

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Tuesday, February 22, 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 5:03 PM.

2. Attendance

Councilmembers Present: Kris Olsson (Ann Arbor Township), Michelle Deatrick (Superior Township), Jason Morgan (City of Ann Arbor), Sue Shink (Northfield Township), Tim Redmond (Scio Township), and Theresa Tupacz (Pittsfield Township). Lisa Wozniak (City of Ypsilanti) joined at 5:12 PM.

Councilmembers Absent: Gay MacGregor, Ann Brown, Andrew Comai, Hallie Fox

Staff Present: April Avigne, Andrew DeLeeuw

Others Present: Matt Naud (Resource Recycling Systems)

3. Approval of the Agenda

Councilmember Redmond proposed adding a Land Link Program Letter of Support as item 9.A. This amendment was accepted by the Chair/

Agenda as Amended moved by Shink, seconded by Redmond. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes (5 Minutes)

A. January 25, 2022

B. February 8, 2022 Special Meeting

Approval of both the January 25, 2022 and February 8, 2022 minutes moved by Deatrick, seconded by Shink. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

5. Citizen Participation:

None.

6. Council Responses to Citizen Participation:

None.

7. Special Presentations

None.

8. Regular Business

a. Climate Action Plan – Project Update

Matt Naud presented an update on the work done over the past month on the Climate Action Plan. He described community engagement and publication efforts, upcoming scheduled meetings, a new recording on local climate data from Omar Gates of GLISA available on the website, the status of data collection efforts, other climate planning efforts underway, a transition from district based engagement to thematic based engagement, the development of the plan structure.

Councilmember Tupacz commented about her experience at the Pittsfield Township listening session, that she will be sharing notice of the upcoming sessions broadly, and that she had an overall positive experience at her event and would like to see more people be engaged.

Councilmember Wozniak suggested that Acorn Market may be a good option for outreach in the Manchester area given their community involvement and connection to local agriculture.

Councilmember Redmond agreed that it was a good idea to reach out to the Farm Bureau and row crop farmers as a specific interest group we should speak with and asked about the status of a previously shared project which would have investigated solar potential on agricultural land in the County. Matt indicated that this proposal was not selected by the review group, and so would not be going ahead in that manner.

Chair Olsson asked if the county's ALPAC or NATAC groups had been contacted, and the possibility of using contact lists from those groups or associates to reach out to the farmer community.

Councilmember Tupacz asked if the contact information for ambassadors could be shared.

9. New Business

a. Land Link Program Letter of Support

Councilmember Redmond Explained that Ottawa County had been operating a Land Link Program for several years, and the purpose of this program was to connect new

farmers looking for land with legacy farm land owners to keep land in agricultural production and to make access to farm land possible. He further explained that there was movement underway to have this program be overseen by the Washtenaw County Conservation District given the high prevalence of new farmers located in Washtenaw County. He presented a draft letter of support for this program and asked that the Environmental Council consider approving and sending this letter of support.

Councilmember Redmond moved, seconded by Shink, that the Washtenaw County Environmental Council would prepare and send letter supporting the need for a Land Link Program and supporting the Washtenaw County Conservation District as the appropriate organization to oversee this program. Approved unanimously by roll call vote. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

10. Communications and Reports

A. Councilmembers

None.

B. Staff

Andrew DeLeeuw reminded members that the application period for reappointment would be closing soon, and to follow up with him if there were any questions about the process.

C. Committees

None.

11. Tasks:

None.

12. Adjourn

None.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:04 PM.

Approved by the Environmental Council on _____

Minutes prepared by Andrew DeLeeuw,
Staff to the Environmental Council