



MEETING MINUTES

Yolo County Climate Action Commission

April 24, 2024 | 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**) (*arrived at 4:16 PM*)

Adelita Serena, District 5 Appointee

Chris White, Technical Lead (*arrived at 4:10 PM*)

NJ Mvondo, Environmental Justice Lead (**CHAIR**)

Bernadette Austin, Climate Scientist/Subject Matter Expert

Pelayo Alvarez, Climate Scientist/Subject Matter Expert (*not in attendance*)

Mica Bennett – At Large

Ken Britten – At Large

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Sarah Morgan, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

Camille Kirk, UC Davis

SUPERVISORS:

Supervisor Lucas Frerichs, Yolo County Board of Supervisors, District 2 (*not in attendance*)

Supervisor Jim Provenza, Yolo County Board of Supervisors, District 4 (*represented by O. Snow*)

MEETING MINUTES

1. **Land Acknowledgement** (*read by K. Britten*)

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

Decision: Approve

Approved By / Seconded By: S. Reed / R. Datel

Ayes: S. Reed, R. Datel, M. Aulman, A. Serena, B. Austin, M. Bennett, K. Britten

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: A. Kim, C. White, P. Alvarez

3. Public Comment

- A representative of Cool Davis shared information about the Earth Day Pledge that is accepting sign ups from Yolo County residents to commit or pledge to accomplish six carbon reducing activities in six different categories. Pledges have been received from communities beyond Davis and across the County, including one being made from Puerto Rico. Cool Davis will also be highlighting the Yolo County CAAP in their upcoming newsletter. The website <https://www.cooldavis.org/earthdaypledgechallenge> has more information on the pledge including information on how to sign-up to participate.

4. Approve March 27, 2023 Commission Meeting Minutes

Decision: Approve

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

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

Noes: None

Abstain: K. Britten

Absent: A. Kim, C. White, P. Alvarez

5. Staff Announcements/Reports (Staff)

- Staff is conducting surveys with the community to determine the best path forward for the Climate Compact. There is still time to collect responses, so those interested in participating in the survey that are not already on the Compact mailing list can email sustainability@yolocounty.org.
- Staff shared that they have been engaged in legislative advocacy for virtual and hybrid accommodations for Brown Act bodies. The next hearing will take place on Wednesday, April 26th.
- A question was asked if public comment can be provided virtually for the hearing.
 - Staff responded that public comments will only be accepted in-person at 10 AM in the Capitol Building, Room 127. It was added that those

interested in receiving additional information about this hearing can reach out to kristen.wraithwall@yolocounty.org.

- In-home housing supporting services and additional County Staff will be in attendance.
- A question was asked regarding whether there are other Yolo County Commissions weighing in on this.
 - Staff responded that Yolo County In-Home Supportive Services will be attending and has submitted a support letter.
- A question was asked regarding whether there is a support list that supporters can sign.
 - Staff responded that they are not the leads for this project and will look into whether this is an option.
- A commenter shared that there is a fact sheet on the bill that can be shared with Commissioners. These fact sheets typically list supporters. The legislative search assembly.ca.gov can track Assembly Bill 817 and allow for comments to be made. It was added that there is typically a limited number of in-person testifiers allowed, so submitting online comments may better allow for input to be received.
- A question was asked regarding whether the Commission could take a vote on writing a letter of support.
 - A commenter shared that it is too late to write a letter of support for consideration for the hearing tomorrow. It was added that those interested in attending can reach out to the Board Chambers and Yolo County Sustainability for transportation support.
- A suggestion was made to Commission members to engage with community groups that they are already involved in advocacy.
- It was shared that it would be important to still write a letter of support as there are many points at which the letter could be received during the legislative process of the bill. Additional question was asked regarding whether this was a double-referred or single-referral, along with whether it will be going to appropriations committee before going to the floor.
 - Staff responded that they believe it is single referred.
- A question was asked regarding how much time is available to prepare a letter of support before the bill reaches the next stage of legislation.
 - A commenter responded that there is still time to draft a letter for future hearings and various opportunities to advocate. The schedule of deadlines is available at senate.ca.gov. It was added that there are many climate concerns that arise from this bill such as emissions from transportation.
- A motion was made to authorize staff to draft a letter of support for AB-817. ‘

Decision: Approve

Approved By / Seconded By: M. Aulman, A. Serena

Ayes: S. Reed, R. Datel, M. Aulman, A. Kim, A. Serena, C. White B. Austin, M. Bennett, K. Britten

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

Public Comment:

- A commenter expressed support for the Commission’s advocacy. It was asked to clarify who is hosting the meeting. It was also requested that information being shared with local commissions also be shared with the public. It was also suggested that virtual public participation be accepted.
 - Staff responded that it is the Local Government Committee hosting the hearing.

