shared that the CEP document provides acronyms and definitions, background of the project, maps and community descriptions, along with the purpose, goals and outcomes of engagement.
- d. Dudek Staff provided an outline of the Equity and Engagement Strategy, a subsection of the CEP, that is grounded in the understanding that it's best practice to engage with existing, trusting community organizations. It was added that strategies center equity in outreach, engagement, decision-making and implementation
- e. It was shared that a solicitation is to be released in the coming weeks to formalize relationships with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and Community Based Partnerships (CBPs) and request formal discussions and representation on the Equity and Engagement Technical Advisory Committee.

Additional Comments/Questions:

- a. A commenter shared that UC Davis is working on energy efficiency outreach and active transportation with the Yolo County Transportation District. It was added that this could be an additional opportunity for cross-agency coordination without evoking engagement fatigue.
- b. A comment was made that there are certain CBO groups that would be critical to work with in order to engage with sensitive groups in the county who have valuable input. It was added that it will be important to coordinate with other efforts that are being made to collect data on community resilience to weather events to not cause engagement fatigue.
- c. A commenter asked if the geographic maps will be interactive.
 - i. Dudek Staff responded that they are developing interactive maps, and that the CEP document can include links to those tools.
- d. A commenter asked what metrics will be used when conducting analysis and assessments.
 - i. Dudek Staff shared they are measuring the number of respondents, along with respondents' ratings of the survey's accessibility and ease.
- e. A commenter asked for clarification between the difference between CBOs and CBPs
 - i. Dudek Staff responded that CBOs are often incorporated as 501c3s, while CBPs don't require that tax designation.
- f. A question was if Dudek could provide a list of CBOs and CBPs in unincorporated Yolo County that Dudek plans to engage with.
 - i. Dudek Staff responded that the agencies referenced on the Summary of Strategies slide have already scheduled interviews for the upcoming week.
 - ii. County Staff added that the Natural and Working Lands TAC includes the Latino Outreach Coordinator from RISE, Inc. sitting on the TAC to advise

on how best to engage with the farmworker community. It was added that solicitation format has been designed to make it easy for organizations to apply to be outreach partners.

- g. A question was asked if any community member can sign up to volunteer at tabling events.
 - i. Dudek Staff responded that any community member can sign up to volunteer at tabling events. Staff add that this will require a training session.
- h. A question was asked if there will be outreach events taking place after the month of April. It was added that the Whole Earth Festival would be a good outreach opportunity.
 - i. Dudek Staff shared that they will continue scheduling outreach events and that there is one already confirmed in the month of May and one in August. It was added that workshop opportunities will also be taking place in late May/early June.
 - ii. County Staff shared that the County missed the deadline to table at the Whole Earth Festival but is looking into other options to be involved and conduct outreach. It was added that they are awaiting on a response from the event coordinator.
- i. A question was asked whether outreach would target business agencies in addition to community members.
 - i. Dudek Staff responded that outreach is currently prioritizing underrepresented community members, but that there are plans to engage with industries and business entities.
- j. A commenter asked if the possibility of tabling at popular retail stores such as Walmart has been considered.
 - i. Dudek Staff shared that they have considered tabling at community supermarkets and can work that into the strategy.
- k. Dudek Staff added that workshops should have hybrid opportunities to engage with all demographics, while being mindful of communities that don't have consistent internet access.

Public Comment:

- a. A suggestion was made to consider Davis and Woodland Farmers' Markets. It was also suggested to pursue virtual outreach events to reach vulnerable populations during extreme heat.
- b. A commenter brought up a list of organizations that may be helpful to coordinate outreach efforts with, including Climate Reality Project, Sunrise Movement, and Fridays for Future. It was added that these groups offer different age demographics. The commenter shared that is daunting to hear the amount of communication that needs to occur and suggested prioritizing where the greatest GHG emissions reductions need to be made and how best to engage with those communities. He also stressed a thoughtful process in how we articulate climate action language so that it is accessible to the public.

- c. A question was asked regarding whether there are any strategies to scale down potentially controversial outreach on climate efforts.
 - i. A response was made that the focus on climate change is rising, and that centering the common goals and aspirations of the public, along with immediate benefits, is effective in discussing climate change with potentially divisive groups.
 - ii. A commenter added that outreach to rural communities and to industry partners is extremely important and that many Yolo County operations are already doing cutting-edge sustainability work in agriculture and transportation. It was added that community tabling events likely would only tackle lifestyle changes, while engagement with industry can allow for deep, systematic changes.
- d. A commenter shared that sticker giveaways work well and suggested a sticker or postcard to be included with all Meals on Wheels delivered or bags given out at the Yolo Food Bank.
- e. A comment was made suggesting the survey be sent out on email list serves or distributed on online platforms such as Nextdoor.
- f. A comment was made to look into in-person farming events to target farming groups that may not typically have consistent access to technology.

9. Ad-Hoc Working Group Updates (15 minutes)

- a. Equity and Engagement (*A. Serena*)
 - i. It was shared that the Equity and Engagement Working Group has developed language for outreach to CBOs, and that the list of organizations to conduct outreach with is growing. It was added that there have been interviews for the Equity & Engagement Technical Advisory Committee with focus on finding involved youth members and people from unincorporated communities. It was added that staff are working with Commissions within the County to assign liaisons so that groups can cross-communicate and keep policies and principles aligned across advisory bodies.
 - ii. A commenter asked if the group has any senior representation or engagement yet.
 - 1. County Staff responded that they are currently working with the Commission on Aging & Adult Services to solidify a liaison representative.
 - iii. A question was asked if there is a possibility for the Yolo Youth Commission to have a rotation so that there is not too much of a time commitment on participating individuals.
- b. Natural and Working Lands (*K. Reza*)
 - i. It was shared that the Natural and Working Lands held an in-person meeting last Thursday with all three Yolo County agriculture enterprise seats filled, along with a representative serving the farm working community. The group reviewed the initial set of survey questions and

sequestration practices and made numerous changes to each. There were discussions held on how best to assist farmers in finding funding opportunities, farmer perspectives on carbon farming and climate change, incentivizing beneficial practices, and outreach strategies. Next steps are to determine the appropriate target groups for outreach and to finalize outreach materials.

- ii. A commenter asked what changes farmers requested to see at the NWL meetings.
 1. Staff responded that there were concerns around the length and time commitment of the survey, along with the relevance of specific strategies to Yolo County operations. It was added that there were concerns of confidentiality and the group aims prevent worries of compliance or enforcement being a result of participating in the survey by replacing climate-specific language with digestible wording and including contextual information on the purpose and benefits of engaging with the ag community.
- iii. A commenter repeated the concerns she heard from the farm working community and wanted to clarify what the goal of the surveys are.
 1. Dudek Staff responded that they want to gather information on current practices and the feasibility of implementing new practices. This baseline information can then be extrapolated to determine what strategies should be prioritized.
 2. The commenter clarified that the survey is seeking an inventory rather than the hopes/dreams/fears of the farming community regarding climate change.
- iv. A commenter asked for clarity on whether the survey is a technical GHG inventory or asking about the number of pieces of equipment.
 1. Dudek Staff shared that for the carbon sequestration element, this is not an inventory, but they do want to understand how equipment is being used to better understand what to improve.
 2. A commenter responded that there has been more success when asking facts in one survey and attitudes in another.

Public Comment: None.

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

- a. None at this time.

Public Comment: None.

11. Long Range Calendar (Attachment I)

- a. A commenter shared that it is helpful to share with the Commission what is going to be put on the agenda for future Board of Supervisors meetings.

12. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned at: 6:21 PM.