



MEETING MINUTES
Yolo County Climate Action Commission
July 24th, 2023 | 4:00 PM – 6:30 PM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CHAMBERS
625 COURT STREET, ROOM 206
WOODLAND, CA 95695

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**) *(not in attendance)*
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 *(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 *(not in attendance, represented by Kathleen Moreno and Oliver Snow)*

MEETING MINUTES

- 1. Land Acknowledgement** *(Attachment A) (S. Reed)*
- 2. Approval of the Agenda**

Decision: Approve

Approved By / Seconded By: K. Britten / A. Serena

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: A. Kim, P. Alvarez

3. Public Comment

- Staff read aloud a public comment expressing hopes that wide participation in the new extended CAAP survey will lead to benefits for the community, particularly farmworkers and those most affected by climate change impacts. The commenter recommended watching the July 11th Board of Supervisors testimony and to consider bringing forward issues involving commercial wells to the Board. The commenter advocated for climate-focused local nonprofits to push the Biden administration to declare climate change an emergency.

4. Approve May 22, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Decision: Approve

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

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: A. Kim, P. Alvarez

Additional Comments/Action Items:

- No public comment at this time.

5. Staff Announcements/Reports (Staff)

- Staff provided a summary from the first round of Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Workshops
- Staff shared that the sign-up list for summer tabling events is available and Staff are accepting suggestions for more events to add to our outreach list.
- Staff provided an update on the Agricultural Equipment Replacement (AER) Program Timeline (*G. James*) (*Attachment D*)
 - It was shared that the AER program is expected to launch in the fall as well as outreach to share information about the project. The application will open in November and close in February 2024. Additionally, there will be technical assistance provided to applicants.
- Staff shared the Summer Tabling and Event Schedule (*J. Olsen*) (*Attachment E*)
 - Staff shared that suggestions for additional workshops should be emailed to sustainability@yolocounty.org.

- A question was asked what content will be available by the time of the October Workshops, such as survey results and draft measures under consideration of being included in the CAAP.
 - Staff responded that the extended CAAP survey will be open through September of 2023, allowing time for responses to be analyzed and used to inform the workshops and help drive targeted discussions on sections of the CAAP.
 - Staff added that there is a separate outreach channel to organize a series of Ag Roundtable Discussions to take place in November.
- A question was asked when community profiles are expected to be available in draft form, and whether the communities profiled will have an opportunity to review.
 - Staff responded that this could be incorporated into the next round of community roundtables and will be discussed when planning the agendas.
- A question was asked if outreach events will be held throughout the entire survey response collection period.
 - Staff shared that they currently have scheduled events through August. It was added that Staff are looking into scheduling more events in September to fill the entire period of survey response collection.
- A comment was made that the outreach events schedule is extremely full and not as geographically widespread as it could be.
- A question was asked if the survey end date could be pushed out to allow for survey collection at Festival de la Comunidad, which takes place on the last week of September.
 - Staff responded that this is a possibility they will look into.
- A comment was left in the chat that suggested collaborating with Latino Outdoors Events.
- It was shared that there is a Yolo Resilience Summit on September 19th.
- Staff shared that they have hired two CivicSpark Fellows for the 2023-24 Service Year!
- Staff provided an update on the Community Based Organization (CBO) Partner Selection Process. Staff shared that interviews for new CBO partners will be taking place over the next two weeks. Selection should be finalized by mid-August.
- Staff shared that there will be a discussion on allocations of the last pool of ARP funding on Tuesday, July 25th in the Board Chambers Room.

