

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, November 9, 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 5:02 PM.

2. Attendance

Councilmembers:

Kris Olsson	Present	Ann Arbor Township, Michigan
Gay MacGregor	Present	Seattle, Washington
Anne Brown	Present	Ypsilanti, Michigan
Andrew Comai	Present	Ann Arbor, Michigan
Michelle Deatrick	Present	Superior Township, Michigan (Joined at 5:07, left at 5:26)
Virginia He	Absent	-
Jason Morgan	Present	Pittsfield Township, Michigan
Tim Redmond	Absent	-
Joet Reoma	Absent	-
Sue Shink	Absent	-
Theresa Tupacz	Present	Pittsfield Township, Michigan
Lisa Wozniak	Present	-

Staff Present: Andrew DeLeeuw, April Avigne, Jason Fee

Others Present: Briana Dubose, Chip Smith, Hank Love, and Matthew Naud.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Approval of the Agenda was moved by MacGregor and seconded by Brown. Approved unanimously by roll call vote.

4. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. October 25, 2022

Approval of the October 25, 2022 minutes was moved by Brown and seconded by MacGregor. 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 Team Update

Andrew DeLeeuw provided a brief overview of the work done to create Resilient Washtenaw, the county's Climate Action Plan. He presented the final version of the plan, and described two significant changes: an additional action concerning community engagement, and modified language describing the use and prioritization of offsets within the proposed actions.

Councilmember Deatrick voiced concern about the inclusion of carbon offsets and direct air capture technologies in the plan. Chip Smith of the Project Team mentioned that this is not their ideal choice, but that carbon offsets are necessary at this point to have a plan which addresses the goals established by the Board of Commissioners. Hank Love of the Project Team described the local offset program proposed within the plan as a way to have offsets which are credible and additional, and which can help fund the actions and provide avenues for carbon neutrality within the County to other organizations. Councilmember Comai stated that this plan would provide an opportunity around which labor groups could be organized.

Chair Olsson asked about the timing of the plan and actions and how this will be implemented. Andrew DeLeeuw answered that the Board of Commissioners will be asked to approve the plan, but not allocate resources at this time, and that future action would need further development and would return to the Board for consideration.

Councilmember Tupacz and MacGregor spoke in support of the plan, that future work will be needed, but that this is a good step forward.

Chair Olsson asked about the definition of working lands and the goal of 30% of land preservation. Matthew Naud of the Project Team responded to Chair Olsson mentioning that the intent was following a state regulation by Michigan Healthy Climate Plan, where a total of 30% of the land is preserved either by working lands or natural areas.

A resolution which would recommend to the Board of Commissioners adopt Resilient to provide for ongoing updating and maintenance of the plan, and to specify carbon offsets only be used as a final option to meet the plan goals was prepared by staff for consideration by the environmental council.

A resolution supporting the adoption of Resilient Washtenaw as the Climate Action Plan for Washtenaw County, recommending that the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners accept and adopt Resilient Washtenaw, recommending the ongoing updating and maintenance of the plan, and recommending that carbon offsets be used only as a final option to meet carbon neutrality goals was moved by MacGregor and seconded by Comai. Approved unanimously via roll call vote by those present (Ayes - Olsson, MacGregor, Brown, Comai, Morgan, and Tupacz; Nays – none)

9. New Business

None

10. Communications and Reports

A. Councilmembers

None

B. Staff

None

C. Committees

None

11. Tasks:

None.

12. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was moved by Brown and seconded by Morgan. Approved unanimously by roll call vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:01 PM.

Approved by the Environmental Council on _____

Minutes prepared by Andrew DeLeeuw,
Staff to the Environmental Council