6. Update on In-Person Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Outreach Events (K. Wraithwall)

- Staff shared an update on the CAAP outreach process. It was shared that April and May has been a busy month of initial outreach to get the community aware of the County’s CAAP process and begin receiving feedback on the community’s comfort and familiarity with concepts related to climate change and sustainability. Outreach materials include CAAP infographics available in print and online, stickers, flyers and QR codes that direct to the County’s various online presences, and children’s activities. All materials are available in English and Spanish. The infographics share information on what a CAAP is, how carbon sequestration works, and a step-by-step guide to what the CAAP process will look like. There is also an online portal being developed that should be available starting in May.
- It was shared that these events have garnered overall positive responses from the community. There have been events so far in Knights Landing, Esparto, Winters, Davis, and Woodland. The vast majority of respondents shared that they have high or very high levels of concern regarding climate change.
- It was added that there are many more outreach events upcoming. Staff confirmed that Yolo County will have an educational booth at Whole Earth Festival in Davis.
- It was shared that there are a number of additional outreach events scheduled during the months of April and May.

- It was added that the Natural and Working Lands Technical Advisory Committee is finalizing a separate outreach process with ag-specific workshops and materials.
- A question was asked if there were any negative responses to the tabling events.
 - Staff responded that there have been participants that express disinterest and some that have criticized the work of the County. Over the past weekend there were concerns shared regarding whether the County is involving the agricultural community. It was shared that the best way to address these concerns is to educate on the work that the County and the Commission have been doing along with the future plans for the CAAP. It was added that a County map that emphasizes which areas the CAAP focuses on will be helpful.
- A commenter shared that the survey seemed short and asked what the most important piece of information from the survey is.
 - A response was made that this is just the preliminary survey.
 - Staff responded that this is not the final CAAP survey. This initial survey is to get a sense of the community's opinions to help guide what language and tone will be used in future materials for the CAAP, including a longer survey.
- A suggestion was made that the survey could allow participants to rank their concerns regarding weather events.
- A commenter shared that at these outreach events, people were most willing to engage in conversation when given the opportunity to speak to their personal lives and how they are affected or why they feel concerned about weather events. It was emphasized that the children's activities were effective at bringing families to tables. It was added that the multilingual materials were critical to engaging with the community, and that having Spanish speakers at these events is extremely helpful.
- A comment was made that the Equity & Engagement technical advisory committee now has youth members. The commenter asked for a description of coordination efforts and asked whether there is a way for the public to engage with the CAAP process after attending one of these events or filling the survey.
 - Staff responded that the end of the survey allows participants to share if and how they would like to be involved in the CAAP process with an opportunity to provide contact information. It was added that many respondents shared that they would like to receive text updates on the CAAP process.
 - It was shared that the goal of the survey was to provide an opportunity to get feedback without overwhelming people at distracting family

events. Future surveys will dive more deeply into the issues that community members are experiencing.

- A question asked whether there has been any feedback on the differences in emissions between County jurisdictions and collaboration between jurisdictions in the County. It was added that the Carbon Sequestration infographic lists the burning of fossil fuels as a natural process and a request was made to correct that.
 - Staff shared that there will be presentations made at the commissions of each relevant jurisdiction. Coordination with other jurisdictions will be an ongoing process. It was also added that some Yolo County residents may not know whether they live in the incorporated or unincorporated County. Throughout the process of filling out the CAAP there will be data requests from other jurisdictions.
- A question asked whether the carbon sequestration graphic was shared with the E&E group. It was agreed that the burning of fossil fuels should be separated from natural carbon emitting processes on the graphic.
 - Staff responded that they can communicate with Dudek's graphic designers to amend that.
- A commenter shared that someone from Health & Human Services asked for an update on the work of the Commission and how it relates to other departments in the County. Other departments have expressed interest in the CAAP process.

Public Comment:

- A question was asked when the final survey will be ready to be sent out to a larger audience.
 - Staff responded that a draft is planned to be presented to the Equity & Engagement TAC in May with a final version ideally ready by the end of that month.
 - Staff clarified that the current survey in circulation is not a draft, rather a preliminary survey.
- A comment was made that the survey implies that the Commission would consider collaborating with leaders of other jurisdictions.

7. Update from Dudek on Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Workshops and Greenhouse Gas Inventory

- Dudek Staff provided an update on the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory Dudek staff has conducted for Yolo County. It was shared that they have conducted a municipal inventory and have drafted a municipal inventory calculation worksheet and gathered fleet information. It was also shared that they have sent data requests to

Yolo utilities for a community-wide sector-based inventory. It was shared that Dudek has drafted a Yolo-specific consumption-based inventory narrative.

