

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Tuesday, January 24, 2023

5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Remote Meeting via Zoom

Join by Zoom: <https://zoom.us/join>

Join by phone: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 873 0013 5225

Passcode: 709275

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance
3. Approval of the Agenda
4. Approval of Meeting Minutes (5 Minutes)
 - a. November 9, 2022
5. Citizen Participation: (up to 4 minutes per speaker)
 - a. Written Comment – Rosemarie Rowney, Opposition to Airport Expansion
6. Council Responses to Citizen Participation
7. Special Presentations
 - a. Introduction of Members
8. Regular Business
 - a. Climate Action Plan
 - i. Status of Adoption of Climate Action Plan
 - ii. Preliminary, Draft Implementation Recommendations
9. New Business
 - a. Adopting the 2023 WCEC Meeting Calendar

- b. 2023 WCEC Agenda Planning

- 10. Communications and Reports

- A. Councilmembers

- B. Staff

- a. Paperwork review and updating for WCEC Appointed Members

- b. Election of Officers – planned for February meeting, officer progression

- C. Committees

- 11. Adjourn

Next meeting:

February 28, 2023

5:00 PM

Remote through Zoom

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

January 11, 2023

To: Matthew Kulhanek
Ann Arbor Municipal Airport
801 Airport Drive
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48108.
Email: mjkulhanek@a2gov.org

Copy: Steve Houttemans
MDOT-AERONAUTICS
2700 Port Lansing Road
Lansing, MI 48906.
Email: houttemans@michigan.gov

Copy: Kathe Wunderlich
Email: kathewun@aol.com

RE: Ann Arbor Airport Expansion

I am writing to you in opposition to the Ann Arbor Airport Expansion as a concerned community member and former public health official. I am a 22 year resident of a housing development located west of the airport, and I am a daily witness to the impact of increased air traffic, especially the touch and go operations associated with the pilot training schools. The intensity of touch and go operations were considerably fewer when I moved in 2001.

A further expansion of the airport runway to accommodate jets and larger payloads will greatly decrease the quality of life, health and safety of many communities surrounding the AA airport. I write this critique of the proposed runway expansion and the Second Revised Draft Environmental Assessment (SRDEA) from a Public Health perspective.

1. Noise Analysis

The Noise Analysis was conducted only using computer modeling. The Noise Analysis only used data supplied by the airport and the control tower. There were no independent measurements of noise or monitoring of operations to verify data. For example, the SRDEA states that “Touch and go operations were modeled to occur only during the day.” This is an incorrect assumption. I have personally observed touch and go flights after dark. Onsite measurements and verification of data related to noise were not conducted.

The noise problem around the airport would almost certainly increase with the airport expansion. Even the very conservative FAA-required noise analysis conducted as part of the SRDEA concedes that the harmful 60 decibel noise level would extend to the adjacent residential areas. Noise is more than a nuisance – noise is a well documented public health hazard affecting human health.

“Loud noise causes hearing loss and tinnitus, contributes to serious health problems and impairs children’s learning and work productivity, costing the nation billions of dollars each year. Chronic noise, even at low levels, can cause annoyance, sleep issues and stress that contribute to cardiovascular and cerebrovascular disease, metabolic disturbances, worsening of psychological disorders and early death.” Children are among the most vulnerable and environmental justice communities are affected disproportionately.

<https://apha.org/Policies-and-Advocacy/Public-Health-Policy-Statements/Policy-Database/2022/01/07/Noise-as-a-Public-Health-Hazard>

2. Ground Water Contamination

The possibility of an accidental aviation fuel spill contaminating the ground water is a real concern with more jet traffic, more fuel, more takeoffs and landings.

There are three water wells located on the airport property that supply 20% of Ann Arbor residents' water - a water supply that is already threatened by other contaminants such as PFAS and dioxane. The SRDEA acknowledges that in winter, de-icing is not permitted on the airport, to protect the wells on the property that produce drinking water. Hence, if there is already an acknowledgement that de-icing could contaminate the aquifer, why isn't the possibility of aviation fuel also being considered. The consultants emphasize that the ground water will be protected during construction yet the issue of an aviation fuel spill contaminating the aquifer is not addressed.

The SRDEA does not acknowledge any potential risks to the three wells on airport property other than de-icing stating only that, "there are several water wells on ARB property, all of which are outside the proposed project area." The SRDEA, however, contained extensive analysis of wetlands and streams in and around the property, but nothing about the important drinking water wells!

Local and state officials overseeing water supplies need to be brought into the Environmental Assessment process to assess the risk to the ground water as a result of extending the runway and the increased use of jet fuel. "One- time jet fuel spills often cause horrific environmental impacts."

<https://www.salon.com/2022/03/23/nearly-2000-gallons-of-jet-fuel-spilled-from-an-aircraft-in-kentucky/>

3. Lead in Aviation Fuel

Leaded gasoline is still used by small piston powered planes, which make up 70% of all lead emissions in the nation, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Children who attend school, preschool, play on soccer fields or live close to Ann Arbor Airport may be unknowingly exposed to lead.

