

# Climate Impact Advisory Committee



Meeting Minutes

Date: December 2nd, 2021

Location: Zoom

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

## 1) Call to Order/Roll Call

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## 2) Review and approve agenda

-No additional comments suggested

## 3) Review and approval of minutes from November Meeting

-Sue Motioned to approve the minutes

-Steve seconded

Minutes approved

## 4) Public Comment

-Public in attendance  
**Jack Wellman**, PSE  
**Atul Deshmane**, PUD

## **5) Roles & Responsibilities for CAP Implementation (including CIAC role & possible revisions to CIAC Code 2.126) – Ellyn and Chris**

-Climate action manager has been approved in Natural Resources budget  
-This person will have direct contact with the director of strategic initiatives and the Executive.  
-Now that the CAP has been completed, we can propose some changes to the code to better define and support the committee going forward.

**Steve** asked **Ellyn** to explain the meeting on the office of strategic initiatives

**Ellyn** said that the position was listed as a planner 2, and three groups drafted a letter about this position to increase it to a management position. and some individual climate committee members signed on to the letter. Executive Sidhu did promote the position to a management role. A specialist role and a manager were added to the Child and Family Wellbeing admin.

**Steve** wanted to clarify that the director of strategic initiatives would not replace the management positions requested by CIAC and Child and Family Wellbeing.

**Eddy** said that the meeting helped clear up the confusion. And that the Director of Strategic Initiatives is just an additional staffer in the Executive's office.

**Sue** asked about the data analyst position for the OCA

**Ellyn** said we currently do not have the data analyst position for OCA.

**Sue** suggested adding to tonight's discussion how CIAC will interact with the county in selecting the Climate Action Manager.

**Ellyn** proposed new edits to the Code establishing CIAC that could be presented to Council for approval.

- a. remove language that references the 2007 CAP to the "most current version of CAP."
- e. reviewing available science to recommend appropriate guidelines.

**Atul Deshmane in Zoom Chat:** Is e. the same as mitigation?

**Ellyn** said that point e. is not strictly mitigation.

**Atul** Asked if mitigation is mentioned later in the code.

**Phil** said e. is adaptation

**Atul** clarified that he meant adaptation

**Sue** suggested editing point d. to include recommendations supporting the OCA.

**Ellyn** said that point d. was a long paragraph on worker transition.

**Ginny** suggested adding in wording to allow the committee to serve a proactive role in providing information to councilmembers which are the ones making the decisions.

**Ellyn** said that is covered by the wording in point F. but opened it up to Ginny to craft alternative wording

**Sue** suggested adding in a way to give feedback for the OCA.

**Ellyn** said that will be covered later and also offered to allow committee members to write to her any specific changes to the code.

**Phil** requested language about the interaction between the CIAC with the OCA and the Climate Manager. He suggested expanding the wording in point I.

**Steve** suggested updating the language to include the OCA throughout the code specifically in points f, g, and I.

**Phil** suggested that we could add language about offering support to the OCA regarding regulatory actions in point I. since they will start out with a staff of one.

**Steve** suggested adding in a new point rather than trying to wedge in more things to existing points.

**Eddy** said that he thinks the scope of the code seems broad enough for now

**Ellyn** said to send any edits to the code to her and we will likely talk about it in the next meeting as well.

In regards to CIAC membership:

**Ginny** suggested keeping the word “municipal” in regards to policy making.

**Ellyn** said that she removed the word for redundancy

**Ginny** asked if the word “policy” would be redundant then?

**Ellyn** said that she had been thinking about that

**Sue** suggested sending out edits before discussing them in meetings

**Ellyn** said that we will continue discussing edits in the next meeting and she will send the slides out after the meeting.

**Atul Deshmane in zoom chat:** Great point but that is a whole discussion right to have with the County Council and Executive?

**Phil** said that policy itself might be too broad and suggested adding in a modifier to make it more specific like environmental policy

**Steve** said that experience in policymaking and getting things done could be beneficial

**Eddy** suggested that for the sake of making sure we have enough diversity in terms of experience and background that we define positions for certain qualifications

**Ellyn** said that in the past we have tried to reach out to people from different areas in the county to fill positions but that we have been unsuccessful getting those people to apply. For example, the farming community

**Sue** asked what “subset of applicants meant”

**Ellyn** said that the Climate manager would review the applicants and could make recommendations to the council for vacancies.

**Sue** said that wording doesn't seem necessary

**Phil** said that without that wording that it makes it seem like the Climate manager is the filter of applicants to make appointments to the committee

**Eddy** said he agreed with Phil's assessment. At the same time, he thinks that changing the way Council appoints applicants is a good idea

**Steve** said that giving the task of reviewing applicants to the climate manager might allow for a more thorough review of applicants. That the council members can be very busy and not have adequate time to review appointments for unpaid advisory boards

**Phil** said that he liked the direct wording of the revision

**Dave** questioned whether it's actually necessary to reference the OCA manager in the code in regards to making recommendations to the Council

**Ellyn** said that based on past experience that she believes it's necessary to reference it.

**Dave** suggested making the wording more specific

**Ellyn** said that it would be preferable that the Climate manager recommend to the council applicants from among applications for vacancies on the committee.

**Chris** brought up some concerns that the council doesn't always want staff telling them how to vote and that having a staff member make a public recommendation might cause some problems. He suggested we find a way to incorporate communication between Council and the OCA manager without making it an entirely public process.

**Phil Thompson in Zoom Chat:** Chris raises good points. But this should be done in some form by the Climate Manager. Perhaps in the job description. Which raises another question: Is there a position description available as yet? Did the Council's adoption of the CAP imply they accept our recommended description for the position?

