



MEETING MINUTES

Yolo County Climate Action Commission

May 22, 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 (*arrived at 4:25*)
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
Supervisor Jim Provenza, Yolo County Board of Supervisors, District 4

MEETING MINUTES

1. **Land Acknowledgement** (*read by R. Datel*)

2. **Approval of the Agenda**

Decision: Approve

Approved By / Seconded By: S. Reed, K. Britten

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: P. Alvarez

3. Public Comment

- A commenter encouraged the Commission to continue looking for grants and funding to keep climate action in momentum.

4. Approve April 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Decision: Approval with amendment to the attendance list.

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

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

Noes: None

Abstain: P. Alvarez

Absent: None

Additional Comments/Action Items:

- Staff will correct a Commission Member's attendance on last month's minutes from "absent" to "late arrival".

5. Staff Announcements/Reports (Staff)

- Staff shared that the last meeting involved a robust discussion on AB-117. The hearing on this legislation was pushed out by a year.
 - It was stated that the bill was delayed and will not be moved forward until January at the absolute earliest.
- Staff shared that the County has opened the application process for Community-Based Organization (CBO's) Partnerships as an extension of the County's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Outreach efforts.
 - A question was asked if there have been any applications already submitted, and whether CBO's must be based in Yolo County.
 - Staff responded that it is important for the CBO's to be deeply engaged with Yolo County, ideally with ties to the unincorporated parts of the County.
 - A question was asked whether the selection process is strictly dependent on organizations' numerical score as determined by the scoring criteria.
 - It was asked whether churches are eligible.
 - Staff responded yes.
- Staff shared that the County is recruiting two CivicSpark fellows for the 2023-2024 service year.
- Staff shared that the YoloCAAP.org portal is now live.
 - A comment was made that the coloration on Item #3 of the timeline made it seem as if that is where the County is on the process.
 - A suggestion was made to strengthen the language surrounding Yolo County coordinating with cities on the FAQ page regarding why Yolo County is developing a CAAP.

- It was asked whether the link is live and ready to be shared.

Public Comment:

- A comment was made regarding on the possibility of the Board of Supervisors using remaining American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds for projects that have already been approved by the Commission, particularly the decarbonization of County buildings since the implementation of that can take time.
 - Staff responded that those funds are being held for potential match fund needs until the status of the ARP fund timeline is confirmed.
- A comment was made that there is a CDFA Healthy Soils Pilot Program Grant with an application deadline of June 19th that Yolo County may be eligible for.
 - Staff responded that the Sustainability Division has not applied for this grant.
 - A question was asked regarding whether the grant includes technical assistance.
 - A suggestion was made to be conservative with spending funds.
 - Staff concluded that the Commission is in favor of spending the funds unless they are at risk of being pulled out. It was added that if flexibility is maintained then spending will remain conservative.
- A commenter asked whether there are any updates on the Climate Compact.
 - Staff responded that they are discussing the future vision of the Climate Compact internally and will follow-up in the coming months.

6. Update on Technical Advisory Committees (TACs)

- Equity & Engagement (E&E) TAC Update (*B. Austin*):
 - It was shared that the E&E TAC has finalized the agenda for the first CAAP Workshop being held on June 20th, 2023.
 - A question was asked whether TAC meetings are open to the public and when they take place.
 - Staff responded that the E&E TAC meet every third Wednesday of the month from 4:30 PM - 6 PM.
- Natural and Working Lands (NWL) TAC Update (*K. Reza, H. Nichols*):
 - It was shared that April & May are busy months for farmers and growers, so the May NWL meeting was cancelled. It was added that the sequestration strategies survey is near completion in both its online and paper formats.
 - It was added that anyone interested in supporting outreach to farmers in the county should reach out.

7. Review and Provide Feedback on First In-Person Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Workshop Agenda | Tuesday, June 20th from 6:00 – 8:00 PM (Attachments G, H)

- Staff shared that the first in-person workshop will be primarily focused on getting the word out about the CAAP, explaining what it is, and getting preliminary feedback. The County is looking for volunteers to answer questions

and MC the workshop. The second round of workshops will be a deeper dive on strategies along with conversations with priority populations of the County. The third and final round of workshops will focus on receiving and providing feedback on the CAAP draft. It was asked of the Commission to review whether the focus areas and table discussions for the first workshop feel relevant, useful and efficient.