The ARB is a municipal airport funded with federal dollars, any pilot who chooses can land at the airport adding to the volume and intensity of risk for lead exposure. Ann Arbor cannot regulate the type of aircraft that could utilize the field. More low flying small piston powered planes means more exposure to lead. “Touch and gos” seem particularly egregious considering they fly low over and over spewing lead from their exhaust. “When it comes to our children the science is clear, exposure to lead can cause irreversible and lifelong health effects. Aircraft that use leaded fuel are the dominant source of lead emissions to air in the country,” EPA Administrator Michael Regan said in a statement.

<https://spectrumnews1.com/ca/la-west/environment/2022/10/19/lead-emissions-from-small-planes-may-be-a-health-hazard>

https://thehill.com/policy/equilibrium-sustainability/3806051-children-living-near-airports-may-be-exposed-to-high-levels-of-lead-study/?segment=1*100pp7z*s amp id*SIE0ck1HOFBwWkNQ QzVRMnBYNmVpU3FLUFd0Z1dybDN2ZDdNcGVtUlhTWEFvQ VQwWmFMRjlyQkZfTWNTZmVjXw

<https://jalopnik.com/small-planes-responsible-for-14-000-times-more-lead-pol-1849882751>

4. Climate Crisis

A2Zero is a project of the City of Ann Arbor that seeks to achieve a transition to carbon neutrality by 2030. The Environmental Assessment fails to address the issue of increased green house gas emissions that may be counterproductive to the intent of A2Zero. The proposed ARB runway expansion will significantly increase air traffic and likely attract more jets releasing more emissions into the atmosphere. EPA reports that commercial airplanes and large business jets contribute 10% of US transportation emissions and account for 3% of the nation's total greenhouse gas.

When Ann Arbor City Council passed the climate neutrality resolution designating a "climate emergency", they failed to factor in the growth of greenhouse gas emissions that would result from the ARB expansion. The SRDEA needs to be revised to include the impact of more aircraft creating more emissions on the Ann Arbor community and how that might effect the goal of carbon neutrality by 2030.

<https://www.eesi.org/papers/view/fact-sheet-the-growth-in-greenhouse-gas-emissions-from-commercial-aviation>

I am opposed to the airport runway expansion for these and other reasons. Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this crucial question for our community.

Rosemarie Rowney
4879 Lone Oak Ct
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Environmental Council

Person	Seat	End of Term	Appointment Resolution
Avni Rao	Youth	12/31/2024	22-230
Andrew Comai	Labor	12/31/2024	23-008
Theresa Tupacz	Sustainable Energy Producers	12/31/2023	22-059
Anne Brown	Racial Equity and Environmental Issues	12/31/2023	22-059
Lisa Wozniak	Community Groups (MI LCV)	12/31/2024	22-230
Michelle Deatrick	Land Use and Preservation	12/31/2023	22-059
Annie Somerville	BOC Liaison	12/31/2023	23-006
Yousef Rabhi	BOC Liaison	12/31/2023	23-006
Katie Scott	BOC Liaison	12/31/2023	23-006
Kris Olsson	Community Groups	12/31/2023	22-059
Tim Redmond	Sustainable Agriculture	12/31/2024	22-230
Ruby Horton	Water Protection	12/31/2024	23-008
Gay MacGregor	Vehicle Emission Reduction Issues	12/31/2024	22-230
Elizabeth Ratzloff	Public Health	12/31/2024	23-008
Benjamin VanGessel	Infrastructure Energy Reduction Issues	12/31/2024	23-008



RESILIENT WASHTENAW

Implementation Recommendations



Implementing Resilient Washtenaw

This section of the Resilient Washtenaw Plan provides recommendations for Staffing, Reporting, Funding and Financing, Governance, and Partnerships.

In order to meet the carbon neutrality goals set by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, Washtenaw County will need to hire new staff, redefine job descriptions of several current and new employees, partner with other local units of government and regional partners to build climate mitigation and adaptation capacity, invest in staff and data gathering to be better prepared to leverage millions of dollars in new federal and state investments and incentives, and explore divestment of County resources from fossil fuel corporations and reinvesting in financial instruments that support the County's equitable and just carbon neutrality.

The following recommendations propose new staff to ensure that key portions of the Resilient Washtenaw plan are managed by County employees. For many of these recommendations, there are options for the County to explore using existing staff as a bridge to get many

efforts underway while a Resilience Authority is formed and a stable funding stream is identified to support the hiring of Resilience Authority staff. The long-term goal of the Resilience Authority is to provide support to municipal governments, collect and share climate data, and to help assume responsibility for ongoing education and communication needs. These responsibilities can be assumed by the County instead, which will require hiring additional staff and shouldering the bulk of staffing expenses.

The priority for the County should be to hire a lead Chief Resilience Officer who will implement the Resilient Washtenaw Plan including implementing the Resilient Washtenaw Authority, identifying existing and new sources of revenue to implement the Resilient Washtenaw Plan, staffing the inaugural internal County Resilient Washtenaw Team, and making recommendations for additional staffing, partnerships, and funding pursuits.



What's Next?

Implementation Recommendations

- 
1. Staffing
 2. Reporting
 3. Funding and Financing
 4. Governance
 5. Partnerships



What's Next?

