

Climate Impact Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Date: May 6th, 2021

Location: Zoom



QUORUM	Y
Members Present	
William Bethel	x
Ginny Broadhurst	
Kaylee Galloway	x
Sue Gunn	x
Steve Harrell	x
David Kershner	x
Katherine Kissinger	x
Ellyn Murphy	x
Imran Sheikh	x
Phil Thompson	x
Eddy Ury	
STAFF Chris Elder	x

1) Public Comment

Jack Wellman: PSE, Public Policy

Betsy Gross

2) Review and approval of Minutes from April and March 18th Special Meeting

Starting with the March 18th minutes

Ellyn suggested a clarification on **page 3** of the minutes about how the proposed actions were mixed with the completed actions and diluted the focus of the CAP recommendations

Dave sent in some comments in reference to the WDFW's Habitat at Home Program and that there was a typo where the program name was left off. On **page 7**

William Motioned to approve the minutes

Sue Seconded

April 1st Minutes

Ellyn had a clarifying comment on **Page 2** in reference to the consensus of our discussion in adding

the results of the vulnerability assessment to individual chapters, and the methodology would be in the Appendix.

Ellyn wanted to point out the importance of prioritizing the implementation chapter

Dave mentioned in the conclusion of the minutes that Eddy's Name was listed but there was no comment that followed. It was decided to remove his name from that area since we could not confirm whether or not he made a comment.

Dave Motioned to approve the minutes

Sue Seconded

2) Final Climate-Related State Legislation – Passed and Pending – Kaylee Galloway

(Slide 1) Session was a success, ended on time and all three budgets passed.

(Slide 2) Operating Budget Highlights:

- Funds agencies
- Social safety net
- Focus on Public Health
- Investments in water banking and forest health
- HEAL act for Environmental Justice and Climate Investment Account
- Orca & Salmon recovery

Phil Thompson in Zoom Chat: Can Kaylee send her slides to members after the meeting?

(slide 3) Transportation Budget Highlights

- Revenues were down from the Pandemic
- Alternative fuels
- investing in transit agencies
- Hybrid Electric Ferry

Phil Thompson in Zoom Chat: Is this transportation budget the package on which the CFS and CCA bills were contingent?

(slide 4) Construction budget

- essential infrastructure
- natural resources
- clean energy, energy efficiency, climate projects

(slide 5) Many environmental bills passed

- HEAL Act: requires agencies to conduct environmental justice assessments. Implements strategies recommended by Environmental Justice Task Force appointed by the Governor.
- Cap & Invest Climate Commitment

(Slide 6) WA Climate Commitment Act

- Market based, economy wide cap on carbon emissions with tradeable allowances
- Environmental justice review
- Tribal consultation before spending funds
- EITEs: no cost allowances but baseline allocation declines over time

Ellyn asked what an EITE is?

Kaylee defined it as an acronym for Energy Intensive Trade Exposed and that an example would be Alcoa

Sue said that the refineries also count. And asked why the Coal fired electric generation exempted

Kaylee said she didn't know the answer

Ellyn said it might be because they are going to be eliminated in our state by 2025. Ellyn asked if it had to go through a rule making process with commerce

Kaylee said it was mostly ecology

Ellyn said that it could be a commerce decision

Sue asked about the implementation timeline

Kaylee said she didn't have the timeline in front of her but that building the infrastructure for the system would be factored into the cost

Phil commented on the Coal fired Power plant exemption and confirmed Ellyn's suggestion that they're exemption is because they will be phased out and it would not make sense for them to spend a bunch of money on updates right before they cease operations. Phil also asked about the transportation package mentioned for some of the transportation bills to take effect and I that was the bi transportation budget that was passed

Kaylee said that the budget as passed should fund the transportation bills. And that an additional package shouldn't be necessary.

Phil asked if the \$0.05 gas tax increase

Kaylee said that it is not included in this budget but that there may be a fall session concerning transportation revenue

Phil asked about the state of the Clean fuel standard and 5126 and if they are contingent on that package

Ellyn said that she read in newspaper articles that those bills are contingent on an ad additional package

(Slide 8) the Carbon investment account

Much of the spending criteria was taken from Washington Strong proposal

-75% Climate Commitment account

-25% Natural Climate Solutions Account

-Air quality & Health Disparities Improvement Account

Phil asked about the percentage that goes into each account

Kaylee said that she didn't have the exact answer but could share the Bill summary

Phil said that **Sharon Shewmake** suggested looking in the fiscal notes

Kaylee said that would be a helpful place to look for rulemaking

Betsy Gross in Zoom Chat: Can Kaylee send her slides to non-members too? I'd love to have them.

jbgross1@comcast.net

Chris Elder in Zoom Chat: The slides will be posted on the website after the meeting, thanks

Kaylee Galloway in Zoom Chat: <http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2021-22/Pdf/Bill%20Reports/Senate/5126-S2.E%20SBR%20FBR%2021.pdf?q=20210506180729>

Steve said the language is unclear in the bill

Kaylee said that not less than 20million per biennium be placed in the Air quality account. She said that the murky language may come from the uncertainty of this being a free market-based process.

