

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Remote Meeting via Zoom

APPROVED MINUTES

1. Call to Order

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

2. Attendance

Councilmembers Present: Kris Olsson (Ann Arbor Township), Gay MacGregor (City of Dexter), Anne Brown (Driving on I-96 in Livingston County) Tim Redmond (Scio Township), and Hallie Fox (City of Ann Arbor)

Councilmembers Absent: Michelle Deatrack, Jason Morgan, Sue Shink, Lisa Wozniak, Andrew Comai, Theresa Tupacz

Staff Present: Andrew DeLeeuw

Others Present: None

3. Approval of the Agenda

Moved by MacGregor, seconded by Fox. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. January 25, 2022

The draft minutes of January 25, 2022 were not considered at this meeting, and will be included in the February 8, 2022 Environmental Council Agenda.

5. Citizen Participation:

None.

6. Council Responses to Citizen Participation

None.

7. Special Presentations

None.

8. Regular Business

None.

9. New Business

A. Official Comment on MI Healthy Michigan Draft Plan

Chair Olsson introduced a revised copy of a resolution providing comment from the Environmental Council. This resolution had been updated by group of council members following initial discussion at the January 25, 2022 meeting.

The Council discussed the need for the plan to consider the emissions from agricultural operations, the size of emissions from agriculture in the state, and possible language to convey both the size and diversity of the agricultural economy in Michigan.

MacGregor moved, seconded by Fox, that “Agriculture is one of Michigan’s most critical economic drivers in the state’s economy and is a major contributor of greenhouse gas emissions. The plan therefore should place far more emphasis on agricultural processes and land use practices by incentivizing regenerative agriculture that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and natural lands protection” should be added to the list of “Areas for Improvement” in the draft resolution. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Following the adoption of the amendment, the resolution in its entirety was taken up.

MacGregor moved, seconded by Redmond, that the Environmental Council adopt the amended resolution and that it be sent as official comment from the Washtenaw County Environmental Council on the State of Michigan draft MI Healthy Climate Plan. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

Councilmember Redmond then discussed how he was thinking lots about agriculture lately, specifically the challenges with acquiring land for farming for new farmers, and work on a “land-link” program.

10. Communications and Reports

B. Councilmembers

None.

C. Staff

None.

D. Committees

None.

11. Tasks:

None.

12. Adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 5:34 PM

Approved by the Environmental Council on February 22, 2022

Minutes prepared by Andrew DeLeeuw,
Staff to the Environmental Council