Implementation Recommendations

- 
1. **Staffing**
 2. Reporting
 3. Funding and Financing
 4. Governance
 5. Partnerships

Staffing Resilient Washtenaw

For the Resilient Washtenaw plan to be effective, it will need to have staff responsible for implementing - and ensuring implementation by partners and consultants – the recommended actions. Two of the most important positions include the Chief Resilience Officer to lead the plan implementation and the Resilient Washtenaw Funding and Finance Program Lead. The County will be more likely to successfully apply for, receive, and manage new federal, state, and philanthropy grants with these two positions in place. Once these new positions are in place, other staffing needs will be identified and filled as new resources are identified.

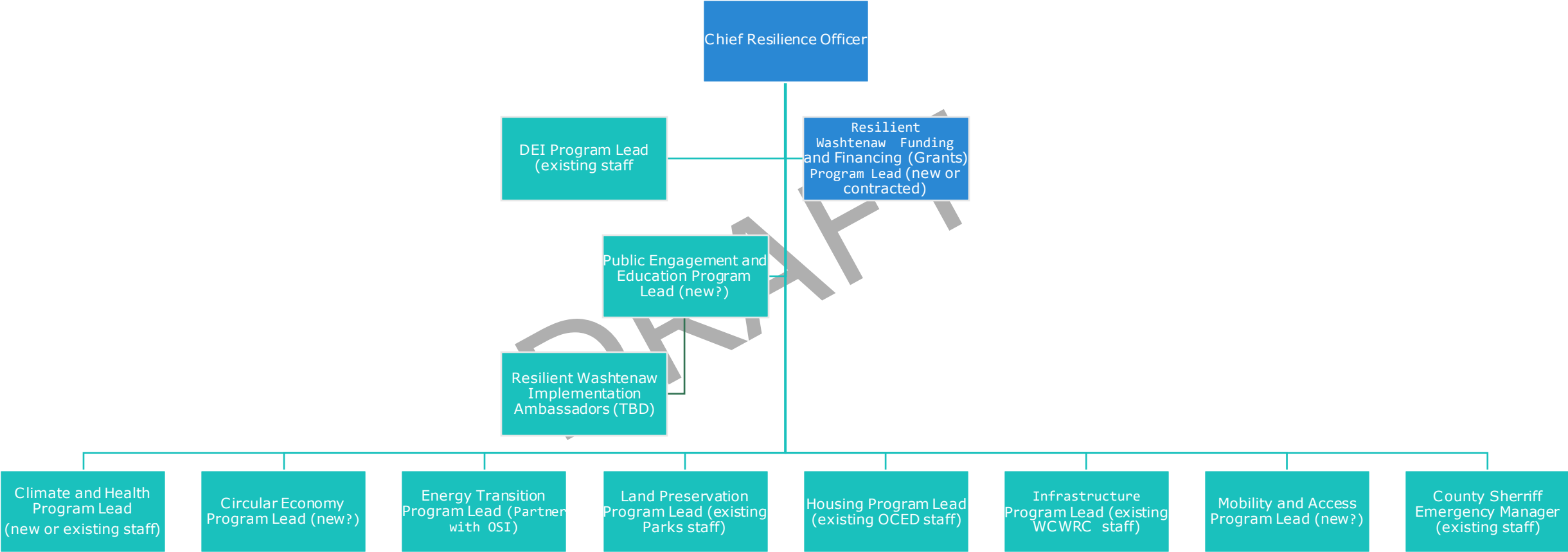
The following slides propose 1) an organization structure with one person responsible for managing the actions for each section of the plan and 2) an initial set of community partners to be engaged in plan implementation.

There is an opportunity to explore cost sharing models for new positions with community partners already engaged in the action area (e.g., Economic Development and Circular Economy). We also

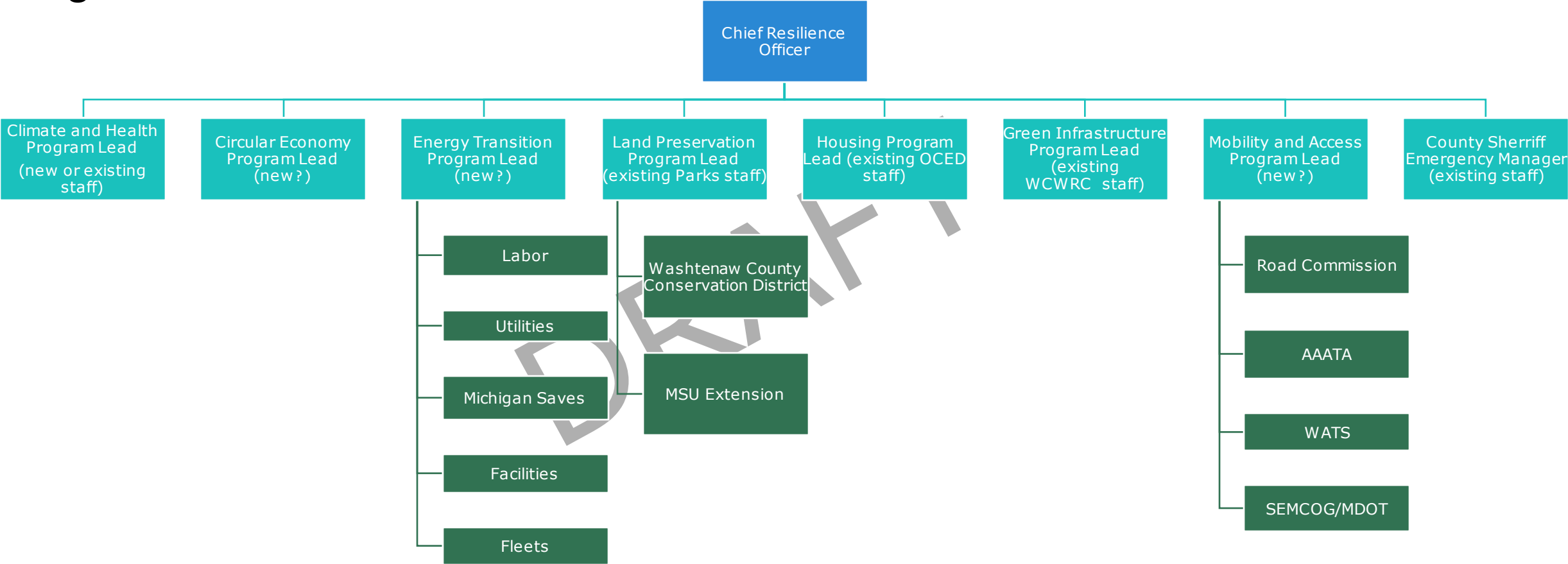
believe that the level of effort required to support the Energy Transitions actions will likely require a full-time staff person either as County staff of partially funded by the County and housed in the Resilience Authority or other partner.

