

Climate Impact Advisory Committee
DRAFT Meeting Minutes



Date: April 4th, 2019
Location: RE Store, 2309 Meridian St, Bellingham

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

1) Meeting Began at 5:34 PM

Minutes were approved unanimously.

2) Minutes

- a. Minutes were approved from February meeting since there was no March meeting.

3) Public Comment

Atul made a few comments:

He believes we're headed for a drought this year. Considering the effects of climate change on weather may or may not be in scope for this group.

He also talked about the wind energy amendment – when Cherry Point Commission talked last, the most important piece was replacing the wind energy ordinance. It's on a list of the planning commission for the year, but the commission has not taken it up.

4) 2019 Budget Appropriation and review of initial draft "scope of work."

Chris has gotten the RFP template from Whatcom County, and desires to have a team from the committee to help out creating the RFP to hire a 3rd party to complete the climate action plan update.

Clare will send the Bellingham RFP to Chris for review.

Tentative meeting 11:30 AM Tuesday April 9th. A confirming email will be sent out.

5) Wind Energy Amendments

Currently the planning commission Wind system amendment is docketed, but no immediate timeline for staff. If the CIAC would like to provide comments to the wind energy they would likely be welcomed.

Atul – Staff was waiting for CIAC to make recommendations to the planning commission before making any changes.

Alex gave the group some history – he was involved in the original code as part of the Wind Energy advisory. The recommendations were not adopted. Alex suggested working on the ground work in public perception ahead of making a proposal to the planning commission.

Atul mentioned there is some frustration with the last effort on wind energy. There was a lot of effort put forth, but then in the end the outcome was not useful. He would like CIAC to look at renewables as a whole.

Public comment: Code needs to change. The new wind permits would adhere to new code.

Eddie – Terry presented to the City of Bellingham, believed that economical wind exists within the county.

Alex suggested bringing in experts to the next meeting from Lummi, PSE, Whatcom PUD. After that, the CIAC could send a recommendation to edit the current code. There was also a suggestion to invite Terry Myer to the next meeting as well, with the idea that all the presenters could help highlight the problem areas in the current Code. It was decided that the next meeting should not have more than 4 presenters on wind energy. Casey and Alex will look into inviting people.

Note: Everyone can download the current code.

6) April 4, 2019 Update on Community Research Project

Provided by Ellyn

The Community Research Project is underway. Advisory Committee members were asked to review and recommend interview questions and people/organizations to interview in February. In early March we sent a letter of introduction and list of questions to the 90+ individuals or organizations we want to interview.

We have Leads for each of the eight areas of interest and volunteers to help with the interviews. I estimate that we have collectively completed 40 to 50% of their interviews. We hope to have all the interviews completed by early to mid-May so we can start writing a summary for each area. Our schedule is still to try to get a draft report to the Advisory Committee by early June. The focus of the

report will be on climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies that are currently being done or would be good to do in the future.

Area	Lead Interviewer	Interviewers
Energy Conservation & Renewable Energy	Betsy Gross jbgross1@comcast.net	Dave Hostetler Karen Dalenius
Transportation & Mobility	Jayne Freudenberger freudbj7@comcast.net	Kathy Gablehouse Ellyn Murphy Betsy Gross
Public Safety & Preparedness	Ellyn Murphy ellyn.murphy10@gmail.com	Joanne Knittel
Waste Reduction & Recycling	Vicki Thomas vicki.kagi@gmail.com	Jayne Freudenberger
Water Quantity & Quality	Judy Hopkinson Jd.hopkinson@gmail.com	Mary Durbrow Ellyn Murphy
Agriculture & Food Security	Steve Harrell meiguimuga@gmail.com	Brian Mulligan Karen Holderman Judy Hopkinson
Forestry	Ellyn Murphy ellyn.murphy10@gmail.com	David Kershner Naomi Murphy Judy Hopkinson
Land Use Planning, Recreation, Wildlife & Habitat	David Kershner davekershner@yahoo.com	Carol Smith Ellyn Murphy

Initial impression is that there is a wealth of information and technical reports that will benefit the next revision of the Whatcom County climate action plan, especially from the City of Bellingham, Lummi Nation, and the Nooksack Tribe. The challenge for our committee will be integrating and adapting all the information and differing points of view into a cohesive plan that meets the needs of Whatcom County and sets forth measurable goals.

7) Work Plan

Alex passed around the work plan draft that Treva, Seth and Alex worked on for review. Since Treva was not present discussion was tabled for the next meeting.

8) Old and New Business

Report to City Club (Eric Grossman).

Cosmos is the only program that can predict the changes in coastal area due to sea level rise and storm affects. Need \$350,000 to get a model for entire Whatcom County. This tool can be used for by cities and counties in planning on where to invest in future infrastructure.

Chris mentioned that he supports pursuing funding for the Cosmos program. The CIAC could provide a recommendation to the county to help provide input.

Alex put forth a motion to send a letter to the Planning Commission Director to recommend funding the Cosmos study. Motion passed unanimously with one exemption (Eric).

ICLEI forestry update

Chris mentioned the forestry protocol will be released in June. Comments for it are due in a couple weeks. He will provide more details in May meeting.

Claire mentioned the Bellingham Transportation Task force knows that some of the transportation issues for Bellingham are linked to county. The committee is invited to the transportation meeting at some point depending on availability.

Atul suggested considering a transportation-focused meeting.

Next meeting location to be at the RE Store. Next meeting is 5:30 May 2nd, 2019.

10) Meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Recorded by W. Casey Harman, Secretary

Staff contact Chris Elder - (360)778-5932