

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Tuesday, August 27, 2024. 5:00PM - 6:30PM

Remote Meeting via Zoom

Join Zoom Webinar:

<https://washtenawcounty.zoom.us/j/84042769611?pwd=V6X5wGGk5hVqKKFqbAlZg4aZxXjK0s.1>

Meeting ID: 840 4276 9611

Passcode: 300226

AUGUST AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Attendance
3. Land Acknowledgement
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Approval of Minutes of June 25, 2024 Meeting
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: Introduction of Beth Gibbons, Washtenaw County Resiliency Officer
 - a. Welcome
 - b. Introductions
 - c. Beth's Remarks
 - d. Conversation and Q&A
10. Regular Business
 - a. Staff Update
 - i. SEMCOG Update: *Andrew DeLeeuw*, Deputy County Administrator
 - ii. Council Discussion
 - b. Chairs Report
 - i. Upcoming Meeting Topics
 - ii. September Meeting location and Meet and Greet

11. New Business

- a. Communications and Reports
- b. Councilmembers
- c. Staff
- d. Committees and Committee Reports
 - i. Engagement and Outreach Committee Report: *Avni Rao, Committee Chair*

12. Adjourn

Next Meetings

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Tuesday, June 25, 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

JUNE DRAFT MINUTES

- I. Call to Order
 - A. 5:02 PM
- II. Attendance
 - A. Present: Anne Brown, Michelle Deatrack, Andrea Pierce, Gay MacGregor, Avni Rao, Liz Ratzloff, Tim Redmond, Annie Somerville, Lauren Sargent, Hudson Villeneuve
 - B. Absent: Andrew Comai, Yousef Rabhi, Tim Redmond, Katie Scott, Benjamin VanGessell
- III. Land Acknowledgement
- IV. Approval of the Agenda
 - A. Moved by: Anne Brown
 - B. Seconded by: Liz Ratzloff
 - C. Approved by unanimous voice consent
- V. Approval of Minutes of May 28, 2024 Meeting
 - A. Moved by: Kris Olsson
 - B. Seconded by Avni Rao
 - C. Approved by unanimous voice consent

VI. Public Comment/Citizen Participation: (up to 4 minutes per speaker)

- A. Council Responses to Citizen Participation
- B. Acknowledgement of written Citizen Participation
 - 1. No Public Comment

VII. Presentation: "Michigan Department of Transportation: Climate, Transit, Community and County Engagement in Washtenaw County"

Presenter: Michael Davis, Senior Transportation Planner, Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT)

A. Presentation

B. Council responses and discussion

- Why has there been no discussion of trains in this plan? We used to have trolley and interurban service in this area and the population was less dense than it was now.
- These are projects that are being envisioned so thinking about them now while you are building infrastructure is a good idea:
<https://groundworkcenter.org/northsouthrailproject/>
- **From Chat:** There is also a great project in Korea with solar panel covered protected bike lanes in the middle of freeways. Protection from the elements and the cars and generating actual renewable energy. Win, win, win. Might something like this be possible in this rebuilding revisioning?
https://www.reddit.com/r/pics/comments/1cqt5z/in_south_korea_the_solar_panels_in_the_middle_of/?share_id=xOS5N1ZjS-wfBqqXuxZM8&utm_content=1&utm_medium=ios_app&utm_name=ioscs_s&utm_source=share&utm_term=1
- One of the priorities in the counties climate action plan is to protect biodiversity and pollinators. What is MDOTs plan to replant wildflowers and pollinator plants?
- Extreme weather events are getting worse, how do these plans take this into account and plan for flooding and other problems?
- **From Chat:** I did not see an adequate bike lane at the Huron River Bridge. **Answer:** At this point, the Road Commission and Township have

not requested bike lanes constructed with this project. However, space will be available for bike lanes in the future. **Response:** That seems to go against our initiatives. A2 has been pushing for more spaces to walk and bike

- On the NEPA slide, are carbon emissions a consideration in this project? Also the carbon emissions of construction?
- **From Chat:** are these natives? We see invasive non-native plants all along the Michigan freeways. **Answer:** We can verify with our environmental analysts to find that out and share what plant mixes MDOT uses.
Response: Of course tree planting is no solution to destruction of mature trees. Saplings, if they live, do not become grownup trees that sequester carbon for 20 years. Removing (aka killing) mature trees should never be done until all alternatives are thoroughly exhausted.
- **From Chat:** Plans to use low carbon concrete?
<https://www.carboncure.com/concrete-corner/a-complete-guide-to-low-carbon-concrete/>
- Air Quality exemption? SEMCOG controls the TIP, and they may or may not decide that the project is exempt from air quality analysis. We are 1 year or more away from the decision, but significant conversations are already taking place.
- To the Chair's knowledge, the Environmental Council has not been included in Stakeholder conversations. The Council's charge is to advise the Board on decisions relating to the climate action plan.

C. Council requests or instructions to WCEC Advisory and Recommendations Committee

VIII. Regular Business

A. Washtenaw County Climate Action Plan & Sustainability/Resilience Office

1. Staffing Status. *Andrew DeLeeuw*, Deputy County Administrator
 - a) Andrew introduction of Beth Gibbons, recently hired resiliency officer
 - b) Would like to come back and do a more in-depth introduction of Beth and her background at a later meeting.

2. Council Discussion

- a) Chair asked for Beth to join the next meeting after officially starting and invited her to the in-person meeting in September.

B. Chair's Report

1. Upcoming meeting topics, scheduling, in-person meeting

- a) EGLE presentation (September meeting)
- b) August meeting: Quorum/Attendance

- (1) Chair is looking to have the July meeting be on biodigesters.
- (2) Looking to do a meet and greet ahead of the September meeting with the University of Michigan head of sustainability.
- (3) Chair sent a communication to the Board of Commissioners through the staff on budget for resiliency office and council.
- (4) Beth Gibbons start date is the end of July, she is transitioning from a different position, and she will start with half time and work her way up to full time by early September.

2. Status of other Council actions

IX. New Business

X. Communications and Reports

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

XI. Adjourn

- A. 6:29 PM

Next Meetings

Tuesday, July 23, 2024 (via Zoom)

Tuesday, August 27, 2024 (via Zoom)

Tuesday, September 24, 2024 (in-person)

DRAFT

Print**Environmental Council Inquiry - Submission #32265****Date Submitted: 8/11/2024**

Please use this form below to ask questions, express a concern, give feedback, or to request more information about the Environmental Council and it's initiatives

First Name

Keiko

Last Name

Oe

Phone Number

7344893967

Email Address*

keikooe@gmail.com

Subject*

Pesticide

Message*

I was driving on Washtenaw Avenue yesterday and saw the caution pesticide sign by the Washtenaw County buildings (Washtenaw and Hogback). Please stop using pesticides. Thanks!

County Information Line: 734-222-4357 County Administration: 734-222-6850