

**Climate Impact Advisory Committee**  
DRAFT Meeting Minutes



Date: October 3<sup>rd</sup> 2019

Location: RE Store, 2309 Meridian St, Bellingham

QUORUM	Y
<b>Members Present</b>	
Seth Fleetwood	X
Casey Harman	X
Tim Miller	X
Treva Coe	
Eric Grossman	X
Ellyn Murphy	X
John Yakawich	X
Sharon Shewmake	
David Kershner	X
Gabriel Westergreen	X
Alex Ramel	X
STAFF Chris Elder	X

**1) Meeting Began at 5:33 PM**

Guests: On the phone Emily Wright  
Eddy Ury, ReSources  
Clare Fogelsong

**2) Minutes**

- a. Motions were made to approve the April and May minutes. Both motion passed with none opposed.

**3) Public Comment**

No Public Comment.

**4) Overview of Climate Action**

Emily Wright with Cascadia Consulting Group presented on Whatcom County's Climate Action Plan and Vulnerability assessment. Presentation will be provided.

Key Points and Questions not contained within the presentation are as follows:

Alex: Is this process iterative to include feedback?

Emily: Yes. It's not common to have a group like the CIAC, but having the group is a great opportunity. The process is designed to be iterative, respectful of time and take advantage of

CIAC and Bellingham expertise. Cascadia plans on having review as well checks and balances from the CIAC.

Alex then urged Emily to follow the City of Bellingham Climate Action Task Force mitigation strategies closely while performing the work for Whatcom County.

Chris Elder interjected that a lot of the resources have been sent to Cascadia Consulting, and Chris invited anyone else who has information to send the information along. Emily echoed Chris's statement that anything that is helpful to provide details about streamflow, sea level rise etc. would be very useful.

Alex: Is safe to assume that the sensitivity analysis and adaptive capacity account for environmental justice factors? Do you plan to use the environmental justice map the state provided?

Emily: Yes, we plan on using factors that the county prefers as a layer on top the analysis. We will follow up, but if possible will plan to use the environmental justice map.

Emily mentioned that Cascadia has not done that analysis yet, but think it will be great addition to Whatcom's plan.

Casey: Should we consider bringing other entities such as Puget Sound Energy for specific focus areas?

The group consensus was that it might be possible, Casey and Chris will discuss offline.

Seth: Is the impression correct that the assessment is more on Vulnerability instead of Mitigate?  
Emily: No, the presentation shows a bit of bias, but based on the budget is roughly 50-50, maybe even a bit more heavy on mitigation.

Alex mentioned that the Heal Act, House Bill 5489, has not created the map he had in mind, but urged Cascadia to follow up on the map and the bill.

Chris mentioned that the Health Department has information on communities that may be useful.

Eric: What is the ultimate goal of the vulnerability component? Do you see summarizing what the county needs to consider, or go further and provide recommendation for priority?

Emily: One goal is to make the county aware of additional issues or communities that are more vulnerable. Climate change will exacerbate existing challenges and inequities. Parts of the infrastructure that are already weak will only be more strained. The county probably has areas of concern, and the study will likely confirm what's already known, but may provide additional areas of interest. The study will also include possible actions in mitigation and resilience. Checking other projects will show how they [Cascadia] work, but the intent is to go the extra step and provide specific recommendations.

Seth: Any specifics on applying the City of Bellingham's effort to Whatcom County's work?

Emily: Yes. [did not have any more notes on this Reply]

Alex: What level of feedback is Cascadia interested in tonight?

Emily: I'd like to start the conversation, tonight would be preferential, but hopefully by November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting the committee could come with a decision or ready to make a decision.

Chris recommended having a discussion this meeting, and possibly a survey sent to the committee.

Seth: What does Cascadia need from the committee particularly for the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting?

Emily indicated 30 minutes to an hour, but Chris and Emily will discuss offline

Alex: Last question – Cascadia Law group has been criticized by people in the planning department, can you confirm that Cascadia Consulting is not affiliated with Cascadia Law Group?

Emily: Yes, Cascadia Law Group is not affiliated with Cascadia Consulting.

The discussion moved on to how to move the focus areas forward. Chris brought some suggestions of focus areas: Forest, open land, recreation; Water, Transportation and Infrastructure. Alex suggested Marine shoreline as a very important topic. It was decided that Ellyn and Eric will meet and discuss the focus areas and provide input at the next meeting.

Ellyn mentioned the state is pressuring utilities to look at the total cost of carbon and passed out information on it from the Institute for Policy Integrity and information from the WUTC on the social cost of carbon.

Dave: What is the Cascadia Consulting group going to do with the 2007 Climate Action Plan?

Chris was not certain on the CO2 number in the original assessment, but will review the recommendations from the 2007 report and see how the county progressed.

Alex was unaware of the social cost of carbon estimate, but mentioned there are proposed changes to the Cherry point code CO2 has a cap of 60\$/ton. The WUTC paper has an adjusted cost of carbon that has research behind it, so it might be good for the County to look at it. Chris said that we can bring this to county attention, but the proposed amendments are already in front of the planning commission. Alex and Chris will work on this offline.

The previous months minutes were then quickly discussed. Alex moved to approve the minutes, Casey Seconded, no opposed. Motion passed.

The floor was opened for public comment again.

Clare mentioned the city of Bellingham had already performed a vulnerability assessment and is happy to share. He also reiterated that it will be good to keep discussing between the county group and city group. Last night [October 2<sup>nd</sup>] the city had the Transportation and ? present to

the task force. They were looking at the feasibility of the emissions targets by 2030 or 2035. If the city desires 100% carbon emission free by 2035, the workgroup came forward and said the only way forward would be to say no more Internal Combustion Engines within the city of Bellingham by 2035. Other ideas are also on the forefront. None of the recommendations are approved by the city council yet. October 16<sup>th</sup> is the energy supply and building work groups. Clare also mentioned that the COSMOS model which will feed into the vulnerability assessment. Likely a bonus meeting in early November. Proceedings are available on the city's website.

Eddy Ury commented that the reports from the transportation group are quite bold. There are questions about feasibility, but these types of goals aren't unique to Bellingham – numerous communities are considering the same thing. Some market predictions are that EVs will be become cheaper than internal combustion engines soon. County may also consider these measures. The potential emission reductions have been considered to be residential and commercial, but county emissions are mostly industrial by heavy industry. The mitigation costs from heavy industry could be a funding source for county mitigation and funding sources.

Clare mentioned the possibility of a climate hub with Western to bring resources in the county and city to implement the mitigations. Institute for Climate Studies at Western may be a good resource to help make this happen.

#### 5) **New/Old Business**

Alex mentioned he was attending the C40 conference (meeting of mayors focused on sustainability). He is willing to provide an update when he returns.

Chris accepted a job in public works, but will remain as staff contact at least through the Cascadia Contract, which means at least he will be a part of the committee through June guaranteed.

Casey volunteered to give a power system/grid presentation at the next meeting.

#### 6) **Next meeting**

November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the ReStore Facility at 5:30.

Discussion topics are as follows:

- Cascadia Climate Action Plan Discussion
- Presentation by Casey on the power system
- Alex to present on the C40 conference, and Cherry Point.

Ellyn asked about PSE's plan to meet CETA, Casey will check.

John offered to arrange a presentation on what BP is doing. Alex mentioned to invite Phillips 66 as well. Clare offered provide an update on the Bellingham Task Force at the

December meeting. Looking ahead at the January meeting – It's currently planned for the 9<sup>th</sup> of January.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:22 PM.