

# Climate Impact Advisory Committee



Meeting Minutes

Date: January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Location: Zoom

QUORUM	Y
<b>Members Present</b>	
William Bethel	x
Ginny Broadhurst	x
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

## 1) Call to Order/Roll Call

5:31pm start

## 2) Review and approve agenda

## 3) Review and approval of minutes from December

### Meeting

**Dave** motioned to approve minutes

**Sue** seconded

## 4) Public Comment

Public in attendance

**Eric Grossman**

**Jon Oesting**

**Jack Wellman, PSE**

## 5) Roles & Responsibilities for CAP Implementation (CIAC Code 2.126) review – Ellyn and Chris

Review of discussion from last meeting about the proposed code changes for CIAC.

**Sue** Commented on point i and suggested moving it further up the list perhaps after d or e

**Phil** asked about the language on point e and the use of an ellipsis rather than a period

**Ellyn** said that the language was shortened to fit the slide for presentation purposes

**Kaylee Galloway in Zoom Chat:** Here is the link to the full language:

<https://www.codepublishing.com/WA/WhatcomCounty/#!/WhatcomCounty02/WhatcomCounty02126.html#2.126>

**Steve** said that the purpose of working with the OCA is redundant language when working with the OCA is referenced later in the code

**Phil** said that since the wording is slightly different in the two points that it might be better to keep it as specific as possible

**Kaylee** asked about working with the climate manager and revising the language and pointed out that the purpose and function are discussed separately

**Ellyn** said that when presenting the edits to council she will not be using a PowerPoint and will instead provide them with edits directly to the document

In responding to **Sue's** question **Ellyn** said that the list is not ordered in priority and the fewer edits the more likely it will be that the edits will be approved by council easier

Discussion of proposal to add a councilmember on the committee as a nonvoting member

**Sue** asked about what may happen if we get a climate change denier as the council member on the committee?

**Ellyn** said that this position would be a nonvoting member

**Kaylee** explained how she might serve that roll

**Steve** said that **Sue's** concern may come to pass even with a fully voting member. Since new members are approved by the council

**Sue** pointed out specifically that the language of the criteria for members to include relevant experience and that she would like for there to be some kind of qualifier for the council member to have an appropriate background

**Chris** wanted to ensure that the climate manager could provide input on applications without politicizing the Climate Action Manager's role.

**Steve** suggested adding advisory wording to the Climate Action Manager's role in providing recommendations.

**Ellyn** said that the overall outcome is the same

**Steve** said that putting the council first in the language makes it seem more like Council has the final say

**Ellyn** said that putting the initiative in the court of the council is just making more work for the council because in the end the council does make the final decision and they have not always agreed with suggestions she has made as the chair of the CIAC in the past

**Eric Grossman in Zoom Chat:** Nice to see you all, I will follow-up with **Ellyn** and Chris on Agenda items 7 and 8, I'm getting pulled away by my 8-yr old! Stay well.

**Eddy** said that he would like the wording to be clearer that the county council has the final approval of new members

Consensus seems to be that wording it to be more of a consultation with the Climate Manager and that it will be initiated by the council

**Chris** said that the Climate Manager would be the best fit for providing recommendations so as not to put any other staff member into a position of public scrutiny.

**Dave** seconded **Steve's** suggested wording to have the Climate manager in a consultation role.

**Eddy** suggested using softer language, words like may or shall

**Ellyn** asked if it might be better for a recommendation to come from the executive staff?

**Kayley** thinking about the relationship between all parties at play here. Said that recommendations are still important even if the council does their own thing. But she suggested having the Climate manager play an outreach and recruitment role to bring in potential applicants with expertise in areas which we are lacking on the committee.

**Phil** supports making the first sentence to be that “the council is going to appoint...”

Discussion on Functions of OCA:

**Ellyn** proposed recommendations for what we would like the Climate Manager to do

**Phil** edited point number 10.

**Chris** suggested placing emphasis on point 4 and participating in JCAT because that is a big role.

**Ellyn** said that she meant for this wording to mean that the Climate Manager just be a member of JCAT and that the Executive’s office will coordinate and run the meetings.