Many of the actions in the Resilient Washtenaw Plan will be implemented by County partners outside of County staff responsibilities. However, one person at the County should be responsible for maintaining the relationships and gathering the progress data needed to report back to the Chief Resilience Officer on action progress so that the Resilient Washtenaw Council and County Board of Commissioners are aware of Resilient Washtenaw Plan progress.

Organization Chart



Organization Chart



RECOMMENDATIONS

Priority: High
Timeline: Short Term

Impact: High
Difficulty: Hard

Chief Resilience Officer

It is essential to identify at least one position with the primary responsibility of overseeing and coordinating the County’s resilience efforts, both internally across departments, and externally working with partners and stakeholders.

The CRO will lead the development and implementation of the County’s resilience agenda, coordinating with all County departments, local units of government, and other external non-governmental partners. The CRO will oversee and manage the County’s Resilience operations, and associated internal and external stakeholder groups, and implement the Resilient Washtenaw Action Agenda. Review all budget requests for compliance and ranking based on Resilient Washtenaw action recommendations. Position reports to the County Administrator.



\$200,000 annually



2023

Key Activities and Outcomes

- Lead staff for Resilient Washtenaw Plan
- Liaison for Environmental Council
- Staff Lead for internal County staff Resilient Washtenaw team
- Coordination with Diversity Equity staff
- Direct Report to Administrator
- Position Funding: TBD
- Staff lead on using existing communications channels

Resilient Washtenaw Actions

- Track and Initiate all Resilient Washtenaw Actions
- Create an internal Revolving Energy/Resilience fund to provide loaned and grant funds to County staff lead projects

RECOMMENDATIONS

Priority: High
Timeline: Short Term

Impact: High
Difficulty: Medium

Resilient Washtenaw Funding and Financing Program Lead

Washtenaw County should hire a full-time staff person to lead the Resilient Washtenaw Funding and Finance Program supporting grant applications and obtaining access to new funding opportunities to support the Resilient Washtenaw Plan. This position is proposed as a new hire but could be an existing position with a clear revised job description identifying this role and outcomes.



HIGH



2023

DRAFT

RECOMMENDATIONS

Priority: High
Timeline: Short Term

Impact: High
Difficulty: Medium

Circular Economy Program Lead



MEDIUM

Washtenaw County should designate a full-time staff person to lead the Circular Economy elements of the Resilient Washtenaw Plan. This position is proposed as a new position but could be an existing position with a clear job description identifying this role and outcomes. This position could follow the model in other communities and share staff costs across economic development and public works functions.



2023

Key Activities and Outcomes

Lead Circular Economy staff for Resilient Washtenaw Plan
Circular Economy Liaison to Resilient Washtenaw staff team

Resilient Washtenaw Actions

Support attracting new businesses that support the County circular economy – e.g., manufacturers that use recycled content, compost facilities, reuse and repair facilities, sharing economy
Green Business Leaders Program (Austin, TX model)
Support existing businesses in their resilience journey
Track metrics to measure the growth and benefits of the County Circular Economy

RECOMMENDATIONS

Priority: High
Timeline: Short Term
Impact: High
Difficulty: Hard

Energy Transition Program Lead



HIGH



2023

Washtenaw County should hire full-time staff person to lead the Energy Transition elements of the Resilient Washtenaw Plan. This position is proposed as a new position but could be staffed within another County partner organization with funding from the County and a clear job description identifying this role and Resilient Washtenaw Plan outcomes.

Key Activities and Outcomes

Lead Energy Transition staff for Resilient Washtenaw Plan
Energy Transition Liaison to Resilient Washtenaw staff team
New staff required for LUG support and Residential Commercial programs
External program staff funded by LUGs and housed in OCED or in Ann Arbor
Internal program staff providing operations assistance to LUGs

Resilient Washtenaw Actions

Local units pool funds to support the position
Participating units are eligible for revolving loans and grants

RECOMMENDATIONS

Priority: High
Timeline: Short Term

Impact: High
Difficulty: Medium

Job Description Review

Washtenaw County should update job descriptions of key existing positions and as vacancies open to include Resilient Washtenaw Plan outcomes as part of all employee performance descriptions. Peer learning networks (e.g., USDN) are great libraries of relevant job description language that can be used as models for the County.



