



MEETING MINUTES

Yolo County Climate Action Commission September 25, 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**) (*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
Mica Bennett – At Large
Ken Britten – At Large

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Sarah Morgan, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
Carla Fresquez, 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** (*Attachment A*) (*M. Aulman*)
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, M. Bennett, K. Britten

Noes: None

Abstain: P. Alvarez

Absent: A. Kim

3. Public Comment

- No public comment.

4. Approve July 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes (Attachment B)

Decision: Approval with correction made to a typo in the goals of Valley Clean Energy.

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

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

Noes: None

Abstain: P. Alvarez

Absent: A. Kim

5. Staff Announcements/Reports (Staff)

- The new UC Davis Ex-Officio member, Carla Fresquez, was introduced to the Commission.
- The new Yolo County CivicSpark Fellows, Tess Vaccaro and Yuridiana Pantoja, were introduced to the Commission. It was added that they will be supporting the County's Early Action Projects and CAAP related outreach efforts.
- It was shared that the CAAP survey deadline has been extended to September 30.
- Staff shared that the Board of Supervisors allocated \$300,000 of ARP funding to conduct the County's Inventory and Feasibility Study.
- Staff updated that the County was awarded nearly \$300,000 from the CalTrans Sustainable Communities Grant to do a county-wide Zero Emission Vehicle Action Plan in partnership with Yocha Dehe, UC Davis, the cities, and Yolo Transportation District.

Public Comments: No public comment.

6. Update on Technical Advisory Committees (TACs)

- A. Serena reported updates from the E&E TAC to the Commission and members of the public.
- K. Reza reported updates from the NWL TAC to the Commission and members of the public.
 - A question was asked regarding how each of the TACs are feeling in terms of timeline and progress so far and if there are resources they need to further their progress.
 - A response was made that the biggest constraint faced by the NWL TAC is the amount of time agricultural producers have to respond to the CAAP survey or be interviewed.

- A response was made that the E&E TAC would like to better engage the farmworker community with the CAAP process.
 - A question was asked about attendance levels at the farmworker event last weekend.
 - A response was made that the event was well attended and that participants expressed interest in the Natural and Working Lands component of the CAAP with inquiries on how to remain involved.

Public Comment: No public comment.

7. Introduction of First Four CAAP Community Outreach Partners (Attachment C) (A. Serena)

- The Center for Land Based Learning, Cool Davis, the Davis Odd Fellows, and the Yolo Food Bank were introduced as the four new community outreach partners selected to support CAAP outreach and engagement.
- Staff shared that the County is still recruiting one more available spot for a community-based organization to be a paid community outreach partner.

Public Comment:

- A representative from Three Sister’s Garden’s commented that they are interested in becoming a community outreach partner and they plan on applying if the deadline has not passed.
- A representative of the Yolo County Climate Emergency Coalition and Fridays for Future asked the commission to consider how partnerships with the new community outreach partners will complement outreach efforts.
 - Staff responded that community outreach partners will utilize their networks to push the County’s outreach efforts.

8. Discussion on Yolo County Food System and Connection to Consumption-Based Inventory (Attachments D, E, F)

- Michael Hendrix presented on the overview of the food system connection to the consumption-based inventory in developing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions strategies for the CAAP.
 - A question was asked about how direct emissions from livestock and methane produced in feed lots and waste pools are calculated.
 - A response was made that this is considered in the birthing and raising of livestock.
 - A question was asked about where methane emissions from rice pools are calculated.
 - A response was made that these emissions are included in the grain category.
 - A question was asked if the sources used to compile the consumption inventory are Yolo County specific or globally based.

- A response was made that most of the data is Yolo County specific, though data on fuels and electricity used California averages based on data derived from Berkeley using the methodology of San Francisco for compiling a consumption inventory.
- Marissa Juhler, Director of Integrated Waste Management, gave a presentation regarding SB 1383 and its related programs at the Yolo County Landfill.
- Grace Kaufman, Project Lead at Valley Vision, gave a presentation on the work at the Yolo Food Hub and the mission and vision of the Food Hub's contributions to sustainability initiatives within the County.

Additional Comments/Action Items:

- A question was asked if outreach materials on SB 1383 are available in multiple languages.
 - A response was made that all materials are provided in English and Spanish.
- A question was asked if this program would come at a cost to renters.
 - A response was made that apartment buildings who opt into the program will receive a waste audit to assess the building's capacity for waste management and what costs would be involved.
- A question was asked about what fraction of compost produced at the landfill replaces nitrogen commercial fertilizers.
 - A response was made that annually they produce 50,000 to 60,000 tons of compost which predominantly all goes back to Yolo County agriculture.
- A comment from Alfred Melbourne was left in the chat, "Our farms get all free compost from city of west Sacramento. Saving us thousands of bucks."
- A question was asked about how much of that product goes to organic local farming operations.
 - A response was made that the Yolo Food Hub Network does not have organic certification.
- A question was asked about whether the practices implemented here in Yolo County are replicable for other jurisdictions in the State.
 - A response was made that there is a need to better consider the distribution needs of unincorporated rural communities, and whether emissions from transportation could be lowered by amending State law to allow for rural communities to have different distribution regulations.
- A question was asked to what extent climate benefits that will result from this project have been researched and how they will be measured.
 - A response was made that this is out of the expertise of Valley Vision, though the support from other programs and entities with expertise in engineering and design could provide this research and data.