(Slide 9) looking ahead to 2022

Bills that died. 5 bills 4 of them from local representatives. The bills died in the senate.

Ellyn asked if these bills will be put up again in the next legislative session and what the hang ups were for 1280.

Kaylee said that portions of the bill got included in the operating budget but that it seemed like the bill needed more time. Kaylee said the GMA bills didn't have the votes in the senate which is more moderate.

Kaylee Galloway in Zoom Chat:

Auction Proceeds Distribution. The auction proceeds must be transferred to the state treasurer for specific deposits first to the Carbon Emissions Reduction (CER) Account and the remaining auction proceeds to the CI Account and Air Quality and Health Disparities Improvement Account. The deposits to the CER Account are as follows:

- \$127,341,000 for FY 2023;
- \$356,697,000 for FY 2024;

- \$366,558,000 for FY 2025; and
- \$359,117,000 each year for fiscal years 2026 through 2037.

3) Implementation Section Format – Steve Harrell

(slide 1) Timeline for Office of Climate Action

(slide 2) Key priorities as determined by section writers and a timeline graphic would be included for each chapter.

Steve asked the committee how we wanted to present our timelines. If we would like all of them to be in the implementation chapter or if the timeliness should be in the chapters themselves.

(slide 3) Transportation Key Priorities

(slide 4) Land Use Key Priorities

Sue commented on the timelines. She said that the timelines should be in the end of each chapter.

Steve said that putting the timeline at the end of the report could be rather intimidating since it would be a compilation of all the chapters priorities.

Ellyn said we could continue to work on this in a small group

Stevan Harrell in Zoom Chat: @Dave, @Ellyn, @Kaylee can we have a working group meeting Saturday or Monday or Tuesday?

David Kershner (he/him) in Zoom Chat: @Steve, Monday works best for me. Tuesday I am booked.

Atul suggested an appendix called implementation guide that would summarize the timelines for each chapter.

Ellyn said we are looking for a way to prioritize the actions in the next few years

Steve said that the Office of Climate Action, once established could help with prioritization and implementation. He said that our timeline will be more general for our proposal and leave the details up to the Office of Climate Action to decide.

Dave said that Steve's suggestion would help to highlight the importance of the Office of Climate Action. Dave asked the committee if we are in consensus to adding an Office of Climate Action. Or rather if anyone on the committee objects to establishing the Office of Climate Action.

Chris asked if **Dave's** question was about whether or not to recommend the additional staff proposed in the Office of Climate Action

Chris said that the scope of this plan would require the county staff to do things differently than they are currently doing.

Phil said that the proposed office is a very important part of our plan's implementation, and is a critical part of our proposal

Steve said that by the time he came onto the committee it seemed like proposing to add the Office or Climate Action had already been decided.

Dave suggested a section title of "Implementation of CAP: An Office of Climate Action" he said or we could Keys to successful implementation of CAP: Coordination, Information, and Community Engagement"

Phil said that implementing the CAP: office of climate action

Sue said she agreed and that it would help to illustrate how important this office is for our proposal

Steve asked if we should take the individual timelines at the end and just keep the timeline for the implementation of the Office of Climate Action?

Sue said that she liked the idea of having individual timelines at the end of each of their respective chapters. She also pointed out that some of the timelines are based on hypotheticals, such as the Industry section. so that by keeping the timelines in their respective chapters it would be easier to explain things

Ellyn said that when it comes to difficult subjects like industry where the county doesn't have control over

Sue said that the county will need to be well versed in the requirements of the Cap and invest Bill. And coordinating with private industry

Steve agreed and said that coordinating with the industries and knowing how the new legislation will affect our county will be an important part of the duties of the Office of Climate Action. Steve asked for some input on the implementation chapter to ensure that things are substantially and editorially sound.

Ellyn said she liked the suggestions from this discussion including the chapter name change.

Sue wanted to make sure the role of the committee was included in the CAP

Steve and **Ellyn** confirmed that it was in there.

4) Climate Action Plan – Ellyn Murphy

a) Review Process

Ellyn said that our document is considered guidance rather than regulatory. This means that we are not required to be fully transparent with our review process, but we are deciding to be transparent because we feel it is in the best interest of the community. She reached out to Commerce to get advice from them on how to handle the public comment period.

