

Climate Impact Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: December 6th, 2018

Location: RE Store, 2309 Meridian St, Bellingham



Members in Attendance: *William (Casey) Harman, David Kershner, Seth Fleetwood, Treva Coe, Tim Miller, Ellyn Murphy, John Yakawich, Gabriel Westergreen*

Staff Support: *Chris Elder*

Guests: Kathy Sabel, Clare Fogelsong, Allie Jensen, Betsy Gross (Sierra Club)

Meeting Began at 5:35 PM

Agenda Item 2: Previous Meeting Minutes

- Date was corrected. Motion was made to approve the previous months minutes. No discussion, motion carried unanimously.
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Agenda Item 3: Guest comments were welcomed. No Comments

Update from Seth Fleetwood, Chair:

The ASR to request for money next year to work on the climate plan was approved by the council - \$50,000 was allocated for 2019.

Introductions

Ellyn Murphy, the newest committee member, introduced herself to the committee.

Agenda Item 4:

Seth and Chris would like to start creating a scope of work to move forward. Seth recommended a sub-committee to create the scope of work. Alex mentioned that a staff person at the county would be better than a consultant because of the continuity year to year would ensure that the work would have the emphasis needed. He mentioned he would like to see carbon reductions implemented in 2019. Further discussion ensued around whether the county would possibly be able to add a shared part time staff member. A possibility of an intern was brought up and discussed.

City of Bellingham (Clare) provided input on hiring a consultant – his experience was that a consultant was very helpful as they developed the city's Climate Action Plan Update. The initial consultant packaged the plan for Bellingham. Currently they have a consultant to facilitate the climate task force.

Gabriel Westergreen, Alex Ramel, John Yakawich and Seth Fleetwood and Ellyn Murphy volunteered to be a small committee to develop a plan to effectively use the allocated \$50,000 recently approved by the county council. The subcommittee will meet December 17th at 8 AM.

Agenda item #5:

Alex presented a proposal to draft a recommendation to the county council to add details to the existing green-house gas analysis requirement of SEPA. Alex discussed the background of the plan. Questions and discussion ensued. Discussion was tabled, will be on the January meeting agenda.

Agenda item 6:

Treva Coe requested that the committee create some sort of work plan to figure out how to make progress in 2019. It was decided to have a small group of committee members meet for a small group discussion in the next couple of weeks. Time and date to be identified and provided by Seth.

Agenda item 7:

Chris updated the committee on an opportunity to collaborate on developing a new protocol to include forests and trees in Greenhouse Gas inventories. An incentive is that Whatcom County will receive a comprehensive forest GHG inventory at no cost. There was discussion with Clare for City of Bellingham to determine whether the city trees would be included. An introductory meeting with the Forests GHG Inventory project team is scheduled for January 17th at 9am. Chris will send out details to committee members.

Agenda Item 8:

Old and new business: No discussion.

Agenda Item 9:

Next meeting location to be determined, will likely be the RE Store if available. Next meeting January 3rd, 2019.

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 PM.