- A question was asked if there is a maintenance plan in place, and whether it includes leadership training to ensure the facility can continue functioning over the years.
 - A response was made that Valley Vision works with the CERF program and community economic resilience fund looks at initiatives and future career fields that would support this work, along with potential inhibitors that could impact the maintenance of the facility.
- A comment was left in the chat and read aloud, “The people and programs presented today are inspiring as we accelerate the change away from a fossil fuel economy to a renewable/resilient society - I have to go at 6:00 - my appreciation to the Council and Staff. Because of the collective work in Yolo, we are on the path to practice and become a best practice center on the incentives and disincentives that will instruct all of our business and public sectors - regardless of current inclinations to be proactive about climate change.”
- A question was asked about whether there is any engagement or work done with the unhoused community of Yolo County to distribute food or educate those groups.
 - A response was made that the Big Blue Barn partners with groups who distribute repurposed bikes to unhoused people in the county.
- A question was asked whether there is an existing program to collect food left on farming operations after farmers leave.
 - A response was made that this program does not yet exist though there is potential to develop this in the future.
- A comment was made that Russian language materials would be beneficial to enhance outreach efforts in West Sacramento.
 - A response was made that there are Russian language materials distributed in West Sacramento.
- A question was asked about whether there will be a battery on site to store solar energy, and if so whether the location could serve as a community resilience center in the face of power outages.
 - A response was made that there is a battery on site, though it currently only has capacity to store 75% of energy generated due to the existing facility being outdated.
- A motion was made to extend the meeting time.

Decision: Extend the meeting until 7:00 PM and approval with agreement to delay approval of the strategies framework until October.

Approved By / Seconded By: NJ Mvondo / S. Reed

Ayes: S. Reed, R. Datel, M. Aulman, A. Serena, P. Alvarez, M. Bennett, K. Britten

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: A. Kim

Public Comment:

- A question was asked whether carbon emissions from water usage in beef production systems will be highlighted in the food component of the consumption-based inventory. It was also asked whether the Yolo Food Hub Facility functions will be entirely electric.
 - A response was made that there is not capacity to go into the specifics of each food type in the inventory.
 - A response was made that the current design plan is to have all functions run on electricity, though there may be a need to resort to natural gas if battery storage does not allow for facility functions to continue in the face of an outage.
- A question was asked whether there are price differences for the different waste categories.
 - A response was made that collection from smaller waste bins cost less than larger waste bins.
- A comment was made that Three Sisters Gardens receive organic waste which has saved the organization thousands of dollars and supports the local group. It was also asked what could be shared with individuals to ensure that they are doing the best they can to reduce carbon emissions, though it was added that significant changes from government leaders are needed to properly address the climate crisis.

9. Review Framework for Emission Reduction and Adaptation Strategies (Attachments G, H) (S. Halterman, Dudek)

- S. Halterman, Dudek, provided an overview of how the CAAP will be structured and the process for developing strategies was provided.

Additional Comments/Action Items:

- A question was asked about what the process will be for determining which criteria will be prioritized.
 - A response was made that actions will be prioritized based on feasibility, which is determined by available funding, existing technology, and emissions reductions potential.
- A question was asked to clarify the distinction between encouraging sustainable agriculture being a separate strategy from other natural and working lands strategies.
 - A response was made that the strategies listed serve as broad categorizations of the specific measures and actions that will be implemented. It was added that the sustainable agriculture strategy will focus on strategies that farmers will implement on their operations through changes in farming practices, while strategies involving

retrofitted or updated equipment to capture and store carbon would fall under carbon sequestration.

- A question was asked about what decision making was put into the phrasing of “sustainable agriculture”, and whether climate-smart agriculture or regenerative agriculture have been considered.

Public Comment:

- A question was asked about when the Board of Supervisors will be updated on the CAAP process, and whether they will be updated throughout the process.
 - It was shared that there is a plan to tentatively attend the November 7th Board meeting.

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

- Staff shared that events Commission Members wish to be featured in the Newsletter should be submitted to the Sustainability Team by the second Friday of the month.
- A comment was made that the Yolo County water system should be included as an item for discussion at a future Commission meeting.

11. Long Range Calendar (*Attachment I*)

- Presentation on Timeline Moving Forward (*Attachment J*).

12. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at: 7:17 PM.