

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Tuesday, May 28, 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

- I. Call to Order
- II. Attendance
- III. Land Acknowledgement
- IV. Approval of the Agenda
- V. Approval of Minutes of April 23, 2024 Meeting
- VI. Public Comment/Citizen Participation: (up to 4 minutes per speaker)
 - A. Council Responses to Citizen Participation
 - B. Acknowledgement of written Citizen Participation
- VII. Presentation:
 - Presenter: Hudson Villaneuve, Senior Program Manager, Justice40 Accelerator, [Elevate](#)
 - A. Presentation
 - B. Council responses and discussion.
 - C. Council requests or instructions to Advisory and Recommendations Committee
- VIII. Regular Business
 - A. Washtenaw County Climate Action Plan & Sustainability/Resilience Office
 - 1. Staffing Status. *Andrew DeLeeuw*, Deputy County Administrator
 - 2. Council Discussion
 - B. Report and Resolutions from Advisory and Recommendations Committee
 - 1. Resolution to allow scribal changes to Council communications
 - 2. Resolution/Recommendations on M-23 Expansion
 - 3. Resolution/Recommendations on Light Pollution
 - C. Chair's Report
 - 1. Upcoming meeting topics, scheduling, in-person meeting
 - a) MDOT, EGLE presentations
 - b) In-person meeting proposal.
- IX. New Business

- X. Communications and Reports
 - A. Councilmembers
 - B. Staff
 - C. Committees and Committee Reports

XI. Adjourn

Next Meetings

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

MEETING PACKET

Contents

1. Draft Minutes, WCEC March 26, 2024 Meeting
 2. WCEC Amended Bylaws, effective March 2024
 3. Slide Presentation. From SEMCOG Regional Climate Action, Impact on Washtenaw County & Other Environmental Matters.
 4. Draft WCEC Election Guidelines
 5. Draft Recommendations for County Action from the WCEC Advisory & Recommendations Subcommittee
 6. Outreach Committee Report. From Avni Rao, Outreach Committee Chair
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1. Draft Minutes, WCEC February 27, 2024 Meeting

2. WCEC Amended Bylaws, effective March 2024. Approved by the WCEC on February 27, 2024 and approved by the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners on March 20, 2024, the effective date.

- **Summary of Significant Changes:**

- Article 3: Addition of "just transition" as part of mission and update reflecting approved BOC priorities
- Article 6:
 - Adds an Expectation for Council Members to belong to or contribute to a Committee
 - Section #1: adds a Youth seat and a Labor seat as dedicated seats on the board, rather than as suggested designations for those positions.
- Article 7:
 - Adds as Second Vice Chairperson who "presides over meetings in the absence of both the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson, and carries out other tasks as agreed upon with the Chair."
- Article 8:
 - Increases quorum from 5 to 7.
 - States that we can meet in person or virtually, and sets an expectation of at least one in-person meeting annually.
- Article 10: Addition of Land Acknowledgement to the regular order of business at meetings
- Article 11: Requires current Council Bylaws to be posted on Council's webpage.

- **Text of Amended Bylaws:**

3. Slide Presentation. From Washtenaw County Public Health Department's Environmental Health Officer, Kristen Schweighoefer

4. Draft WCEC Election Guidelines and Information

1. The WCEC is electing three officers for one year terms:
Chairperson
Vice Chairperson
Second Vice Chairperson
2. Nominations including self-nominations may be made from the floor.
3. If requested by the current Chair, a County staff member may run the election for Chair.
4. Duties of Officers (from the Bylaws):
 - i) 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.

The Chair also develops the agenda, appoints or approves members wishing to perform outreach or speak on behalf of the Council to the community for the County's environmental and climate work via tabling and other community events, is responsible for excusing absences, and for scheduling meetings and approving meeting cancellations as necessary.
 - ii) Vice Chairperson: The Vice-Chairperson presides over meetings in the absence of the Chairperson and carries out other tasks as agreed upon with the Chair.
 - iii) Second Vice Chairperson: The Second Vice Chairperson presides over meetings in the absence of both the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson, and carries out other tasks as agreed upon with the Chair.

5. Draft Recommendations for County Action from the WCEC Advisory & Recommendations Subcommittee

WCEC Recommendations & Advisory Committee

DRAFT: Recommendations to County Departments and the Board of Commissioners Regarding Light Pollution Abatement and Mitigation

After a review of the recommendations for light pollution reduction by County operations that were made by the Michigan Dark Skies initiative in their February 27, 2024 [presentation](#) to the WCEC, the WCEC Recommendations and Advisory Committee recommends that the WCEC consider sending the following memo to the Board of Commissioners, Washtenaw County Facilities Management, and the Washtenaw

County Road Commission, advising them to approve and implement the listed practices in order to reduce light pollution and mitigate its harms.