- A question was asked regarding the low numbers of transportation emissions considering inter-city travel, and whether there is a chance for commissioners to look into the models that have been used to create these calculations.
- A question was asked about which service sector is the highest emitting. It was also asked where agricultural production is considered on the inventory.
 - Dudek Staff responded that they will present these clarifications to the Commission at a future meeting.
- It was clarified that the consumption inventory is different from the direct emissions inventory. The consumption-based inventory entails the processes that are involved in the entire life cycle of goods and services used by households, making it difficult to compare to the previous inventory.
 - A question was asked if delivery services are included in consumption-based inventories. Dudek Staff responded yes.
 - A question was asked whether vehicles on the freeways I-80 and I-50 are included in the inventory.
 - Dudek responded that those emissions are typically not included in the inventory unless they begin or end in the County.

Public Comment:

- A question was left in the chat regarding whether there have been any conversations with Valley Clean Energy regarding an automatic opt-in program with reports of additional charges to families who don't want to be in the program.

8. Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Updates

- Equity and Engagement (E&E) (A. Serena)
 - An introduction of E&E TAC Members (*Attachment J, K*). It was shared that members were selected from the interview process that involved soliciting and advertising applications. Additional members recruited for the TAC. The TAC represents all five districts of the County. Commission representatives of the TAC include Adelita Serena, Bernadette Austin, and Suzanne Reed. It was added that there is an open door to accept further engagement if anyone is interested. Youth Commission Liaisons include Izzy Chan-De Silva and Zainab Waqar. There is a spot open for a liaison from the Aging and Adult Services Commission. Other members of the E&E TAC include Antonio De Loera-Brust and Meron Gebre. The TAC is looking to fill additional seats with Community Based Organization outreach partners.

- Natural and Working Lands (NWL) (K. Reza and H. Nichols)
 - It was shared that Yolo County Staff, the Yolo Resource Conservation District (RCD), and Commission representatives on the TAC met to determine priority categories for additional membership to ensure the TAC represents the breadth of the Yolo County Agricultural community. The group has filled its seats with representatives from conventional large-scale farming operations, small-scale farming operations, ranching operations, and a representative from an organization that directly represents and serves farmworkers. Members of the TAC from RCD include Heather Nichols and Kate Reza. Commission Representatives include Pelayo Alvarez, Mica Bennett, Andrew Truman Kim, and Sarah Morgan. Agricultural community representatives include Humberto Izquierdo, Neil Muller, Denise Sagara, Scott Stone, Adrian Solis, and Eric Willson. It was shared that the group provides hybrid meeting options that are hosted at the Center for Land-Based Learning.
 - It was shared that the last NWL TAC meeting was held at the Center for Land-Based Learning. The TAC reviewed and approved an agricultural survey with a few amendments, along with a list of carbon sequestration strategies that is in the final stages of development. The group also discussed outreach strategies, including event tabling, electronic survey distribution, presentations, and workshops.
 - It was added that the NWL TAC meetings have been very productive.
 - A comment was made that it is incredibly useful to have direct conversations with the agricultural community.
 - A question was asked whether there is outreach planned for large farming corporations and local subsidiaries of Big Ag.
 - A response was made that the soil and land-based sequestration strategies and equipment reductions strategies may differ from industrial practices.
 - Staff added that the group is thinking about how best to engage with big industries.
 - It was added that there are major farm contractors and management companies that could be considered as outreach targets as well.

Public Comment

- A commenter shared concerns about Valley Clean Energy. It was shared that their apartment uses solar energy, yet they have been involuntarily opted into Valley Clean Energy. It was added that members of their community have expressed similar

concerns regarding extra charges from Valley Clean Energy, disproportionately affecting families that are not able to take on the burden of extra energy charges.

- County Staff shared that they will follow up with this issue, and further concerns can be addressed to sustainability@yolocounty.org
- It was shared that there is a VCE advisory committee that hosts meetings open to the public. Board meetings are also open to the public. The next meeting will be held this Thursday.
- A question was asked whether it is within the scope of work of the Commission to address these concerns.
 - Staff responded that it is not within the scope of work of the Commission and that this concern will be dealt with internally with County Staff.

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

10. Long Range Calendar (*Attachment O*)

- A question was asked regarding when there will be another round of updates on the Early Action Projects.
 - Staff shared that an item on the second round of Early Action Projects in September is likely to get pushed to before the next budget cycle in the next coming months. It was added that updates on the current round of actions can be provided as part of the Staff Updates.

11. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at: 6:37 PM