LOW



2023

DRAFT

RECOMMENDATIONS

Priority: High
Timeline: Short Term

Impact: High
Difficulty: Medium

Resilient Washtenaw Fellowships



MEDIUM



2023

Washtenaw County should explore Resilient Washtenaw Fellowships with Washtenaw Community College (WCC) to fund student interns working with County staff on Resilient Washtenaw Plan research and actions. WCC students are typically from the community, better represent the community diversity, and are more likely to remain in the community after completing their studies. There may be opportunities to have philanthropy and job training funds support this program.

DRAFT

RELEVANT PRINCIPLES

 Racial Equity & Environmental Justice

 Just Transition

 Health

 Resilient Economy

 Community Partnership

 Sustained Communications



What's Next?

Implementation Recommendations

- 
1. Staffing
 - 2. Reporting**
 3. Funding and Financing
 4. Governance
 5. Partnerships

RECOMMENDATIONS

Priority: High
Timeline: Mid Term

Impact: High
Difficulty: Medium

Tracking Progress



Low



2023

Washtenaw County staff should hold an annual Resilient Washtenaw Summit to bring together County departments, local units of government, and key partners from across the County to report out on successes and challenges in meeting the outcomes outlined in the Resilient Washtenaw Plan and make commitments for the upcoming year. Include Michigan Green Community recognition for participating LUGs.

KPIs	numbers/estimates
Electricity Use – Organization and County by Jurisdiction	MGC metrics
Natural Gas Use - Organization and County by Jurisdiction	Employee commuting data (VMT, carpool, transit use)
Solar installations (size and location) - Organization and County by Jurisdiction	Buildings – Carbon Neutral
Solar Installed - Organization and County by Jurisdiction	Heat pumps installed
Geothermal installations - Organization and County by Jurisdiction	Energy Efficiency improvements – insulation permits, Furnace, AC,
MPSC rate case interventions	Estimate of \$ savings and Economic multiplier of these funds staying in the community
EVs registered - Organization and County by Jurisdiction	Trees planted
EV chargers installed – residential and public by Jurisdiction	Canopy Cover by neighborhood/census tract
Proportion of EVs - Organization and County by Jurisdiction	Land Preserved – ag, natural areas
Ebikes	
Transit Ridership	
B2B metrics for recreation and commuting – daily use	

RECOMMENDATIONS

Priority: High
Timeline: Short Term
Impact: High
Difficulty: Hard

Board of Commissioners Resolutions

Washtenaw County should include a standard paragraph in BOC resolutions that prompts staff to describe how the proposed action by the BOC supports one or more of the Resilient Washtenaw plan mitigation, adaptation, resilience, and equity outcomes. The County should also seek Board and Commission candidates with expertise to support Resilient Washtenaw plan outcomes



HIGH



2023

DRAFT

RECOMMENDATIONS

Priority: High
Timeline: Short Term

Impact: High
Difficulty: Hard

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update



LOW/MEDIUM



2023

Washtenaw County should update the County Hazard Mitigation Plan recognizing the role of climate change in amplifying the hazards facing County operations, other local units of government, businesses, and residents. The updated Hazard Mitigation Plan should include projects eligible for FEMA funding that support Resilient Washtenaw Plan outcomes. There are often state grant funds available to support Hazard Mitigation planning and new EPA Environmental Justice funds include funding opportunities for disaster resilience.

DRAFT

RELEVANT PRINCIPLES



Racial Equity & Environmental Justice



Just Transition



Health



Resilient Economy



Community Partnership



Sustained Communications



What's Next?

Implementation Recommendations

- 
1. Staffing
 2. Reporting
 - 3. Funding and Financing**
 4. Governance
 5. Partnerships

RECOMMENDATIONS

Priority: High
Timeline: Short Term

Impact: High
Difficulty: Hard

Budgeting for Resilience

Washtenaw County should build the Resilient Washtenaw Plan into the upcoming budget cycle. All significant County investments (e.g., greater than \$100,000) should be scored on how these funds support meeting the Resilient Washtenaw Plan outcomes and other co-benefits associated with these investments. Using the Resilient Washtenaw Team, the County should explore ways to build Resilient Washtenaw Plan outcomes into existing programs to leverage existing funds as the County explores new internal and external funding sources.



HIGH



2023

DRAFT



RECOMMENDATIONS

Priority: High
Timeline: Mid Term
Impact: High
Difficulty: Hard

Local Carbon Offset Program



Medium

Washtenaw County should contract out the development of a local carbon offset program to provide measurable, verifiable, and additional carbon reduction opportunities to members of the community seeking ways to offset their carbon emission. These funds could be used to support plan actions including expanded investments in energy efficiency in low opportunity zone neighborhoods, new tree plantings to expand tree canopy in low opportunity zone neighborhoods and expanded preservation of working lands and natural areas.



2023

For example, it is estimated that a recent 220-acre Greenbelt property preserved 39,613 mTCO₂e aboveground and 266,639 mTCO₂e belowground with a combined social cost of carbon benefit of \$15,618,877.

