



Climate Action Steering Committee Meeting Summary DRAFT May 23, 2022, 3:00-5:00 PM

Link to packet and presentations: <https://www.trpc.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=605>

Agenda Item	Notes
<p>1. Call to Order, Introductions, & Public Comments – All members</p>	<p>Chair Parshley called the Climate Action Steering Committee (CASC) meeting to order at 3:00 pm.</p> <p>Steering Committee members, support staff from Thurston Regional Planning Council (TRPC), and staff from Thurston County and the cities of Lacey, Olympia, and Tumwater provided self-introductions.</p> <p>Chair Parshley requested approval of the agenda.</p> <p>Committee Member Cox, moved, seconded by Committee Member Schneider, to approve the agenda.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to adopt the Climate Action Steering Committee agenda is approved. <p>Chair Parshley requested approval of the April 25, 2022, meeting summary.</p> <p>Committee Member Cox requested one change on the agenda, adjusting Grant Beck to city of Lacey staff rather than city of Tumwater staff.</p> <p>Committee Member Cox, moved, seconded by Committee Member Schneider, to approve the April 25, 2022, meeting summary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to adopt the Climate Action Steering Committee’s April 25, 2022, meeting summary is approved. <p>Chair Parshley called for comments from members of the public. There were 5 public comments. Brief summaries follow:</p> <p>Jeff Miller: Jeff spoke about the proposed hydrogen hub in Lewis County and potential to bring maritime electrification to the Thurston region, and mentioned that the hydrogen will be coming from waste recovery. Jeff is excited to see the new agreement with Waste Management and thanked the County for how the agreement is worded, and mentioned that there is the potential to use waste to</p>



	<p>energy technology. Lewis County and Thurston County could benefit greatly by working together towards climate mitigation.</p> <p>JJ Lindsey: JJ shared their support for stronger tree preservation language and regulations locally and is happy the committee will be hearing from the Center for Responsible Forestry. JJ thanked Commissioner Menser for writing a letter challenging the use of timber sales revenue. JJ expressed concern over the loss of tree canopy near their neighborhood and called upon TRPC to put stronger language in TCMP regulating tree protections.</p> <p>Melinda Hughes: TCAT has two new staff members: Community Engagement and Equity Coordinator and Program Director for Green Infrastructure, and will have two interns coming on shortly. TCAT is going through a budgeting process and will be gearing up shortly for educational campaigns. TCAT has had several recent events including a board staff retreat, and they launched the Climate Art in Action group.</p> <p>Tom Crawford: Tom thanked for the Committee for their work and shared that TCAT is presenting a proposed budget to the jurisdictions with a project list to move forward toward the collective climate goals. TCAT will be presenting the proposal to the various councils and commission over the next two weeks.</p> <p>Timothy Leadingham: Timothy thanked JJ for their comments on tree preservation. Timothy has sent proposals for tree preservation on public and private land to the Olympia City Council and emphasizes the importance of this work. If 6,700 acres are saved from development or clearing, over 1 million tons of emissions would be reduced. The Nature Conservancy Reforestation Hub is a good resource to help reforest areas in addition to protecting current forest land.</p>
<p>2a. CASC Charter and Rules Update – Allison Osterberg, TRPC</p>	<p>Osterberg requested feedback from Committee Members on the revised CASC charter that was presented initially at last month’s meeting.</p> <p>Chair Parshley requested a motion to approve the CASC Charter and Rules update.</p> <p>Committee Member Menser, moved, seconded by Committee Member Cox, to approve the CASC Charter updates.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to approve the CASC Charter updates is approved.