6. Update on Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) (10 minutes)

- Equity and Engagement (E&E) TAC Update (*A. Serena*)

- It was shared that the Equity & Engagement TAC held a meeting to discuss outreach strategies and sharing takeaways from the first series of CAAP workshops.
- It was added that the overall goal is to encourage ongoing engagement, particularly from those that typically face barriers to participation.
- Natural and Working Lands (NWL) TAC Update (*K. Reza, H. Nichols*)
 - It was shared that the Natural and Working Lands Technical Advisory Committee did not meet in July to make space for the Working Lands survey launch. At the last TAC meeting the group reviewed interview questions for one-on-one interviews with County growers. It was added that the original deadline for the Working Lands survey is being extended to better cooperate with the busy summer growing season. It was added that one-on-one grower interviews are underway.
 - A question was asked regarding what the current approach is with Natural Lands, such as federal lands in reserves within the County.
 - It was shared that focus has so far been centered around the Working Lands of the County, and that Natural Lands strategies have not yet been developed.
 - A comment was made that the net-negative goal requires more than sequestration strategies. It was suggested to include more language around ecosystem restoration and nature-based solutions for carbon removal in outreach efforts.
 - It was asked which TAC would be best to host these discussions with farmworkers.
 - Staff responded that one of the E&E TAC is in a role that supports and advocates for farmworkers. It was added that the E&E TAC has discussed the possibility of Hazard Pay as an option when farmworkers are working in extreme conditions. It was added that the TAC groups could collaborate to discuss solutions to farmworker marginalization.
 - A comment was made that the workshop summary noted that Yocha Dehe Tribe has asked for more involvement in the CAAP process.
 - Staff responded that one of the NWL TAC members is staff with Yocha Dehe. It was added that coordination with the E&E TAC on overlapping topics would be an effective strategy to ensure gaps are filled in future outreach efforts and strategizing.
 - A comment was made that the Tribe is actively participating in the Natural and Working Lands TAC, emphasizing that these partnerships are important to making sure climate impacts felt by the Tribe and rural parts of the County are addressed in the CAAP.

7. Receive Update on Launch of Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Surveys (K. Wraithwall, H. Nichols, K. Reza) (Attachments F, G, H, I) (30 minutes)

- Natural and Working Lands Outreach Survey (*Attachments F, G, H*)
 - An update was provided on outreach efforts for the Working Lands CAAP Survey. It was shared that the online survey has been launched on the County's website, along with an active social media push. It was added that RCD is reaching out to local farming organizations to spread this survey via their network channels. It was added that the priority of this survey is to gain an understanding of what emissions reduction and sequestration strategies are currently in place within the County, along with what strategies are feasible, and what barriers exist that are preventing the implementation of more strategies.
- Extended CAAP Survey (*Attachment I*)
 - Staff shared that the English and Spanish versions of the Extended CAAP Survey are available

Public Comment:

- A question asked if Tier 4 tractor replacements are going to be as efficient as switching to fully-electric vehicles.
 - Staff responded that Tier 4 tractors are tractors with efficient engines. It was added that current electric tractor models are not viable for farming operations.
 - It was added that Tier 4 engines primarily focus on reducing diesel particulate matter, reducing air pollutants. It was added that fully electric replacements are currently focusing on on-road vehicles.

8. Receive Update on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory Methodology (M. Hendrix) (Attachment J) (30 minutes)

- An update was provided on the GHG Inventory methodology. It was shared that there are three inventories being done for Yolo County as part of the CAAP, including a municipal inventory, a community-wide inventory, and a consumption-based inventory.
- A comment was made that the technical report does not cite the origin of data used. It was asked how raw data points used for calculations are gathered.
 - A response was made that data collection takes up about 80% of the inventory's work. Data has been collected from water districts, utilities, solid waste intake, vehicle miles traveled within the County, and more.
- A question was asked how estimates on emissions from off-road equipment use is calculated.
 - A response was made that data is gathered on how many pieces of equipment are in use in the county and how often they are used.
 - Staff added that the Working Lands survey includes a question about what equipment use levels exist in the County, although this is a difficult

point to gather data on and many of the results will have to result to estimates.