RELEVANT
PRINCIPLES



Racial Equity &
Environmental Justice



Just
Transition



Health



Resilient
Economy



Community
Partnership



Sustained
Communications

RECOMMENDATIONS

Priority: High
Timeline: Short Term
Impact: High
Difficulty: Hard

Divestment

Washtenaw County should explore divesting County investments from financial instruments that support ongoing fossil fuel investments and reinvest these funds in financial instrument. that support climate mitigation and adaptation. There may be opportunities for these funds to support local impact investments that assist in new job creation in the County.



HIGH



2023

DRAFT

RECOMMENDATIONS

Priority: High
Timeline: Short Term
Impact: High
Difficulty: Hard

Philanthropy

Washtenaw County should explore partnerships with the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation and other local philanthropy to establish a Resilient Washtenaw Donor Advised Fund. There are opportunities to tap into the wealth in the community to support some elements of the Resilient Washtenaw Plan including small grants to the community and matching funds for national philanthropy opportunities including Partners for Places Grants. There is also an opportunity to develop a Resilient Washtenaw Fellowship fund to support ongoing fellowships for Washtenaw Community College students to help build local resilience workforce capacity.



HIGH



2023

DRAFT

RELEVANT PRINCIPLES

 Racial Equity & Environmental Justice

 Just Transition

 Health

 Resilient Economy

 Community Partnership

 Sustained Communications



What's Next?

Implementation Recommendations

- 
1. Staffing
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 5. Partnerships

RECOMMENDATIONS

Priority: High
Timeline: Short Term
Impact: High
Difficulty: Low

Resilient Washtenaw Team

Washtenaw County should create a Resilient Washtenaw staff team to coordinate plan implementation across departments with key plan element leads participating. This staff team could be internal to the County or include staff from the Regional Resilience Authority. Staff will have formal job responsibility to implement the plan actions and report on progress to the Chief Resilience Officer. Team would meet at least bi-monthly to provide cross department information sharing and progress reports.



LOW



2023

DRAFT



RECOMMENDATIONS

Priority: High
Timeline: Short Term

Impact: High
Difficulty: Medium

Resilient Washtenaw Council



LOW



2023

Washtenaw County should explore renaming the Environmental Council to create a Resilient Washtenaw Council. This Council can continue to make recommendations to the County Board of Commissioners and help ensure that appointments to other County Boards and Commissions recognize the Resilient Washtenaw Plan outcomes. Appointments to the Resilient Washtenaw Commission should include community residents most likely to be affected by climate change who can advise the County on plan implementation outcomes.

DRAFT



What's Next?

Implementation Recommendations

- 
1. Staffing
 2. Reporting
 3. Funding and Financing
 4. Governance
 - 5. Partnerships**

RECOMMENDATIONS

Priority: High
Timeline: Short Term

Impact: High
Difficulty: Hard

Peer Learning Memberships

Washtenaw County staff should participate in one or more peer learning networks to build staff capacity and share County successes with peer communities. There is an opportunity to have several of the 28 local units of government participate in the Michigan Green Communities Challenge to create a County-wide sustainability report. Memberships to consider include:

- Urban Sustainability Directors Network
- Great Lakes Climate Adaptation Network
- Michigan Green Communities Network
- American Society of Adaptation Professionals
- Michigan Association of Planning



Low



2023

Proposed Washtenaw County Environmental Council Meeting Schedule for 2023
Meetings on the Fourth Tuesday of every month at 5 PM. No December Meeting.

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, January 24, 2023	5:00 PM	Remote Meeting, Via Zoom
Tuesday, February 28, 2023	5:00 PM	Remote Meeting, Via Zoom
Tuesday, March 28, 2023	5:00 PM	Remote Meeting, Via Zoom
Tuesday, April 25, 2023	5:00 PM	Remote Meeting, Via Zoom
Tuesday, May 23, 2023	5:00 PM	Remote Meeting, Via Zoom
Tuesday, June 27, 2023	5:00 PM	Remote Meeting, Via Zoom
Tuesday, July 25, 2023	5:00 PM	Remote Meeting, Via Zoom
Tuesday, August 22, 2023	5:00 PM	Remote Meeting, Via Zoom
Tuesday, September 26, 2023	5:00 PM	Remote Meeting, Via Zoom
Tuesday, October 24, 2023	5:00 PM	Remote Meeting, Via Zoom
Tuesday, November 28, 2023	5:00 PM	Remote Meeting, Via Zoom

BYLAWS OF
The Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Adopted by the Environmental Council On August 24, 2021
Approved by the Board of Commissioners On September 15, 2021

Article 1
NAME

The name of this council is the Washtenaw County Environmental Council (“Council” or “WCEC”).

Article 2
ENABLING AUTHORITY

The Council was established by Resolution 18-191 on November 28th, 2018.

Article 3
VISION AND MISSION

Vision

A vibrant, sustainable, equitable and net-zero emissions Washtenaw County.

Mission:

To develop environmental policy and organizational recommendations for Washtenaw County government in order to:

- Achieve net-zero emissions for County operations by 2035.
- Reduce overall county contributions to climate change.
- Protect and improve the County’s air, land, water, food network, and both mental and public health as related to the environment.
- Prioritize environmental justice, and intergenerational justice related to the environment.