**Steve** agreed with **Chris's** suggestion to give JCAT its own point. He also pointed out how the JCAT is related to the content of point number 8 because it outlines many of the parties that already participate in JCAT

**Sue** asked if 8 is redundant to include with JCAT

**Chris** said that the goal of JCAT is to eventually encompass all the parties in point 8 but it’s not there yet so keeping them separate is fine for now.

**Sue** suggested changing the wording to have the Climate Manager provide leadership within the JCAT and then point 8 can be eliminated and combined into the point about JCAT membership

**Phil** asked what coordinating member meant

**Steve** said that implied leadership

**Sue** said that providing a leadership role within the JCAT is what she was recommending

**Ellyn** proposed for now wording it to define the Climate Manager's role as leading the internal CAT and participating in the JCAT.

**Phil Thompson in Zoom Chat:** In item 10 add "provide" before public comments. actually "providing" is probably better

**Steve** asked about OCA providing public comments in regulatory proceedings and expanding that to cover other instances that may require comment or testimony.

**Kayley** said that we should differentiate legislature from state agencies.

**Phil** wanted to ensure the wording didn't imply lobbying

**Ginny** suggested to word "decisionmakers"

**Phil** said that might be too exclusive

**Ellyn** said that she was open to any suggestions be sent to her after the meeting if people think of them.

Discussion of other issues

**Ellyn** mentioned how the county's website is difficult to navigate

**Steve** brought up that his daughter is a civic tech expert and while she may not have time to help out on this matter but wanted to suggest that the county should look into hiring someone with that expertise.

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

**Eddy** said that there will be a meeting of the subcommittee in January and they would like to present in the next meeting

**Eddy** provided an updated email to get ahold of him: [eddyury@mail.com](mailto:eddyury@mail.com)

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

**Steve** had an op-ed that recently came out about flooding and climate change.

**Katie** and **Steve** said that the plan for January would be to set up social media accounts on Twitter and Instagram.

## **8) Potential Next Steps in CAP Implementation – Ellyn**

- Looking into CNG Franchise Fee
- GHG Assessment is coming up this year
- Adding a transportation survey for county staff
- upcoming legislation: clean buildings, electrification, cash for lawn clunkers, utilities and energy, ev rebates

**Sue** asked about the article **Ellyn** sent out about the clean air violation and if there have been any updates

**Ellyn** said that it's a concerning issue and suggested someone should look into it.

**Sue** said she would look into it.

**Steve** had a comment on building codes and if the council has any authority to update residential codes

**Ellyn** said that if the proposed state legislation to electrify new multi-family and large buildings passes then local governments can make their own timelines.

## **9) Old/New Business**

**Dave** commented on the Governor's supplemental budget funding for ferries and whether or not it would include electrifying the County ferries as well as the state ferries.

**Ellyn** said it sounded like it might but encouraged that we could write a letter of support

**Sue** was thinking about campaigns and initiatives in relation to the Climate Manager and asked if there was a certain priority that we wanted to propose? She suggested EV charging stations throughout the county and that we could potentially help out the Climate Manager get started

**Ellyn** asked **Chris** if anything like that is in the works amongst the county staff

**Chris** said he didn't think there was anyone specifically working on it.

**Ellyn** asked **Phil** to check in with his transportation contacts in the county

**Sue** suggested that someone look into the City of Bellingham bulk buying initiative as a way to help young folks out that wouldn't benefit from the Federal Tax Rebate.

**Ginny** asked if we had a tiered list of priorities? So that we can cover bases that other entities aren't doing.

**Phil** and **Ellyn** pointed to the ten priorities from the CAP.

**Kaylee** said that President Biden has declared a state of disaster in Whatcom County due to the state of the floods.

**Steve** brought up the priority of moving communities and not necessarily just replacing things that are likely to flood again.

## **10) Adjourn**

**Next meeting scheduled for February 3, 2022**

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