<p>2b. 2022/2023 Work Program Amendment – Allison Osterberg, TRPC</p>	<p>Osterberg gave an update of proposed amendments to the 2022/2023 work program to account for funds leftover from the phase 3 interlocal agreement. The updates include adding additional funds to regional priorities, monitoring and assessment, and public outreach. The funding can be used for subcontracting with TCAT for inventory training, workgroup compensation, and other region priorities specified by the CASC.</p> <p>Committee members expressed support for the proposed changes. Osterberg clarified that the Annual Work Program will be reviewed each year, though the ILA covers three years.</p> <p>Chair Parshley requested an approval of the work program amendments.</p> <p>Committee Member Cox, moved, seconded by Committee Member Menser, to approve the 2022/2023 work program amendments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motion to approve the 2022/2023 work program amendments is approved.
<p>2c. Financing Strategy Scope – Allison Osterberg, TRPC</p>	<p>Osterberg presented a potential scope for a white paper looking into financing options to fund regional climate action. Research questions include looking into options for financing along with their benefits, challenges, and requirements. The paper will review several case studies of different financing models.</p> <p>Committee members expressed support for looking into how a fund can be stable throughout political changes, and setting up a system that does not require heavy administrative work to approve small studies or expenditures. Members also suggested looking at a survey of funding mechanisms developed for the Capitol Lake EIS, and supported looking into adding funding for staff to apply for grants.</p> <p>Osterberg shared that the white paper can look into in smaller regional funding pathways in addition to large funds.</p> <p>Chair Parshley requested an update on the status of two white papers, and Osterberg responded that they will be coming out shortly.</p>
<p>2d. Climate Monitoring Dashboard – Casey Mauck, TRPC</p>	<p>Mauck shared a short demo of the revised Thurston Climate Actions and Assessment webpage. The page now functions as a dashboard to see how regional emissions and performance indicators have changed over time.</p> <p>The committee gave feedback on potential changes they would like to see including calling out action progress more directly, showing more</p>



	<p>metrics per capita, showing Thurston County’s population growth, and making it clearer when updated data will be available.</p>
<p>3a. Legacy Forests Presentation – Stephen Kropp, Center for Responsible Forestry</p>	<p>Kropp spoke about what legacy forests are, why they matter, and current policies that support the clearcutting of legacy forests.</p> <p>Roughly 90% of Capitol State Forest has been logged in the last 60-70 years, and significant portions are planned for DNR timber sales between 2021-2030. Kropp showed many upcoming areas that will be put up for auction, and requested CASC’s support to protect legacy forests.</p> <p>Committee members discussed how valuable the revenue the county gets from timber sales is to their budget, which goes to several different entities in the Thurston Region in addition the county. Committee Member Menser clarified that advocates are not asking for all timber sales to stop, but rather that legacy forests are not sold and clearcut. Kropp discussed DNR’s Habitat Conservation Plan which requires them to work to restore 10-15% of their land base to fully functional old growth forests by 2097. In the Southwest planning unit, 0.1% of the land can be defined as fully functional old growth forests today and it is projected that they will have 6-8% of the land as old growth forests in the planning area in 2097. DNR is not on track to meet their HCP commitments.</p> <p>Committee members expressed support for Councilmember Menser to work with staff to develop a letter from the Steering Committee to the county supporting action to protect legacy forests.</p>
<p>4a. Jurisdictional Information Sharing – All Members</p>	<p>Committee members discussed whether they would like to continue with virtual meetings or meet in-person. Members expressed a desire to continue with virtual meetings, with a potential retreat in-person in fall.</p> <p>Tye Menser (Thurston County) – The county hopes to have their climate coordinator job description out shortly.</p> <p>Lisa Parshley (City of Olympia) – Olympia will be posting a CivicSpark Americorps Fellow for 2022-2023 and applications are open now on CivicSpark’s website. The city has joined the ICLEI’s Race to Resilience campaign and was chosen as one of four national cities.</p>
<p>5. Adjourn</p>	<p>Meeting was adjourned at 5:04 pm.</p>



Meeting Attendance

Steering Committee Present Online:

Lisa Parshley – City of Olympia representative and Chair
Carolyn Cox – City of Lacey representative
Charlie Schneider – City of Tumwater alternate

Eileen Swarthout – City of Tumwater representative
Tye Menser – Thurston County representative and Vice Chair

Public Present Online:

Carol Kamenish
Jeff Miller
JJ Lindsey
Joel Carlson
Lynn Fitz-Hugh
Melinda Hughes
Nova Berkshires
Pam Haight

Paul Berendt
R. Peggy Smith
Robert Marino
Shannon Shula
Thad Curtz
Timothy Leadingham
Tom Crawford
Wayne Olsen

Staff and Other Attendees Present Online:

TRPC

Allison Osterberg
Casey Mauck
Karen Parkhurst

Tumwater
Alyssa Jones Wood
Brad Medrud

Lacey

Grant Beck
Hans Shepherd
Rick Walk

Thurston County
Jennica Machado

Olympia

Pamela Braff
Kym Foley

Other

Stephen Kropp, Center for Responsible Forestry

Next Meeting: June 27, 2022

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Link to project website: <https://www.trpc.org/Climate>
TRPC website: <https://www.trpc.org/>

Meeting summary is prepared by Casey Mauck, Assistant Planner, Thurston Regional Planning Council. This summary is not verbatim. A recording of this meeting is available at <https://www.trpc.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=605>