- A comment was made that the language used regarding the County goals could be stronger to express to County residents more clearly how the County is to achieving a net-negative.
 - Staff responded that the second round of workshops will focus on prioritization and will allow for a deeper-dive on these subjects.
 - Staff added that the goal of community resilience is phrased to make the plan tangible for community members.
- A commenter agreed that the time constraints might not allow for enough time during breakout sessions. It was added that there could be agendas for each breakout session to help the facilitator.
 - Staff responded that there will be facilitator's guides for the entire workshop agenda along with each of the breakout sessions.
- A comment was made that facilitating carpooling or even a bus could better ensure residents from unincorporated parts of the county can get there.
 - Staff responded that there is an RSVP function on the CAAP portal, and Staff will discuss capacity for organizing a carpool system.
- It was asked what the location will be and how multilingual breakout sessions will work.
 - Staff responded that it would take place at the Woodland Community Center with four rooms booked. There will also be activities for children.
- Staff added that there will be physical posters, social media posts, newsletter stories, and possibly radio ads to blast out information on the workshop.

Public Comment:

- A comment was made that two hours is a long time for many members of the public to pull from their week.
 - A response was made that participants should fill out the survey at the beginning of the workshop just in case participants have to leave early.
 - It was asked whether the geographic scope of the first round of workshops could be expanded.
 - Staff responded that there is a possibility of offering a fully virtual workshop during the first round of workshops. It was asked what the physical capacity is for the in-person workshop.
 - Staff shared that there is capacity for over 100 participants.
 - It was asked what next steps are.

- Staff responded that they will meet this week internally and with the Dudek Team to discuss these points and the possibility of a virtual workshop.

8. Review and Provide Input on Expanded Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Survey

- Staff shared that there is a new 20+ question survey that expands on the preliminary survey that was developed. There were over 170 physical responses to the preliminary survey which led to guidance on how to shift language and focuses. Understanding the opinions of the community and who has responsibility to act, understanding lived experience, and actions that community members are willing to take all inform future policy recommendations and feed into the County's next round of outreach and funding decisions. It was suggested for Dudek to look into how best to receive a random sampling pool.
 - Staff responded that since the survey is not required, there is likely going to be a bias from the survey pool. It was added that Staff will discuss with Dudek on how to achieve a more random selection of respondents.
- A comment was made that a six-page survey is not accessible and suggested narrowing the survey down to one page.
 - Staff responded that the second round of workshops would be to prioritize strategies, which would be informed by a baseline understanding of what strategies are prioritized by the community. It was added that the purpose of this survey is to gauge what the opinions of the community are before conducting outreach and engaging with the community in a workshop setting.
- A question was asked regarding whether there could be consultation with the outreach partner groups before the survey goes live.
- It was added that the Natural and Working Lands Technical Advisory Committee is also developing a survey with focus on producers in the county. It was asked whether these two surveys are complementary, or redundant together.
 - Staff responded that the Ag-Specific strategies are not included in this survey since it is a targeted conversation with county growers. It was added that this survey could include a reference to the Ag survey while this survey can refer to other elements of living operations.
- Staff asked what information would be most helpful or persuasive for County officials to push forward climate legislation.
 - A commenter responded that the survey could be shortened but does not need to be mostly deleted.

Public Comment:

- A comment was made that the length of the survey should be shortened, though the survey should remain an outreach tool to reach more members of the community than workshops would be able to do alone. It was added that there

are concerns about the ability for survey participants to answer questions anonymously.

- Staff responded that there will be no requirement to provide contact information.
- A comment was made that surveys are useful for documenting where the community is, though there will be a bias to those who fill out the survey. It was suggested to think of other strategies for engaging with rural communities.

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

- It was shared the Davis Girl Scouts' Club invited NJ Mvondo to speak on Yolo County's CAAP. Youth asked what local governments are doing for climate change, where emissions are coming from, what young people can do to help the CAAP process and reduce carbon emissions.
- It was asked whether there are any updates on the Valley Clean Energy concerns that were brought up at the April Commission Meeting.
 - Staff responded that Valley Clean Energy cost concerns are out of the scope of this Commission and Staff followed up internally to address this issue with the Valley Clean Energy dysgg.

10. Long Range Calendar

- No comments at this time.

11. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at: 6:30 PM.
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