

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Tuesday, January 24, 2022

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Remote Meeting via Zoom

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Chair Olsson at 5:04 PM.

2. Attendance

Councilmembers:

Anne Brown	Absent	-	
Andrew Comai	Absent	-	
Michelle Deatrick	Present	Superior Twp	
Ruby Horton	Present	Ann Arbor City	Joined at 5:22
Gay MacGregor	Absent	-	
Kris Olsson	Present	Ann Arbor Twp	
Yousef Rabhi	Absent	-	
Avni Rao	Present	Pittsfield Twp	
Elizabeth Ratzloff	Present	Crested Butte, Colorado	
Tim Redmond	Absent	-	
Katie Scott	Present	Ann Arbor City	
Annie Somerville	Present	Livingston County	
Theresa Tupacz	Present	Pittsfield Twp	
Benjamin VanGessel	Present	Ann Arbor Twp	
Lisa Wozniak	Absent	-	

Staff Present: Andrew DeLeeuw, Jason Fee

Others Present: Joel Howrani Heeres, Rosemarie Rowney

3. Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Agenda was moved by Scott and seconded by Deatrick. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. November 9, 2022

Councilmember Deatrick indicated that the draft minutes incorrectly showed that Councilmember Wozniak was present at the November 9 meeting. This matter was reviewed by staff and confirmed. Staff proposed that the draft minutes be updated to reflect this change, and this change was received as friendly.

Approval of the November 9, 2022 minutes was moved by Deatrick and seconded by Olsson. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

5. Citizen Participation:

Rosemarie Rowney provided comment expressing concern for proposed expansion of the Ann Arbor airport. Ms. Rowney explained that the expansion of the airport runway to accommodate jets, and larger planes will greatly decrease the quality of life, health, and safety of many communities within the county, and the potential for water contamination due to spills of fuels and chemicals used in aviation.

6. Council Responses to Citizen Participation

Councilmember Scott thanked Ms. Rowney for attending and addressing the Council.

Councilmember VanGessel asked Rowney if she had also voiced her thoughts and concerns to the City of Ann Arbor through public comment process given the jurisdiction of the project and the limitations of the County's authority.

Chair Olsson asked Ms. Rowney about the process needed to approve the project before the plan is adopted.

Councilmember Deatrick voiced her support towards Rowney by mentioning that the point of the climate action plan is to reach 0 net carbon.

7. Special Presentations

None.

8. Regular Business

a. Climate Action Plan –

Mr. DeLeeuw provided an update on status of Resilient Washtenaw since the last meeting of the Environmental Council on November 9. He shared that the plan was unanimously adopted with amendments by the Board of Commissioners at their December 7, 2022 Meeting. He indicated that the resolution did not allocate funding

or staffing, but that it did direct that a proposal to implement the plan and address these need be brought to the Board for consideration in the first quarter of 2023.

Mr. DeLeeuw then reviewed a draft presentation developed by the project team which would address the implementation recommendations. This presentation covered staffing, reporting, funding, governance, and partnerships. He then indicated that he would be working on a proposal for the board in alignment with these recommendations, and would look to review this proposal with the WCEC prior to board consideration.

Councilmember VanGessel asked if the plan scope was only county operations or if it extended to constituents within the county as well. Mr. DeLeeuw clarified that the plan addresses both.

Councilmember VanGessel also asked about the jurisdictional limitations of the county has identifies as barriers to implementation. Mr. DeLeeuw addressed this question, and agreed with the County's limited authority for countywide matters, but strong authority over county operations. He also revisited that the magnitude of Countywide emissions made it worth pursuing despite the limitations, and that it would need to be done through partnerships with other governments and entities.

9. New Business

a. 2023 WCEC Meeting Calendar

Mr. DeLeeuw presented the 2023 proposed meeting calendar of the WCEC, and shared that it had not been able to be adopted before the start of the year due to lack of quorum at the last meeting. He indicated that the calendar proposes to keep the current meeting schedule of 4th Tuesday of each month at 5 PM via zoom.

Approval of 2023 Meeting Calendar was moved by Tupacz and seconded by Scott. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

10. Communications and Reports

A. Councilmembers

None

B. Staff

a. Paperwork Review and Updating

Mr. DeLeeuw reported that Washtenaw County Human Resources would be in contact with newly appointed members and members who need paperwork updating in the near future.

b. Election of Officers planned for February Meeting.

Mr. DeLeeuw reported that the February meeting agenda will include the Election of Officers of the WCEC, including the Chair and Vice Chair, per the bylaws.

C. Committees

None

11. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was moved by Rao and seconded by Scott. Approved unanimously by roll call vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Approved by the Environmental Council on _____

Minutes prepared by Andrew DeLeeuw,

Staff to the Environmental Council