**Eddy** agreed that different language would be good especially regarding legally binding wording. We want to make sure that the OCA manager's role doesn't become too politicized.

In the Committee Staffing section **Ellyn** suggested that we establish a communication avenue directly through the Executive's office. This might help us to get more timely responses from county staff members when we reach out for feedback on something.

**Sue** asked if we should instead make this avenue through the OCA.

**Ellyn** said that the OCA will be in Natural Resources which is part of public works. And that going through the Executive's office would be a more direct route for getting things done.

In regards to OCA functions and responsibilities:

**Dave** suggested number 5 to include natural resource and public health.

**Sue** suggested that number 1 include select priorities and focus of specific goals at any given time

**Ellyn** said that she is open to changing the wording and invited Sue to send her specific edits.

**Steve** said that he doesn't think it's essential for us to define priorities now because that should be a discussion between CIAC, the OCA, CAT, and JCAT. He also suggested setting up a rotation for the chair position so that it might encourage more participation from the smaller towns in the county.

**Ellyn** asked for **Chris'** input on the CAT

**Chris** said that previously CAT was a leadership team made up of department directors. He said that after the recent budgetary meeting with the Executive it seems like going forward the CAT might not be strictly a leadership team.

**Ellyn** asked about the role of directors in the CAT

**Chris** said that more stuff might get done with senior staff and middle managers involved rather than strictly directors.

**Ellyn** asked **Chris** to draft up some edits to the purpose of JCAT so we can review them next meeting.

**Sue** asked about having the OCA manager be the Chair of the JCAT. She also asked why we would need both a CAT and OCA?

**Ellyn** said that the team would be there to facilitate cross cutting issues that would affect multiple departments. To help streamline the process of getting things done.

**Sue** asked for a description of the OCA and how it differs from the CAT

**Ellyn** said that the OCA will only have 2 staff members so the CAT will allow them to work with various departments.

**Phil Thompson in Zoom Chat:** I have comments on a few of these items but I will submit in written form before our next meeting rather than trying to edit in this meeting.

**Atul Deshmane in Zoom Chat:** I have to leave. I wanted to update the committee on PUD stuff the new GM and focus on renewables. Maybe next time.

**David Kershner in Zoom Chat:** I hope you can attend the next meeting, Atul. That would certainly be of interest to the committee.

## **6) Wind Energy Code Subcommittee –**

**Ellyn** mentioned some other potential members being **Mia Devine**, and **Jack Wellman**, and possibly **Atul**. **Ellyn** asked **Imran** if he'd be able to help.

**Imran** said he would be up for it.

**Sue** offered to help out.

**Eddy** suggested some other names for the subcommittee: **John Bosch**, **Jerry Minor**, **Simon Vickery**. He mentioned that there is a folder in the dropbox for the subcommittee.

**Ellyn** asked **Chris** to update the dropbox with files from the previous wind energy committee.

**Sue** suggested that **Eddy** chair the subcommittee.

**Eddy** will chair this subcommittee

## **7) Communication and Social Media Campaign Update - Katie and Steve**

**Steve** said that he never got clear direction if this is possible but that he would be willing to set up and monitor a twitter account. And that we may set up an Instagram or tiktok if there are no legal obstacles.

**Ginny** suggested bringing in an intern from WWU to help with social media accounts.

**Steve** said that was a great idea and asked **Ginny** to send the contacts his way

**Ellyn** said that **Steve** has been writing articles and that if anyone has suggestions for article topics, they could send them to him.

**Ellyn** also mentioned that we could look into any dual language papers or publications that would include farmworkers.

**Steve** said that he had a contact in the farmworker's union

**Sue** mentioned flooding as a timely topic.

**Ginny** mentioned jobs as a topic. Referencing how Florida has brought in lots of jobs to manufacture EVs.

**Steve** agreed that would be relevant considering we have refineries and solar panel manufacturing.

**Ellyn** suggested something about the electric ferry that All American Marine made in Bellingham.

**Ginny** said that she has a connection with AAM

**Ellyn** suggested emailing the climate reporter **Isabelle Kempe** at the Herald and that she had sent her some info on FEMA flood insurance since it will now include climate change

**Chris** said that she was great to work with on writing. And he mentioned being conscious of wording so as not to ostracize community members that think of climate change as a highly politicized buzzword.

## **8) Old/New Business**

**Ellyn** mentioned that she and **Chris** will present on the CAP at the Bellingham City Club on January 19<sup>th</sup>

**Chris** gave an update on a letter that they wrote about the CNG franchise. He said that the Franchise fee term limit has expired. And Council would like us to explore the franchise fee to give them some input on it. **Chris** said that he is open to suggestions from committee members on that topic.

**Phil** volunteered to help

**Eddy** said that he was at that council meeting but asked **Chris** if there has been any follow up since then.

**Chris** said that yes there has been some communication with the administration.

**Eddy** asked about what our role in the Franchise fee process is going to be?

**Steve** said that his understanding was that the term limit was the most important aspect because we don't want to enter into a new term that would span decades.

**Eddy** told **Chris** that he could look into what happened in Eugene, Oregon with regards to franchise agreements.

**Chris** recommended that **Eddy** look through the current agreement with the county and make specific suggestions

**Ellyn** brought up infrastructure maintenance and removal.

**Eddy** said that this is new territory because there isn't another example of this situation.

**Sue** asked what the problem with Eugene was?

**Eddy** said that they initially agreed to a fee but their city council wasn't able to finish the deal. He suggested that the gas company didn't want to set a precedent to restrict their ability to do business.

**Phil** mentioned that the state regulatory commission may be involved in this decision. He suggested contacting the UTC.

## **9) Adjourn**

**Next meeting scheduled for January 6, 2022**

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