

# Climate Impact Advisory Committee



FINAL Meeting Minutes

Date: July 21, 2022

Location: Hybrid Meeting: In-person location at Civic Center, 322 N. Commercial, Bellingham – come to main door at 5:30PM for access. Remote access via Zoom (details below) strongly encouraged due in-person capacity limitations

QUORUM	Y
<b>Members Present</b>	
Charles Bailey	x
William Bethel	x
Sue Gunn	x
Steve Harrel	x
Ray Kamada	x
David Kershner	x
Katherine Kissinger	
Ellyn Murphy	x
Imran Sheikh	x
Phil Thompson	x
Eddy Ury	x
STAFF Chris Elder	x

1) Call to Order/Roll Call

2) Review and approval of minutes from June Meeting

3) Public Comment

4) Update on Climate-Related Issues Before the Council – **Kaylee Galloway**

Two issues to be discussed at the next County Council meeting

-transition to low or zero emission transport resolution

-**Kayley** and **Carol Frazey's** climate resolution, open for public comment at next council meeting

-Nooksack/Lummi tribes discussion on recreation in south fork of the river impacting Chinook survivability.

5) Introduce Strategic Initiatives Manager – **Kayla Schott-Bresler**

Kayla has a background in County government. Previously worked in Skagit County. She has worked in Public Health and Affordable Housing Advocacy.

Goal is to prioritize implementation of strategic initiatives and reaching out through departments in the county to work on helping them implement those initiatives. Supporting Public works in acquiring grants and federal funding, working with local committees and advisory boards.

6) Updates – **Ellyn and Chris**

i) All in for Climate Action – Bellingham

Inspiring community action through climate conversations

September 19-25

Event registration deadline is August 17<sup>th</sup>

Former member **Ginny Broadhurst** will be partnering with WWU.

Ideas for us to support; watershed planning, council monitoring, Stuart Mountain acquisition, platinum building certification.

**Chris** said that any group who wants to talk about something at this event they are welcome to register to present an event during that week.

**Steve** suggested that his op-ed about heat pumps could be a great opportunity to present information that people in our community would be able to implement

**Chris** suggested partnering with sustainable connections for that presentation.

## ii) Whatcom Women in Timber Tour June 10<sup>th</sup>

Annual event associated with the Deming Logging Show.

Toured 2 US Forest service sites not being currently managed and family-owned managed rural forests.

## iii) Climate Action Manager Status

Job Scheduled to post in August.

## iv) Shew Design

Contract for them to upload CAP text into the template so final document will be available in December.

## v) Compound Flood Grant

Whatcom County Coastal and Riverine Flood Vulnerability and Risk Assessment.

Received a grant to explore the effects of sea level rise on coastal communities.

Work must be completed by June 2023.

## 7) CIAC Advisory Role to the Executive and Council

### a) Wind Energy Code Updates – Eddy Ury

Working through Habitat protection portion of proposed updates

**Phil** asked to know what issues need to be solved with this code update.

**Eddy** said that the code was last updated a decade ago and is now obsolete due to rapid technology advancements

The goals are to remove arbitrary barriers for small scale wind projects and ensure protections for avian and mammalian (mainly bats) wildlife, standardizing decibel limits which have been more restrictive than other noise such as Highways or the ocean.

**Phil** asked if these code updates would help bring more wind energy projects to Whatcom County?

**Eddy** said that it will make it easier for small scale projects to build up here. There are some good sites in the county for potential utility development.

### b) CIAC Budget Request Letter to the Council & Executive – Ellyn & Chris

**Dave** suggested reinforcing the importance of funding the Climate Action Manager position.

**Charles** suggested putting the budgetary numbers at the beginning of the document for readability.

**Ray** suggested putting in an amount for each of the positions within the Office of Climate Management to show that is separate from the requested budget authority.

### c) Conservation Easement Program Oversight Committee Budget Request Letter – Heather MacKay

Asks the CIAC to engage with this committee to advise in Climate Change concerns for the Budget request. Offer a letter of support for an additional staff member for the CEP.

**Steve** volunteered to draft the letter.

## 8) CIAC First Year Priorities

a) Priority 10: Climate Action Dashboard Presentation – Steve Harrell and Zoe Hemez  
Conducted User experience interviews

Narrowed down characteristics of other climate data dashboards across the country.

-should be easy to find from search or the county website

-link from CAP

-collab with Cities in the county, port and tribes.

Answer these questions:

-Why is this important

-How is progress measured

-What are the Equity implications

-How can I get involved?

Present key information in multiple ways.

Make the website accessible for disabled people.

Serve as a jumping off point for people who want to get involved.

b) short update from Priority Leads – Phil, Ray, Imran, Dave, Ellyn, Sue  
Priority 1: Monitor Regulatory proceedings.

-CETA compliance for PSE

-PSE general rate case for new programs. Timeline is in fall.

-UTC policy statement upcoming next March.

-CCA going through public comments, rule goes into effect in November.

-Clean fuel standard comments due **August 31<sup>st</sup>**.

Accelerate local renewable projects while improving equity.

-- *All remaining agenda items moved to a future meeting.* --

## 9) Presentation on Legacy Forests – Sue Gunn

## 10) Old/New Business

## 11) Adjourn

Next meeting scheduled for **July 28, 2022**

Recorded by **Katherine Kissinger**

Staff contact, **Chris Elder**