She said that we are not required to respond to every public comment individually but asked for committee members that have not taken on a writing assignment take on a role in helping to respond to comments.

William in Zoom chat: I would be willing to take up that responsibility

Phil said that he doesn't believe that an individual response or conversation is not necessary to do for each commenter and that we could instead simply respond with acknowledgement of comments received.

Steve said it should depend on how serious the comments are, and that if some comments are substantial that they should receive more attention

Phil raised a concern that there might be a potential problem with responding more in depth to some comments over others.

Ellyn said that **William** will be taking on the response role

Chris said that he would look into a way that we could auto reply to comments to acknowledge that we have received them.

Dave said that he would be happy to help with acknowledging commenters and volunteered to help William respond to more in depth, useful suggestions. And he suggested referencing public comments that were suggested in the index of the final CAP

Phil brought up an example from in person county council meetings when they would have public commenters come up to the mic. That they didn't have full discussions with commenters and simply thanked people for sharing their comments.

b) Process and Presentations to County Staff/Council Members

this subject will be broken into 3 different meetings due to the different sections being relevant to different staff members. The meetings will be broken into the built environment, the natural environment, and the implementation road map.

In briefing council members, it has been recommended to only brief one councilmember at a time.

This would be to get initial feedback from individual members. Ellyn reminded us that this is optional for the section leaders to reach out to council members, but that this can be very

informative to get the council familiar with our document and get ahead of any questions that may arise.

There is also the option of briefing the county administration, and specific departments or county staff. This would be a good way to get an idea of how staff is equipped to handle the implementation and get suggestions directly from those who will be working on implementation.

Phil commented that he thought it would be good to discuss potential issues that may arise from special interests but that we shouldn't only focus on the negative comments that may arise but also the potential positives

Sue said that the COB task force was challenged by a special interest campaign targeting a proposed low emission regulation and that it was ultimately successful in striking down that regulation

Steve commented that in the case of special interests that it is always a negative that you are facing. He also pointed out that the question asking if the county is adequately staffed doesn't make sense because part of our proposal is adding a new office to the county staff. Instead, we should ask if adding the Office of Climate Action would be enough support to implement the CAP.

Betsy Gross in Zoom chat: To implement the CAP with no dedicated staff is unrealistic

David Kershner (he/him) in Zoom chat: @Betsy, Thanks for your comment about dedicated staff.

Ellyn said that some of the feedback she had received was split on whether or not the county needed more staff

Phil asked if the staff would get the implementation section for review

Ellyn said that the implementation section would be its own briefing

Phil said that based on the information we share with the different groups we should change the wording of the questions that we are asking. Specifically, like who in the county will lead in implementing things in the built and natural environment sections.

Sue asked when section leaders should start briefing councilmembers.

Ellyn said you can reach out to them when you feel your section is ready.

c) Draft Schedule

Late May – Early June: workshops with county leadership

June 15th: Draft CAP submitted to County Council

~~*June 22nd*~~ *June 15th:* Start Public Comment Period

June 29th: Presentation of Draft CAP to whole Council

July 13th: End Public Comment Period

July 20th: Final draft submitted

July 27th: Final CAP to Council with resolution for adoption

August 10th: Final CAP presentation and resolution for adoption by council

5) Updates on Text Editing and Report Design – Ellyn

Sue asked about Alison’s edits and if we get suggestions from reviewers to add to the edits that Alison has made

Ellyn said yes that Alison wants everything to be in the same version for each chapter.

Phil asked where to find the most recent versions of the chapters.

Ellyn said that she is not editing directly in the dropbox, but clearing potential edits with Alison.

Dave asked about the August 10th date and asked why it was set for that time.

Ellyn said that we are setting the schedule since we are volunteers

Dave asked if we could move the final date out further to allow for four weeks of response time for public comments.

Ellyn said it is possible but that we are reviewing a lot right now and by then it is unlikely that a substantive suggestion will be added. And that we can always move the date back further if needed.

Dave asked for the committee’s opinion on the public comment period being three weeks

Phil said that 30 days would probably be better

Chris said that the draft CAP will be posted on the county council’s website on the 22nd but that we could post it on the CIAC website on the 15th to allow for an extra week for public comments.

Ellyn said that since it is going to be summer time that it will be unlikely that we would get a lot of comments.

Phil said that we will be able to respond to comments as they come in.

Ellyn asked about a section leader meeting involving template design for later in the month. She said that templates are available to look at in the dropbox.

7) Adjourn

6) Adjourn

Meeting ended at 7:42pm

Next meeting scheduled for June 3, 2021

Recorded By: Katherine Kissinger

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