

Washtenaw County Environmental Council

Tuesday, September 2, 2025. 5:00PM - 6:30PM

Virtual Meeting

Link to join:

<https://washtenawcounty.zoom.us/j/87283540017?pwd=gVEEnSyqxp4FAxM4EzR4qTbEzgf7mj.1>

SEPTEMBER 2, 2025 (AUGUST RESCHEDULED) FINAL MEETING MINUTES

- I. Call to Order
 - a. 5:02 PM
- II. Attendance
 - a. Michelle Deatrick, Anne Brown, Gay MacGregor, Mark Coryell, Alex Bryan, Benjamin VanGessel, Brian Geiringer, Andrea Pierce, Kris Olsson, Liz Ratzloff, Lauren Sargent, Annie Somerville, Yousef Rabhi
- III. Land Acknowledgement
- IV. Approval of the Agenda
 - a. Moved: Liz Ratzloff
 - b. Second: Ben VanGessel
 - c. Approved: Unanimous Acclamation
- V. Motion to Amend Agenda
 - a. Moved: Yousef Rabhi
 - b. Second: Liz Ratzloff
 - c. Approved: Unanimous Acclamation
- VI. Approval of the Minutes of the July 22, 2025 Meeting
 - a. Moved: Liz Ratzloff
 - b. Second: Alex Bryan
 - c. Approved: Unanimous Acclamation
- 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 public comment made
- VIII. Staff Reports
 - a. Acknowledgement of written Staff Reports and Communications
 - b. Beth Gibbons, Director, County Resiliency Office: *Washtenaw County Resiliency Office Report*
 - i. Resiliency Office Report
 - ii. Resiliency Office Events since last meeting and any upcoming, including tabling or other events that the WCEC might want to also participate in.

- iii. Other Updates
 - c. Other Staff Reports
 - i. Jason Fee, Director, Facilities Management
 - 1. 4101 solar system started in August, more coming
 - 2. Saline court 30-45 days out from opening
 - 3. Discussion: Chair asked for notice of opening ceremony

IX. Chair's Report

- a. Finance/Budget Report
- b. Bylaws updates

X. Presentation: Better Bottle Bill Ballot Initiative

- a. *Presenter: Caleb Chavez, Michigan Environmental Council*
- b. Council Discussion
 - i. Clarifying full realm of deposit redemptions eligible items
 - ii. Concerns about cost impact and deposit access on vulnerable communities without access to potable water
 - iii. Question about demand for secondary materials within state and US
 - iv. Conversation about restrictions within system to address misuse of funds
 - v. Summary of funding allocations and use of specific funds such as grants for retailers hosting deposit machines
 - vi. Council members asked for additional information to be sent about their questions

XI. Presentation: Green Energy Tax Credits

- a. *Presenter: Katie Thomas, Congressional Progressive Caucus Center*
- b. Council Discussion
 - i. Clarifying what qualifies as "in service" in order for project to be considered eligible
 - ii. Clarifying "on vs off site" impact on eligibility
 - iii. Statement underlying importance of public power
 - iv. Chair gained permission to share materials with networks and was encouraged to adopt materials for local context to have larger impact on local community

XII. Committee Reports

- a. Outreach Committee
 - i. Alex Bryan & Mark Coryell
 - 1. A2 Green Fair Sept. 19 5-8pm
 - 2. Third Act SunDay Sept. 21 2-6pm
 - ii. Council Discussion
 - 1. Add Scio Township Sustainability Fair on October 5
 - 2. Additional outreach events listed in Resiliency Office report

XIII. New Business

- a. Discussion: Upcoming Meetings
 - i. September 30 Meeting: Virtual

1. Note: The Council's calendar, approved in January, moved the meeting to Sept. 30 because the fourth Tuesday, Sept. 23, is Rosh Hashanah.
- ii. Meeting and Community Listening Session Reschedule Proposal: Move Tuesday, October 28 meeting to Tuesday, October 14, and hold in-person, followed by Community Listening Session
- iii. Motion to Approve Moving October Meeting to October 14
 1. Moved: Kris Olsson
 2. Second: Andrea Pierce
 3. Approved: Unanimous Voice Vote
- iv. Council Discussion
 1. Clarifying meeting time 5-6:30pm, followed by community listening session
- v. Approved by Unanimous Voice Vote

XIV. Old Business

- a. Resolution: Data Centers in Washtenaw County
- b. Motion to Approve Data Center Resolution
 - i. Moved: Kris Olsson
 - ii. Second: Lauren Sargent
- c. Council Discussion
 - i. BG: Noting support for resolution, and interest in a stronger position against data centers
- d. Approved by: Unanimous Voice Vote

XV. Communications and Reports

- a. Councilmembers
 - i. No reports given

XVI. Adjourn

- a. 6:34PM

Next Meetings

September 30, 2025 (virtual)

October 14 in-person at Washtenaw County Learning Resource Center, 4135 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

