

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Tuesday, May 27, 2025
5:00PM - 6:30PM
Remote Meeting via Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting:

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

Passcode: 300226

MAY FINAL MINUTES

- I. Call to Order
 - a. 5:02 PM
- II. Motion to Amend Meeting Chair for this meeting
 - a. Moved: Yousef Rabhi
 - b. Second: Brian Geiringer
 - c. Approved by: Unanimous acclamation
- III. Attendance
 - a. Liz Ratzloff, Tyler LaBerge, Alex Bryan, Benjamin VanGessel, Kris Olsson, Brian Geiringer, Yousef Rabhi, Lauren Sargent , Annie Somerville, Andrea Pierce
- IV. Land Acknowledgement
- V. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Moved: Annie Somerville
 - b. Second: Kris Olsson
 - c. Approved by: Unanimous acclamation
- VI. Approval of the Minutes of the March 25, 2025 Meeting
 - a. Moved: Annie Somerville
 - b. Second: Benjamin VanGessel
 - c. Approved by: Unanimous Acclamation
 - d. Comments
 - i. AB: still not receiving agenda emails
 - ii. YR: note that agendas are posted on the website as well
- VII. Public Comment/Citizen Participation (up to 4 minutes per speaker)
 - a. Council Responses to Citizen Participation
 - i. No public comment made
 - b. Acknowledgement of written Citizen Participation
 - i. No written comments made
- VIII. Staff Reports
 - a. Acknowledgement of written Staff Reports and Communications
 - b. Beth Gibbons, Director, County Resiliency Office: *Washtenaw County Resiliency Office Report* – full presentation report in minutes
 - i. Staffing Status

- ii. Resiliency Office Updates and Events
- iii. Other Updates
- iv. Discussion

1. YR: What is the format of how the projects will look in regard to who will own energy infrastructure and how will DTE be involved? YRY supports the county owning its own infrastructure.
2. YR: has been encouraging Parks staff to reach out to RO about carbon sequestration resources. New director of Parks and Recreation is coming in creating new opportunities to collaborate with them.
3. KO: excited about benefits of land and willing to help make connections. Is RO aware of MI Healthy Climate Challenge through EGLE?
4. BVG: how do we plan to communicate our milestones with general public?

c. Other Staff Reports

i. Jason Fee, Director of Facilities Management

1. Planning to tie solar projects into Facilities Building Management System
2. First solar panels up on community corrections last week, should be running in next 30-45 days
3. Saline court project moving along, facility planned to open in fall
4. Fleet update: closed RFP for EV charging network last week

IX. Chair's Report

a. Committee updates

- i. Michelle will contact everyone next week with committee assignments. If you have questions, reach out to her.

b. June 24, 2025 Meeting

c. Other

- X. Presentation: Michelle Martinez, Director, Tishman Center for Social Justice and Environment at the School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS) at the University of Michigan and Gina Hsu, PhD Candidate, University of Michigan: *Data Centers and National, Great Lakes and Community Impacts*

XI. Council Discussion: Proposed Data Centers in Washtenaw County

- a. KO: Question about water consumption data comparison with other industry consumption. Question about water return rate.
- b. BG: Appreciation of work in this area that not much is known currently. How can groups/municipalities push back happen on this?
- c. LR: Question about research for economic benefits/jobs to local residents.
- d. YR: comment on additional tax incentives and energy demands. Question about impact of warm water and sedimented water being returned into water systems and/or water processing plants.

- XII. Motion to empower and support the Chair to write a letter formally requesting information from responsible parties
 - a. Moved: Yousef Rabhi
 - b. Second: Lauren Sargent
- XIII. Discussion continued
 - a. AB: Question about Community Benefit Agreements and how they can be used.
 - b. LS: Comment on requesting information.
 - c. AP: Question about actions to take with MPSC.
 - d. KO: Comment on county membership with MI-MAUI.
 - e. BG: Comment supporting motion. Comment to add to motion.
- XIV. Motion to amend motion to include inquiry into the purpose of the facility given the history of Los Alamos Lab's community harm through loss of human life.
 - a. Amendment accepted
 - b. Moved: Yousef Rabhi
 - c. Second: Brian Geiringer
 - d. Approved by Unanimous Acclamation
- XV. New Business
 - a. Councilmembers
 - i. No new business.
 - b. Committees and Committee Reports
 - i. No new business.
- XVI. Adjourn
 - a. 6:30 PM
 - b. Moved: Yousef Rabhi
 - c. Second: Brian Geiringer
 - d. Approved by: Unanimous Acclamation

Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 24, 2025

Tuesday, July 22, 2025