Article 4
BACKGROUND

The Board of Commissioners voted to strengthen and ramp up County sustainability efforts in its July 2017 Resolution upholding the Paris Climate Accord and committing the County to form an

“Environmental Stewardship Committee” – a commitment now fulfilled in the establishment of the Washtenaw County Environmental Council. In 2017 and 2018, other environmental measures approved by the Board of Commissioners included: a ban on County purchases of Nestle brand bottled water, a ban on County purchases of certain single use plastics including plastic straws; resolutions opposing the Nexus and Rover fracked gas pipelines, which cross the County; and the first financial commitment to support the Washtenaw County Food Policy Council.

The 2018 Board of Commissioners passed a 2019-2022 Quadrennial Budget [2019-2022 Budget] which establishes the County’s internal environmental task force – the Environmental Infrastructure Workgroup (EIW). According to the 2019-2022 Budget, the EIW will 1) provide support, information and advice to the Environmental Council, and 2) provide input to the Office of Infrastructure Management as the OIM develops its 2019 Energy and Environmental Infrastructure Policy, which is an updated comprehensive strategy addressing the County’s energy use and environmental impact as they relate to infrastructure.

On November 28, 2018, the County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed the “Resolution Upholding the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners’ Commitment to Environmental Justice and Establishing the Board of Commissioners’ Environmental Council,” which established this Council.

Article 5

DUTIES

The Council is responsible to the Board of Commissioners. The Council does not have regulatory authority. The Council is charged with the following duties:

- 1) Develop comprehensive, integrated environmental policies to recommend to the County Board of Commissioners.
- 2) Develop a proposal and timetable for the County’s development of a plan to reach net-zero (neutral) emissions by 2035.
- 3) If the proposal and timetable are approved by the BOC, the Council may, if tasked by the BOC, work with County Administration, consultants, and/or other appropriate County departments to develop the detailed plan for the County to achieve net-zero emissions.
- 4) Act in an advisory capacity, without regulatory or legislative authority, to County departments, committees, and the Board of Commissioners on environmental issues.
- 5) Act in an advisory capacity, with the County’s Office of Infrastructure Managements’ Environmental Working Group, in the development and review of the “DRAFT Energy and Environmental Infrastructure Policy 2020-2023,” which is being drafted by OIM as part of its comprehensive restructuring.
- 6) Work collaboratively with other commissions, boards, councils and committees on environmental issues.
- 7) Create committees, including standing committees, to help conduct the work of the Environmental Council.
- 8) Work to develop and maintain input and dialogue with the wider Washtenaw County community and to uphold the mission of the Council and of environmental policies approved by the Board of Commissioners.

Article 6

MEMBERSHIP

- 1) The Council will be comprised of up to 15 members, appointed by the Board of Commissioners. No more than one (1) member may reside outside the County. Members are to represent the following perspectives and/or groups:
 - i) County Commissioners (1-3 members)
 - (1) 1 of these Commissioners may be appointed to act as WCEC Liaison to the Board of Commissioners
 - ii) Community Groups (2 members)
 - iii) Sustainable Energy Producers, private or non-profit sector (1 member)
 - iv) Land Use and Preservation (1 member)
 - v) Sustainable Agriculture (1 member)
 - vi) Racial Equity and Environmental Issues (1 member)
 - vii) Water Protection (1 member)
 - viii) Vehicle Emission Reduction Issues (1 member)
 - ix) Public Health Issues (1 member)
 - x) Infrastructure Energy Reduction Issues (1 member)
 - xi) If approved by the BOC, up to two more members, not to include elected officials, may be appointed by the Board of Commissioners; the Environmental Council suggests that these members might represent youth and labor.
- 2) The Council is responsible for recommending member appointments to the County Board of Commissioners, which will appoint WCEC members.
- 3) Initial appointments to the WCEC end on March 31st, 2020, when the WCEC will sunset unless extended by the Board of Commissioners. If the Council is approved to extend beyond March 31, 2020, new terms will be staggered as follows. Thereafter, council members will be appointed for two-year terms.
- 4) One-year initial terms:
 - Sustainable Agriculture
 - Water Protection
 - Vehicle Emission Reduction Issues
 - Infrastructure Energy Reduction issues
 - Commissioners (1-3 members)
- 5) Two-year initial terms:
 - Community Groups (2 members)
 - Sustainable Energy Producers (private or non-profit sector)

- Land Use and Preservation
- Racial Equity and Environmental Issues
- Public Health Issues

6) Any vacancy on the Council occurring in the middle of a term shall be filled for the remainder of that term in the same manner as for full-term appointments.

7) Council members are expected to attend meetings to ensure full community representation on the Council. Excused absences (illness, death in the family, vacation, business trip or emergency) will not affect a member's status. However, missing three consecutive meetings and/or more than three absences without reasonable excuse in a 12-month period shall constitute cause to recommend resignation to the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners and replacement of the appointee.

Article 7 OFFICERS

1) Duties of Officers

- a) Chairperson: The Chairperson ("Chair") shall preside at meetings, plan and organize the Council's work and perform other duties as described by these Bylaws.

The Chair may authorize expenditures up to \$100, which will be reported to the Council at the next meeting by the Treasurer. Expenditures exceeding \$100 are approved by a vote of the Council.