Questions and asks by the Recommendations Committee, for the full WCEC:

- Are these the best/correct County divisions or departments to send this memo to? Are there additional entities that should receive the memo?
- What is the potential negative impact of this task on County departments? Is this a realistic ask?
- Amendments, additions or suggestions regarding this first advisory memo to County entities/departments?
- Approval of the draft memo (below)

The Michigan Dark Skies initiative further recommended that the County 1) raise public awareness regarding light pollution and 2) promote dark-sky practices among Townships and municipalities. The Recommendations Committee recommends that these be noted in the Council's archives for possible future action.

DRAFT MEMO to County Departments (as noted) and to the Board of Commissioners

DATE: tbd

FROM: Washtenaw County Environmental Council

TO: Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners
Washtenaw County Facilities Management
Washtenaw County Road Commission

RE: Light Pollution Abatement and Mitigation for County Operations

On February 23, 2024, representatives of [Michigan Dark Skies](#) - Dr. Sally Oey of the University of Michigan and John Mirsky of the Ann Arbor Energy and Environmental Commissions - made a presentation, *Light Pollution and Solutions*, to the Washtenaw County Environmental Council (WCEC).

Michigan Dark Skies is a University of Michigan-based collaborative that works to raise public awareness and advocates for environmentally aware lighting in Michigan that promotes public health and safety, eliminates wasted energy, protects biodiversity, and restores ecosystems.

The science is clear: Light pollution is increasing - at 10% plus per year. It harms wildlife and is a significant safety hazard - and contributes to significant energy waste that can be reduced by adopting best practices. The full presentation by Michigan Dark Skies, which documents the risks and harms, is [here](#) (scroll down).

To abate and mitigate light pollution, assist in achieving the goals of the County's climate action plan, *Resilient Washtenaw*, and save the county money, we recommend the following best practices be adopted and implemented by County operations:

- Perform, if not already accomplished, an audit of outdoor lighting on County properties, assessing lighting per the ANSI standards in the following bullet.
- Enact a policy for outdoor lighting, adopting the ANSI standards of the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES) for all County facilities including Road Commission and Washtenaw County Facilities

Management. For ANSI standards, this would involve a higher standard than is often recommended by DTE and would include:

- Fully shielded fixtures
 - No light trespass at property line
 - Lighting limited to need/hours of operation
 - Brightness limits on specific uses, for example facade and canopy lighting
 - Warm colors, which reduce disability glare, vision problems, and are worse for wildlife and ecosystems (CCT<2700K)
 - Amortization
- Instruct the Resilience Office to Include Light Pollution Control specifics aligned with the above policy recommendation in implementation plans for Resilient Washtenaw.

Sincerely,

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

6. Outreach Committee Report. From Avni Rao, Outreach Committee Chair

Event Summary:
A2 Climate Teach-In
Sunday, March 10th, 2024



- Spoke to Teach-In attendees at the networking session for ~1h
- Wildflower seed packet giveaway
- Raised awareness about WCEC and Resilient Washtenaw
- Things that went well:
 - Connecting with community members
 - Answering questions + giving updates on Resilient Washtenaw Progress
- Takeaways:
 - Bolster our council's communication with citizens BETWEEN EVENTS
 - Continue attending such events because even those that are climate aware don't know about the work we are doing

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

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

MINUTES

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. Chair Deatrick read the 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: None
7. Council Responses to Citizen Participation: None
8. Acknowledgement of any written Citizen Participation: None
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. Gay McGregor: 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. These links were shared:
 1. <https://a2gov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6370661&GUID=1F9025D3-8A41-467E-997E-E209D9C449B7&Options=&Search=>
 2. <https://shift.rmi.org>
 3. <https://a2gov.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=6572576&GUID=3D17F674-0F3E-4589-B8F6-EC7E7178E620>
 - iii. Andy Comai: In defense of I-94, that corridor that is a large labor presence and employs many labor members.
 - iv. 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 on M-23 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. Staff: 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
 2. EGLE updates
 3. MDOT
 - ii. Community Change Grants
 - a. Links above
12. New Business: None
13. Adjourn

Next Meetings

Tuesday, May 28, 2024

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

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