

# Climate Impact Advisory Committee



Meeting Minutes

Date: July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021

Location: Zoom

QUORUM	Y
<b>Members Present</b>	
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	x
STAFF Chris Elder	x

**Meeting started at 5:32pm**

## **1) Review and approval of Minutes from previous meeting**

**Dave** motioned to approve the minutes with comments from himself and **Ellyn**

**Sue** seconded

Motion passed

## **2) Public Comment**

Public in attendance

**Jack Wellman**, PSE

**Carryn Vande Griend**, PSE

**David Hostetler**

**Ander Russel**

**Chris** announced that the county received grant funding from the Department of Commerce to provide Climate action coordination with the small cities Lynden, Blaine, Ferndale, Nooksack, and Everson and that he will email the report out to us.

**Ellyn** asked about what conclusions **Chris** had from that project.

**Chris** said that the comprehensive plans have not yet added in sections on climate change to their plans. And that in the recommendations from this report its likely to be included on the next comprehensive plan update

## **3) Follow up on Actions from June Meeting (Workshop on Built Environment, Shew Template Design Format) - Ellyn**

### ***Schedule***

*June 30<sup>th</sup>*: Public comment period started

*July 30<sup>th</sup>*: Public Comment Period ends

**Ellyn** said that the CAP was sent out to different organizations for review she said that in the Dropbox folder labeled Final Versions Only will be the place where we can view the latest versions of the document.

*August 10<sup>th</sup>*: tentative presentation to council as a whole

*August 17<sup>th</sup>*: Final draft submitted

August 31<sup>st</sup>: Final CAP to Council

September 14<sup>th</sup>: CAP adopted by council

### **Built Environment Workshop with County Leadership**

**Public Works:** commented that the plan was ambitious and will take time to address the complex, cross-cutting issues brought up by the CAP

**Health Department:** reviewed the Waste Chapter. They agreed that the County is not collecting enough data to measure the results of their waste management plan. This may be because our waste system is privatized in Whatcom County which makes it harder to get data. This lack of information hinders our ability to develop climate strategies.

Planning Department: County adopted the New State Energy Code. One of the most progressive in the nation. DNR Wildlife Urban Interface maps have been completed. Amended EV charging zoning, suggested we look into the wind energy code changes. Piloting C-PACER program for council action in July. Shoreline Management to council in July. H2 facility for industry is likely to happen and there have been conversations surrounding that.

**Steve** asked for specifics on what the cherry point amendment is

**Eddy** said that the amendments have to do with updating zoning codes and restricting the construction of new fossil fuel facilities. And the County Council is likely to pass it as an ordinance.

### **Shew Design Template.**

We decided on Cover C.

**Ellyn** said to submit pictures to the Dropbox of local areas and credit to who has taken the photo. Have photos in by the end of *July*. At least 2 MB size for photos. Shew would like to start on the template as soon as possible. Title the picture with the location name and photo credit.

### **August Council Briefing**

-Start with a short introduction, the making of CAP, the GHG emissions and targets.

**Chapter Authors!** Should provide some slides on their chapters:

**1:** 3-year timeline

**2-3:** pick the hardest priorities to implement and structure it into a statement that describes the action that should be adopted by the council.

**Katie** asked about meeting specifics

**Ellyn** said that it would likely be August 10<sup>th</sup> at the earliest

**Chris** said that the committee as a whole is usually the last on the agenda and that is usually in the afternoon but nothing has really been decided yet.

**Dave** asked when the photos need to be in and if SHEW is doing it

**Ellyn** said that a staff person in the county is doing it and that the photos need to be in in the end of July.

**Sue** commented on slide 2&3 and that we should be highlighting the most important things rather than the most controversial. She suggested this might be a better strategy for facilitating a discussion.

**Ellyn** said that for the sake of maximizing conversation that sometimes discussing the most controversial can help facilitate that, but encouraged Chapter leads to use their best judgement on that.

**Steve** asked about another briefing with county executive

**Ellyn** asked **Chris** if the executive has received the document and if he had any comments

**Chris** said that we could reach out to the exec to see if he is interested in further discussing the CAP before it goes to council.

