

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

**Tuesday, March 22, 2022
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Remote Meeting via Zoom**

APPROVED MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Vice-Chair MacGregor at 5:05 PM.

2. Attendance

Councilmembers:

Kris Olsson	Absent	-
Gay MacGregor	Present	Denver, Colorado
Michelle Deatrick	Present	Superior Township
Anne Brown	Present	Scio Township
Jason Morgan	Absent	-
Sue Shink	Absent	-
Lisa Wozniak	Absent	-
Tim Redmond	Present	Scio Township (Joined at 5:12 PM)
Andrew Comai	Present	Detroit
Theresa Tupacz	Present	Sanibel, Florida
Hallie Fox	Absent	-

Staff Present: April Avigne, Jason Fee, Andrew DeLeeuw

Others Present: Iain Robinson, Matt Naud

3. Approval of the Agenda

Councilmember Tupacz requested that her SEMCOG/ EGLE EV Planning Resources report be moved to the April agenda. This amendment was accepted by the Vice-Chair.

**Approval of the Agenda as amended was moved by Brown and seconded by Deatrick.
Approved unanimously by roll call vote.**

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. February 22, 2022

Approval of the February 22, 2022 minutes was moved by Brown and seconded by Deatrick. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

5. Citizen Participation:

Iain Robinson, Ann Arbor resident and President of the Huron Valley Labor Federation addressed the council. He indicated that they had formed a Just Transition committee, and that they wanted to ensure that climate action plans in development included a just transition framework which would protect workers who may lose their jobs from the energy transition, and that their neighborhoods are protected, and that new jobs doing this work are ideally union jobs, or union scale jobs at minimum. He added that a just transition framework is consistent with principles of equity and efficiency which fully incorporates the price and cost of systems and who those systems impact.

6. Council Responses to Citizen Participation

Councilmember Deatrick thanked Mr. Robinson for bringing these comments to the Council.

Councilmember Comai indicated that he appreciated Mr. Robinson's attendance and interest in this meeting.

7. Special Presentations

None.

8. Regular Business

a. Climate Action Plan – Project Update

Matt Naud provided an update on the climate action plan. He discussed current work to develop plan structure and format with a goal of making it easy and clear to readers the impact and responsibilities for plan components. He provided an update on the status of the GHG inventory, including challenges with getting municipal level data from utilities, and that it would be June before the inventory is expected. He shared information on visualization tools currently being considered. He discussed the process being developed for scoring various activities within the plan, and that this group would see examples and provide feedback.

Councilmember Deatrick asked about how detailed the plan will be getting regarding specific locations, particularly around the equity and just transition components. Mr. Maud indicated that it would likely depend based on action and how much that information is needed for specific items.

Mr. Naud provided information about the development of the vulnerability assessment and using the County's opportunity index and other existent tools as a good starting point for that work. He provided an update on outreach and engagement in that general public outreach will continue with youth, the eastern county, and southwestern county, given the lower response rate from those areas. He reported that yard signs are coming and will be posted at libraries and county sites. He provided an update on planned employee engagement, and an overview of the project calendar through the end of the planning period, including how actions will be developed, and future public engagement.

9. New Business

a. Climate Action Plan – Draft Themes Discussion

Mr. Naud then presented the very draft strategies, and indicated that these were still in development and should be expected to change. These strategies were health, community partnerships, infrastructure, circular economy, energy transition, mobility access, heat islands and tree canopy, working farms and natural areas, and watersheds.

Vice-Chair MacGregor asked if it would be helpful to identify the cross-cutting themes in a different manner. Mr. Naud indicated yes, and the framework is developing.

Councilmember Deatrick asked for clarification about the difference with strategies and cross cutting themes and referenced how health appeared in both but that equity and just transition were listed as themes but not strategies. Councilmember Brown and Vice-Chair MacGregor indicated that they had the same question. Mr. Naud indicated that these types of questions were things for the council and staff to discuss and work through, and that we should expect the framework to develop as there are discussions with this group and others on the plan and its contents. Andrew DeLeeuw added that Health had been included in the draft list discussed today due to specific activities expected in the plan which would address health and the carbon goal, such as reducing air pollution levels. Councilmember Deatrick suggested that it would be helpful to have a visualization of these items, and that they would expect that there would be more intersectionality between these concepts.

Councilmember Brown added that she thought that equity should be a stand alone strategy, given the history of the eastern county, and this was supported by Councilmember Deatrick. Mr. Naud said that it would be helpful to have specific

language shared on these points, and that we will continue to develop and discuss the framework.

Mr. Naud shared the working definitions and provided a brief discussion of each of the draft strategies.

Councilmember Redmond indicated that it was important to pay attention to agriculture, and that it would be necessary to work with private landowners to do that work. Mr. DeLeeuw referenced the working farms and natural area, and that there were outreach efforts underway to work with farmers, and that there was consideration of a USDA grant opportunity to support climate smart practices, and the possibility of a local offset program. Mr. Naud asked for feedback and improvements on the draft language, and that there would be lots to think through. Councilmember Deatruck indicated that it was important to ensure that offsets were done in a rigorous manner and which did not allow for continued pollution in environmental justice communities, and that she wished to be a part of land use discussions, and was appreciative of the work done thus far and the pace of progress.

- b. Setting the Next Meeting – proposed for Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 5 PM through Zoom

A motion setting the next meeting of the Washtenaw County Environmental Council for Tuesday, April 26, 2022 was moved by Redmond and seconded by Brown. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

10. Communications and Reports

A. Councilmembers

None.

B. Staff

- a. Member appointments and reappointments, upcoming organizational tasks

Mr. DeLeeuw indicated that the Board of Commissioners was expecting to make reappointments at their next meeting on April 6, 2022. And that following reappointments at a future meeting the Environmental Council there would be adoption of the full calendar and election of officers.

C. Committees

None.

11. Tasks:

None.

12. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was moved by Brown and seconded by Comai. Approved unanimously by roll call vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:05 PM.

Approved by the Environmental Council on April 26, 2022

Minutes prepared by Andrew DeLeeuw,

Staff to the Environmental Council