- b) Vice Chairperson: The Vice-Chairperson presides over meetings in the absence of the Chairperson.

2) Officer Elections

Officers will be elected by the Council and will serve until at least March 31, 2020, or until their successor(s) have been elected. Thereafter, they will serve one-year terms or until their successors are elected if no successor(s) have been elected at the one-year point.

Article 8 MEETINGS

- 1) The Council will hold regularly scheduled meetings, publicly announced in advance, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. All regularly scheduled meetings will include at

least 10 days notice. The Chair, or any five Council members may call special meetings, in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. At least 18 hours public notice shall be given for special meetings.

- 2) Support for meeting organization; minute taking and distribution; website and social media; press and other communications; and publicizing meetings per the Open Meetings Act is provided by County Administration.
- 3) Meetings are open to all community members. The public has the right to speak during one public comment period at each meeting, limited to four (4) minutes per speaker.
- 4) The Chair may cancel a meeting if there is no business on the agenda, if it is clear that a quorum will not be present, or if weather, emergency, or other circumstances warrant. The Chair shall give notice of cancellation to members of the Council and any staff at least 18 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time, when practicable. The Chair shall cause public notice of the cancellation to be posted as soon as practicable. Cancelled regular meetings may be rescheduled in the same manner as special meetings.
- 5) A quorum of Council members, which shall consist of the lesser of 5 members or no less than 51% of current members, must be present for decisions to occur.
- 6) The Council will make decisions by voting. Passage of a motion requires a simple majority of those present who serve as voting members of the Council.
- 7) Members are expected to participate in person however, participating or voting by phone is permitted if an exceptional circumstance arises preventing in-person attendance.
- 8) Staff will report expenditures to the board as part of the agenda for the regular meetings.

Article 9

ETHICS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- 1) Members of the Council must abstain from discussion or voting on any matter in which that member has a real or apparent conflict of interest. Decisions regarding conflicts of interest shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reasonable application to the principles in this Article. A conflict of interest shall at a minimum include, but is not necessarily limited to, discussing, voting on, or otherwise acting on a matter in which a member, or any person in the member's immediate family, the member's partner, or an entity with which the member has family or business ties has a direct financial or beneficial interest.
- 2) A member of the Council shall neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from persons or entities in a position to receive financial benefit from a decision of the Council.
- 3) A member of the Council shall not obtain, for the member or for any person with whom the member has family or business ties, any financial or beneficial interest in a matter

which may be affected by a decision of the Council. This restriction shall apply during the member's tenure and for one year thereafter.

- 4) With regard to Council decisions or potential decisions, Council members shall disclose the general nature of any potential conflict, real or apparent, unless such disclosure violates a confidence. These disclosures shall be made prior to discussion and voting when possible and shall be recorded in the minutes of the proceedings. If a member believes that a potential conflict warrants abstention, the member may choose to abstain from discussion and voting on a matter. A member who has a conflict and cannot vote shall leave the meeting or the area of the meeting until action on the matter is concluded, whether that conflict has been disclosed or not.
- 5) When a question has arisen as to whether a member is ineligible to participate in discussion or vote on a matter because of a potential conflict of interest, and the member has not chosen to abstain of his or her own volition, the Council may determine that the member is ineligible due to a conflict of interest by a vote of a majority of other members present. After such determination, the ineligible member shall not participate in discussion of, or vote on, the matter.
- 6) Members shall not act, hold themselves out, or permit themselves to be perceived as official representatives or spokespersons for the Council without authorization from the Council or the Chair. When communicating for personal purposes on matters that may be related to the Council's business, members shall clearly indicate that their statements are made in a personal capacity and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Council. Whenever a member is asked to speak on behalf of the Council, the member will ask approval of the Council or Chair in advance.
- 7) To maintain public confidence in the objectivity of the Council and to avoid the appearance of bias or prejudice, a member shall not speak or appear before the Council on behalf of or as a representative of a potential or actual petitioner. A member should avoid speaking or appearing before another entity on behalf of or as a representative of a potential or actual petitioner.

Article 10

AGENDA AND ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1) An agenda for each meeting of the Council shall be developed by the Chair in consultation with the members of the Council. To the extent practicable, agenda, resolutions, and materials for regular meetings shall be made available to the public and members of the Council at least 48 hours before the meeting's scheduled start time. Members wishing to add an agenda item or a speaker to the agenda should contact the Chair with the request.

2) The order of business at regular meetings shall generally be as follows.

a) Call to Order

- i) Roll Call
- ii) Approval of the Agenda
- iii) Approval of Minutes of Past Meetings
- iv) Public Comment
- v) Special Presentations
- vi) Regular Business
- vii) New Business
- viii) Communications and Reports
 - (1) Council
 - (2) Staff
 - (a) Finance Report
 - (3) Committees
- ix) Adjournment

Article 11

AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

- 1) Amendments to these Bylaws may be approved at any regular meeting by vote of two-thirds of the voting members currently serving on the Council. Proposed amendments must have been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting to be considered.
- 2) Prior to submission of amendments to the Bylaws at the regular meeting, proposed amendments must be submitted to the Chair who will submit them to the Office of the County Corporation Counsel. Reasonable time must be allowed for Corporation Counsel's response.
- 3) After adoption by the Council, the amended bylaws are not effective until approved by the Board of Commissioners.