- A question was asked for more information on how methane is being handled and the degree to which in Yolo County we could identify the sources of methane emissions and ways to reduce them.
 - A response was made that methane emissions from solid waste are tracked through decomposition at the Landfill. It was added that tracking other sources of methane, such as rice cultivation, riparian habitat decay, and other natural (biogenic) sources of methane emissions is an evolving science.
 - A question was asked whether this would be included in the inventory.
 - It was shared they are trying to get as accurate of a picture as possible of methane emissions given the state of the evolving science.
- A question was asked regarding whether data on gravel-mining trucks within the County could be shared.
 - It was shared that the ultimate solution to emissions from carbon-based fuel emissions is electrification
 - A question was asked about what collaboration would be needed to deal with the impact of that. The efficiency of the Landfill and whether there are available credits for emissions reductions was also asked about.
- A comment was made on the rice production system and that the methane produced from that can be pipelined into the Landfill.
 - A response was made that one of the issues with hydrogen is getting fuel positions right, but with gravel mining trucks could be efficient.
- A question was asked if there is a way to point to the geographic origin when inventories are done. This was asked because there have been questions about emissions related to specific locations, such as I-80, and if there is a way to track emissions to highway-based locations.
 - It was shared that yes, it is possible to look at vehicle miles traveled (VMT) within the County. The only data that can't be tracked is passing-through traffic through Yolo County, but they can estimate emissions when there is a start and end point for VMT, which will help give an estimate of where to build charging stations.

Public Comment:

- A question was asked if the inventory that is currently being done will include data for the year 2023. This was asked due to an interest in the GHG emissions reductions from electricity since the County's increase of electric accounts that were not 100% renewable in 2022. An assumption was shared that in 2023, all accounts would be 100%

renewable. It was shared that at VCE's Board meeting last week, their new goal transitioned from 80% renewable to 100% by 2030.

- It was shared that a municipal inventory for 2023 cannot be done as we are in the middle of 2023, so the data needs to be available well before the end of 2023 which is not possible given the timeline of the planning process. The hope is to have a comprehensive inventory for 2022 and to not go prior to that as it teeters into the slowed pandemic economy.

9. Action: Consider Support for Governor's Office of Planning and Research Regional Resilience Grant Application (K. Wraithwall) (Attachment K) (15 minutes)

- Staff provided an update that they are in the process of applying to the Governor's Office of Planning and Research Regional Resilience Grant Application.
- It was shared that the grant program seeks to support and promote regional collaboration and there is a high interest among neighboring agencies for this type of work. This grant application hopes to seize this funding opportunity from OPR to get us to a point where we have a successful, funded collaborative structure.
- It was asked how much money the grant is proposing.
 - Staff responded that the award amount is around \$350k.

Decision: 1. Approve support of the application.

Approved By / Seconded By: K. Britten / M. Aulman

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: A. Kim, P. Alvarez

Decision: 2. Approve the Chair and Co-Chair providing letters of support

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

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

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: A. Kim, P. Alvarez

Additional Comments/Action Items:

- A commenter noted the request to support the allocation of groundwater or a temporary moratorium and asked if this is a possible future agenda item.

- Staff said that this can be added to a future meeting or held as a conversation with the Board.
- A representative of the Board shared that this item is not on the Board agenda for tomorrow.

Public Comment:

- It was noted that there is no funding plan to electrify homes and the County should start on that process soon and encouraged a discussion on that as it fits in with the overall allocation of money from ARP funds.

10. Commission Member Reports, Comments, Future Agenda Items

- It was shared that ex-officio commission member Camille Kirk will be moving to southern California to take on her new role as Sustainability Director at the Getty Center.
 - It was shared that there will be an interim director in her place until a full-time replacement is found.
 - Staff shared gratitude for Camille’s leadership in regional coordination.
 - C. Kirk shared the following links: [Farewell and Appreciation for Camille Kirk | Campus Planning and Environmental Stewardship \(ucdavis.edu\)](#) and [Camille Kirk | LinkedIn](#)

11. Commission Correspondence (*Attachment L*)

12. Long Range Calendar (*Attachment M*)

13. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at: 6:30 PM
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