**Ellyn** said that the Executive would likely be at any whole council meeting as well.

#### **4) Public Review Process –Dave and William**

**Dave** gave a brief status report on the Public Comment Period for the Draft CAP. The announcement was posted on the CIAC website. As well as the Public Works, and County Facebook pages. The Whatcom Watch also has an issue out now featuring an interview on the committee.

The press release has gone out. And will be mailed to state agencies.

Dave asked if there were other state agencies anyone specifically thought the press release should be mailed to.

**Kaylee Galloway in Zoom Chat:** Dept of Ag, Dept of Transportation, Dept of Commerce, and Governor's office

Steve asked about if there were any environmental scientists at western would like to be commenting

**Phil** said Joel Swisher would be a good contact as the director of Energy institute. He also asked if the listserv included the local state legislators

**Imran** said that he doesn't have anyone in mind to review the plan.

**Sue** suggested sending an announcement to the local elected officials in Whatcom County.

**Kaylee Galloway in Zoom Chat:** I sent to our team in the 40th!

**Dave** asked **Chris** if that list was sent out?

**Chris** said it was.

**Sue** also suggested sending it to the governmental affairs people at BP and Phillips 66, also PSE

**Ellyn** said that if you had people who reviewed your draft to reach out to them and ask for comments.

**Dave** asked individual chapter authors to handle that.

**David Kershner (he/him) in Zoom Chat:** Will get it out to those additional agencies and the Governor's office. Thank you, Kaylee!

## **5) Discussion on Draft Climate Action Plan – Ellyn**

**Phil** asked who we should send comments to? Ellyn or specific chapter leaders.

**Ellyn** said to send them to her.

**Phil** asked how to put the revisions together.

**Ellyn** said you can just remove your specific chapter and edit it that would be fine and track your changes. She said to take the document with the most recent date.

**Steve** said that you can save it as a reduced file size. And that makes it able to be emailed.

**Chris** recommended putting it online and turning on track changes to make the edits much easier. This way multiple people are able to work on the document as a whole and so all of the edits are in one place.

**Dave** asked about using the merge documents feature.

**Chris** said that by keeping it online and in the drop box Ellyn should be able to combine the documents.

**Steve** asked about the report and he asked about the level of overlap and that every chapter seems to do a similar thing of stating that climate change is a problem and is important to address. He wanted general feedback on the redundancy

**Phil** said that one option is to refer to previous chapters and that in Kaylee's Land Use section there is a link to the transportation section.

**Ellyn** said that she liked the suggestion of adding links. Especially since most people will be reading this document digitally.

**Ellyn** asked Authors to address the main concerns of their section at the beginning of the chapter rather than to have so much repetition. And also, to cite if there is material in our sections that is from other documents

**Sue** said we shouldn't sanitize our document and that the redundancy is important to drive home how urgent this is

**Ellyn** said that urgency is good but to try and avoid being too doom and gloom because excessive negativity can turn people off of what we are doing

**Phil** made some general comments. And said that in regards to legislation that has recently been passed we should consider mentioning it in relevant chapters. Specifically, the Climate Commitment Act (CCA)

**Ellyn** asked **Phil** how it would affect the Electricity and Buildings chapter,

**Phil** said that the utility companies will have to have allowances for their emissions. Which will impact the long-term plans and decisions. he also said that Refineries are also included in the list, so it should be mentioned in the industry chapter.

**Ellyn** said that it would be helpful if **Phil** could write up a sentence or two about how the new legislation would be relevant the different chapters

**Sue** said that she already added in some about the CCA and the cap and investment strategies. She wanted to use it as a way to point out the potential for utilization of those policies.

**Phil** said that pricing and how to distribute the funds from selling carbon shares on the market are the two main things that affected parties will have to consider when it comes to the CCA

**Steve** said that there was a huge debate over what to do with the money rather than having the tax on carbon in the first place

**Phil** made another comment about how racial equity and social justice were mentioned in the beginning of the document as one of our core principles but not being seen as much throughout the other sections.

**Ellyn** said that it is discussed more in the benefits section in the appendix.

**Phil** suggested that it would also be a good idea to include it in the main chapter sections. Because some people might not look at the Appendix.

