



Climate Advisory Workgroup Meeting Summary March 7, 2023, 4-6PM

Link to meeting materials: <https://www.trpc.org/Calendar.aspx?EID=714>

Agenda Item	Notes
1. Welcome and Introductions	Members and staff introduced themselves.
2. Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan (TCMP) Implementation Model	<p>Pamela Braff presented an updated model of regional TCMP implementation proposed by the Staff Team. The proposed approach includes moving from the current hierarchical structure, where the Steering Committee is at the top and Staff Team and Advisory Workgroup advise the Steering Committee, to a more decentralized approach where jurisdictions carry out climate actions and the Staff Team, Advisory Workgroup, and Elected Officials support them in different roles. The role of the jurisdictions has not changed, but this new approach recognizes that climate actions are being carried out by individual jurisdictions. The role of the Staff Team or Staff Workgroup is to coordinate internally, seeking out opportunities for partnerships and sharing information, with other specific duties including appointing workgroup members. The Advisory Workgroup’s role is still to provide community perspectives and input on climate mitigation progress and priorities, but the group is proposed to start providing feedback on actions of individual jurisdictions rather than just regional actions. The Steering Committee, now known as the Elected Official Workgroup, does not lead action implementation but rather review progress and approve any regional initiatives, and review and recommend proposed TCMP amendments. The proposal was created to ensure the group with the most time and resources, the staff team, has the ability to move quickly and efficiently on climate actions while still keeping the door open to work together on actions and grants when opportunities arise.</p> <p>One part of the proposed approach is an annual retreat and regional initiatives process. Each year, the Staff Workgroup, Advisory Workgroup, and Elected Official Workgroup will meet for a strategic planning session which includes reviewing progress and discussing potential items that would benefit from regional coordination over the next year, or regional initiatives. Ideas for initiatives can be submitted by the Staff Workgroup, Advisory Workgroup, or Elected Official Workgroup; the Staff Workgroup will evaluate proposals and submit a short list for discussion at the retreat; the Elected Officials Workgroup and can select regional initiative(s) to pursue at a meeting immediately following the retreat; and the jurisdictions will then have the ability to approve staff and budget for the work to occur.</p>



	<p>Members asked if there is a way to work on regional policies. Staff answered that there are two mechanisms: the regional initiatives process, which could result in a regional policy such as a model ordinance, and the Staff Workgroup meetings where they can share information and work together on issues. Members also asked what would happen if some jurisdictions want to allocate resources to a regional initiative and others don't. Staff answered that the jurisdictions that did want to allocate resources could still work together even if the item is not considered a full regional initiative.</p> <p>Casey Mauck gave an overview of proposed changes to workgroup logistics. With the workgroup's role expanding to review actions by all four TCMP partner jurisdictions, the workgroup's meeting schedule is proposed to increase to 10-12 meetings per year. The proposal also includes removing dedicated slots for member organizations (Puget Sound Energy, Intercity Transit, and Thurston Conservation District) so that the workgroup focuses on community member perspectives (individuals affiliated with those organizations are still welcome to apply and participate on the committee). All current members' terms expire in fall 2023, so staff will be reaching out in June to see if members would like to continue with the group. The change in meeting frequency would occur in fall.</p> <p>Members asked how the member organizations will still be a part of TCMP implementation. Staff answered that there could be a role for these community partners at the annual retreat, but the focus of the TCMP has always been on what the four jurisdictions can do, and so that is the focus of this implementation structure – recognizing that climate action needs to include work by many other community partners, and that not everything needs to be covered by this one agreement. Staff will always have the ability to partner with community organizations on various projects.</p>
<p>3. Proposed Model Breakout Group Discussions</p>	<p><i>Due to a small group size, the group opted to skip breakout group discussions.</i></p>
<p>4. Proposed Model Full Group Discussion</p>	<p>Members discussed the proposed model. Members found that level of input the Advisory Workgroup has in the regional initiatives process is appropriate. Members asked for clarification on whether regional initiatives would be proposed by the CAW as a whole committee, or as individuals. Staff clarified that the workgroup does not have to reach consensus on initiative proposals, and it is likely that while the group may discuss some proposals, there may be proposals that come from workgroup members that do not have group consensus. Staff also clarified that submitting regional initiatives will not be a hefty process but rather just requires an idea. Members expressed a desire for a prioritized list of potential initiatives that the workgroup could look at. Staff answered that the 72 actions in the TCMP are a good starting point, but there is not a comprehensive list of potential initiatives and it would be very difficult for staff to create and prioritize a list when information and action status</p>



changes so rapidly. A member expressed a desire for any Advisory Workgroup proposals to be presented by an Advisory Workgroup member at the retreat.

Members were asked if this proposal addresses the desire of the workgroup to provide more feedback into TCMP implementation. Members generally answered that it does, but a member had concerns that the proposal still hasn't answered the question of how the Advisory Workgroup is held accountable to the public, or how the jurisdictions are held accountable when they do not meet climate targets. Staff answered that the annual report and greenhouse gas inventory are the primary tools to check progress towards targets, and staff are looking into adding a contribution analysis into the annual inventory which would answer why emissions are changing. The forum for frank conversations about progress and action going forward can be the annual retreat, though this approach recognizes that action is happening at the individual jurisdiction level and these conversations and public comments may be more effective at the individual jurisdiction level. When the TCMP is updated, this can also be a time to review progress and adjust the climate mitigation approach to direct action where it is needed the most.

A member expressed a desire for a single point-of-contact for public comments, and asked why the Advisory Workgroup and Staff Workgroup meetings can't be open to the public. Other members responded that they prefer to have Advisory Workgroup meetings not open to the public so that members can speak candidly, though meeting materials and notes are always posted online. Staff clarified that open meetings carry a large administrative burden, and the Staff Team believes they can work most effectively when there is a forum for staff to discuss items internally. Staff did suggest that each Staff Workgroup meeting could have summary notes showing what was discussed. Members relayed that it is difficult to follow TCMP action without regular Steering Committee meetings, and suggested working with community partners to conduct more TCMP outreach.

A member expressed that they appreciate having the member organizations represented in the workgroup, and appreciate their expertise and the ability to build connections with those organizations.

Members were asked if the increased meeting frequency feels appropriate to accomplish their new role, and members answered that it does. Members and staff agreed that a recurring meeting schedule should be set for this group before moving to the more frequent meetings and appointing new members.

Staff reiterated that this new structure is still being developed - many of the details still need to be worked out, and feedback from the CAW will help refine it. Staff will bring back additional information at the April meeting, once the structure has been approved by the CASC.



Advisory Workgroup



5. Next Meeting and Questions	Mauck went over upcoming meetings: a Steering Committee meeting on March 27 th to discuss and potentially approve the revised implementation approach; and an Advisory Workgroup meeting on April 4 th to report back on the Steering Committee meeting, review the 2022 annual report, and begin a discussion of regional initiatives.
6. Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 pm.



Meeting Attendance

Workgroup Members:

Amy Tousley
Hazel Stephens
Justin Schmal
Kim Piper
Mike Burnham
Rachel Hastings
Tom Crawford

Staff:

Allison Osterberg, Thurston Regional Planning Council
Casey Mauck, Thurston Regional Planning Council
Grant Beck, City of Lacey
Pamela Braff, City of Olympia

Climate Advisory Workgroup Coordinator:

Casey Mauck

mauckc@trpc.org

(360) 956-7575 (main) or (360) 741-2517 (direct)

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

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Meeting summary is prepared by Casey Mauck, Assistant Planner, Thurston Regional Planning Council.

This summary is not verbatim. Meeting materials can be seen here:

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