

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Tuesday, April 23, 2024. 5:00PM - 6:30PM
Remote Meeting via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://washtenawcounty.zoom.us/j/89127058352?pwd=pfBmKRmpFgTdCQSF9b8rFwdx8fmKjw.1>

Meeting ID: 891 2705 8352

Passcode: 591312

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
 - a. 5:02 PM
2. Attendance
 - a. Present: Anne Brown, Andrew Comai, Michelle Deatrick, Gay MacGregor, Avni Rao, Annie Somerville, Yousef Rabhi, Lauren Sargent, Benjamin VanGessell, Hudson Villeneuve
 - b. Absent: Andrea Pierce, Kris Olsson, Liz Ratzloff, Tim Redmond
3. Land Acknowledgement
4. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Moved by: Avni Rao
 - b. Seconded by: Gay MacGregor
 - c. Approved Unanimously
5. Approval of Minutes of March 26th, 2024 Meeting
 - a. Moved by: Andrew Comai
 - b. Seconded by: Avni Rao
 - c. Approved Unanimously
6. Public Comment/Citizen Participation: (up to 4 minutes per speaker)
7. Council Responses to Citizen Participation
8. Acknowledgement of any written Citizen Participation
9. Presentation: *SEMCOG Regional Climate Action, Impact on Washtenaw County & Other Environmental Matters*. Presenter: Lindsey Kerkez, Civil Engineer, SEMCOG
 - a. Council Questions
 - i. Implementation Grants are the next phase of the process, but are there any large transformative projects in the hopper?
 - ii. How are the tools provided being used by regional leaders and how have you been raising awareness about them?
 - iii. Communities like Ypsilanti really struggle when there are great federal programs because they lack the resources to fill the applications. Do you have any advice for smaller communities hoping to get grant funding?
 1. EPA Technical Assistance Network

2. <https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer/issues/michigan-infrastructure-office/michigan-infrastructure-technical-assistance-center>
3. EPA Grant Assistance is available through the non profit Environmental Protection Network. I've mentioned it before but this is a group of retired EPA employees.

10. Presentation: *Trains Not Lanes: The Proposed M-23 Expansion*. Presenters: Adam Goodman, Kirk Westphal, Rob Goodspeed of Trains Not Lanes.

- a. Council Questions
 - i. Is there any hope of getting trains (interurban anyone) instead of lanes?
 - ii. <https://a2gov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6370661&GUID=1F9025D3-8A41-467E-997E-E209D9C449B7&Options=&Search=>
 - iii. <https://shift.rmi.org>
 - iv. <https://a2gov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6572576&GUID=3D17F674-0F3E-4589-B8F6-EC7E7178E620>
 - v. In defense of I-94, that corridor that is a large labor presence and employs many labor members.
 - vi. This work is so important, this is over a decade of activism at work. Please keep doing what you are doing.
- b. Advisory and Recommendations Committee
 - i. Will utilize the two Ann Arbor resolutions and bring back recommendations for this council

11. Regular Business

- a. Washtenaw County Climate Action Plan & Sustainability/Resilience Office
 - i. Staffing Status. *Andrew DeLeeuw*, Deputy County Administrator
 1. Hoping to be able to present a name and say that we have reached agreement but hoping to be able to report back on the hiring at the next meeting.
 - ii. Council Discussion
 1. There was a budget allocation for two positions, aware that normal procedure is that if a position is not filled is to give the money back to the GF. Is it possible for the Environmental Council to get some of that money to help pay for outreach events, etc.
 - a. Yes, The board is able to allocate those dollars to the Council if needed.
- b. Chairs Report
 - i. Upcoming meeting topics
 1. Inviting one of our local municipalities on their perspective on climate action plans
 - ii. EPA updates
 1. Community Change Grants
 - a. Links above

12. New Business

- a. Communications and Reports
- b. Councilmembers
- c. Staff
- d. Committees and Committee Reports

13. Adjourn

Next Meetings

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

DRAFT