**Eddy** asked about the CCA and if it would be relevant in the implementation chapter. He also asked about revisions from the public comment period and how much time we will have for revisions and what the time frame is for having those changes done

**Phil** said that would definitely be relevant because it would have to do with how the money is spent.

**Ellyn** said that specific comments will be forwarded to the section authors as they come in so you can work in it throughout the time.

**Dave** said that the question is whether we will have adequate time to revise the draft before the 17<sup>th</sup>. And he said we should be prepared to take extra time if needed to finalize the document.

**Phil** said he doesn't anticipate a bunch of substantive comments at the end of the comment period, and even if there are some like that there probably won't be very detailed from members of the public.

**Dave** said that he anticipates receiving detailed comments from PSE and potentially the refineries.

**Sue** said that she had a call with 6 BP staffers so she doesn't expect many comments on the industry section.

**Ellyn** asked about author acknowledgements in the beginning of the document

**Steve** suggested adding in acknowledgements for those who have helped contribute to the document.

**Katie** suggested that for chapter authors we list them all in the beginning and next to their names list what section they wrote

**Ellyn** suggested reaching out to Executive Sidhu to have him write a letter in the beginning

**Kaylee** suggesting acknowledging the indigenous tribes whose land we occupy.

**Ellyn** said that we could list something like that in the cover

**Katie** offered to write a blurb about the indigenous tribes that occupy this land

**Steve** suggested connecting the subject of the tribes to climate change and offered to work together with **Katie** on that acknowledgement.

**Kaylee** mentioned acknowledging the Point Elliot Treaty and the rights of the treaty, and the lens of the plan considering the equity aspect.

**Steve** said that it is mentioned in the fisheries chapter. And that this will be like a forward to the plan how we will make amends.

**Ellyn** said that we should run it by **Kaylee** and the Tribal Natural Resources Departments

**Dave** suggested adding acknowledgements of reviewers in the back of the document

**Eddy** seconded **Steve's** point of sharing the tribal acknowledgement with the tribal governments in the area and **Dave's** suggestion to acknowledge reviewers and community research project reviewers.

**Dave** agreed, and he said that we should list the contributors of the Community research project

**Ellyn** asked about the executive summary and made some suggestions for how one might be constructed. And said she will send the executive summary draft out to the whole committee

Dave said that he will provide comments on it after looking at it more carefully

**Phil** says we do need one, and he will also look into the summary draft ideas more. And suggested the length be around five pages

**Steve** asked about the process of putting the report together and if it should be included in the Executive Summary.

**Katie** agreed on having an Executive Summary to help communicate effectively to people who are unfamiliar with projects like this

**Phil, Katie** and **William** volunteered to help review the executive summary.

**Ellyn** asked about photos for the cover and sections

**Steve** said that he had a great farm photo.

**Eddy** asked about photo quality

**Ellyn** said the higher the better, around 2MB.

**Some requested photos include:**

- Getting a refinery picture
- EV charging stations
- Pictures of buildings and around town

## **6) Old or New Business**

**Some suggestions for future meetings include:**

- Ginny** doing a presentation on the state of the Salish sea report that just came out
- Imran** presenting on energy
- FLIP planning for floods
- Seth Vidaña** on Climate work for City of Bellingham

**Steve** offered to send climate protest photos.

**Sue** asked about recommendations for extreme heat shelters

**Ellyn** said that there are resilience centers under Electricity and Buildings and that there is funding potentially available from grants for that.

**Steve** said that we should incorporate the recent heat wave into the report and how air conditioning would affect electricity use. And how it could affect farms and salmon. And that it might be worth mentioning it in the preface

**Ellyn** said we shouldn't focus too much on a single event as proof of climate change. So, we should make sure to emphasize that the likelihood of experiencing extreme weather events like this will increase because of climate change.

**Eddy** wanted to say that climate action week is coming up and that we should put it on the agenda for the next meeting to host an event for the climate action week. And that we should discuss that for the next meeting since the deadline to submit to host an event is August 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **7) Adjourn**

Meeting ended at 7:36pm

**Next meeting scheduled for August 5, 2021**

Recorded By: Katherine Kissinger, contact [kissinger.katherine@gmail.com](mailto:kissinger.katherine@gmail.com) for edits to the draft.

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