

**Climate Impact Advisory Committee**

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Date: February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Location: RE Store, 2309 Meridian St, Bellingham



QUORUM	Y
<b>Members Present</b>	
Kaylee Galloway	X
Casey Harman	X
Erika Lautenbach	X
Treva Coe	X
Phil Thompson	X
Ellyn Murphy	X
John Yakawich	
Katherine Kissinger	X
David Kershner	X
Cynthia Mitchell	X
Alex Ramel	
STAFF Chris Elder	X

**Meeting Began at 5:31 PM**

Dave moved to approve the minutes. Motion carried, none opposed.

Meeting began with introductions of all the members on the committee.

**Public Introductions**

The following were also present at the meeting:

- Mark Buford, Northwest Clean Air Agency
- Emily Wright
- Art Hyatt
- Clare Fogelsong City of Bellingham
- Eddy Ury
- Mike Skehan

**Cascadia Consulting Presentation**

Emily provided a presentation on the Climate Action Plan and Vulnerability Assessment Update. The presentation is provided. The minutes include just the questions by the committee.

Questions:

Art asked Emily for a definition of equity. Emily responded that in this context, equity means distributing resources across communities, particularly marginalized communities with regard to climate change. Art asked if an example would be money taken from ~~real estate~~ ~~the developers~~ ~~to~~ ~~and given to~~ the tribes. She responded that she would not know specifically, but that's a possible example. David followed up on the equity topic by providing an additional example - that ~~County~~ general fund ~~revenues~~ might be used to protect ~~the a tribe-owned~~ fish packing plant ~~vulnerable to~~ ~~sea level rise at Sandy Point~~ versus new development at Sandy Point ~~on land not owned by the tribe~~. Emily was not sure of the details, ~~but~~ stated that it sounded reasonable and it may have to do with who has the resources.

Ellyn asked about the equation on the fact sheet – since there is an equation for vulnerability, is there a quantitative value? Emily replied that no, there is no quantitative scale available, it's a qualitative value that's relative to each other.

~~Cynthia stated that Cascadia may not want to bound the adaptive capacity costs to low, medium, and low, corresponding inverse to high, medium and low exposure plus sensitivity cases." Cynthia mentioned that Cascadia may not want to bound itself by stating projecting specific what the cost or risk levels are.~~

Chris commented that the overview factsheet was very useful, more useful than the area of impact summary since it ~~leads someone to the conclusion with~~ ~~has supporting~~ data.

Emily used the comment to segue to the Ecosystems and Species Draft part of the presentation (back to presentation)

Ellyn commented that the Lummi Nation Climate Action plan had a matrix of cost and risk and that it might be useful to incorporate something of this nature. Emily responded by saying risk assessments are another area all together.

~~-Cynthia suggested was uncomfortable with using to avoid the words "judgement" and "subjective" rather and she requested that the committee use than "qualitative," pointing out that the term quantitative is instead as it is less emotional.~~

Emily interjected that the report is based on the information from the climate science summary, which is more quantitative ~~information~~ ~~versus qualitative~~.

Chris asked about the timeline on when comments need to be provided. Emily didn't provide a deadline, but Chris decided that two weeks is reasonable. The committee members should focus on the Ecosystem and Species fact sheet and the overall format ~~The committee members should also think more about the intended audience and the level of knowledge we should assume as we write the report. The committee members should also think more on how to communicate the information.~~

Erika asked what the point-objective of the Cascadia Consulting work was – something to provide the public or a more technical document for policymakers?

The committee discussed the question, and Chris will send out scope of work for Cascadia to remind everyone what the scope of work is.

Chris mentioned the fact that 60% of the land is Federal, so the plan should not necessarily focus on federal forests since that is beyond county control. Cynthia interjected that there is both control and influence and the county can influence things beyond the county's direct control.

### Workgroups

Ellyn used Cynthia's comment as a segue to discuss the work groups. The first question discussed was whether the county-committee workgroups should only focus on things the county can directly control. Ellyn thought that the groups also should include what the county can influence. For example, large industries may be regulated by state and federal laws, but the county can still influence those organizations to make meaningful strides in greenhouse gas emissions.

Chris brought up a graphic regarding cost effectiveness and GHG reductions of various technologies as an example.

Ellyn handed out a working group list. Ellyn talked to various members and got agreement on which working group people would be on.

Katherine asked how the groups recruit new people? Chris replied that the working group is responsible for pulling in community members. He then brought up an example of his and Treva's schedule on the screen for the group.

Erika asked why the workgroup categories are different than what is provided in the Cascadia Reports summaries. Chris responded that the Cascadia consulting group Vulnerability assessment is done for adaptation, but the working groups include both mitigation and adaptation, which is why they are different. For example, there is very little adaptation in that will be relevant to the Renewable Energy and Buildings group.

Ellyn then gave an update on the Communication and Community Engagement working group.

Their current goals are:

- Writing articles for the local press
- Develop an online dashboard.

Art Hyatt: Maybe it'd be helpful to get a subscription to Melbourne Gazette. They Australians are much farther ahead than us but there still is a lot of resistance. The committee needs to get the message out.

**Comment [DK1]:** I think he was referring to Melbourne, Australia and Australians. However, I found no reference to a Melbourne Gazette that has been published in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. There is a Victoria Government Gazette, which is a publication of the provincial government within which Melbourne is located. It contains information about laws of the provincial government. If Art comes to the next meeting, we can ask him for more details.

Kaylee brought up a concern about the interaction between workgroups and suggested a possible solution - a collaborative document that the workgroups could all use. She also asked about how **do**es the groups interact with each other when problems and solutions overlap.

Ellyn responded that she ran into this issue on the community research project. She found that the strategies may have conflict across focus areas. Chris thought that the issue of intersection of the workgroups would come a few months down the road once the work groups were more established, and coordination could transpire through the monthly committee meeting or other methods determined by the workgroups themselves.

Formatted: Indent: Left: 0"

### Old/New Business

Chris reported that he was able to get a "submit a comment" box on the website.

Dave asked about whether Alex will continue on committee. There is currently no indication of him dropping out of the committee.

Katherine asked whether she is temporary? Discussion ensued, and the conclusion was Katherine is filling out the rest of a former committee member's 3-year term. All the rest of the newly instated or reinstated committee member's terms are for three years.

### Public Comment

Mike Skehan provided some public comment:-

He pointed out that:

- Ferry emits 503 metric tons of carbon, a sizable chunk of automobile emissions of the county owned vehicles.
- The replacement ferry will emit 1400 tons of carbon, more than all of the county's diesel on road vehicles combined. He felt this was clearly moving in the wrong direction.
- He mentioned that there is not enough generation and-transmission capacity to get grid power to youthe island. He is looking into future energy generation on the island, either from wind or solar. Different generation sources have different county regulations that make progress difficult - County regulations can stifle the ability to implement solutions.

Ellyn responded by mentioning that the committee has an effort to try to changebeen editing the wind ordinance to enable some additional wind development in the county. The changes may not be addressed by the County Council until this fall.

Cynthia asked about general assignments to committee. The reply was to review the Cascadia Consulting documents and provide feedback to Chris within two weeks.

Cynthia also asked about the assignments of the working groups - Is there an expectation of the working groups to present on the 5<sup>th</sup>?

Ellyn replied that it is up to the working groups on whether they have something to present to present updates at monthly CIAC meetings. There has to be some leeway; however, since, due to prior commitments, the Renewable Energy and Buildings group will not have all their CIAC members available until later in March.

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:24 PM.**

Recorded by Casey Harman

Staff contact Chris Elder - (360)778-5932