

**Monroe County Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
via zoom**

March 3, 2022 (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)

Drafted: March 4, 2022

Approved: April 7, 2022

Members: John Botelho, Matthew O'Connor, Michael Yudelson, Sue Hughes Smith, Kathryn Walker, Leah Wirley, Helen Frank

Absent: Michael Garland

Staff: Clement Chung, Tina Stevens, Joe VanKerkhove, Yasmin Guevara, Isobell Haddad, Pat Gooch

Guests: Molly Guadoso, John Steinmetz, Kiernan Playford, Elizabeth Pixley

Welcome, Introduction and Announcements (Co-Chair O'Connor)

1. Meeting called to order at 3:32 P.M. by Co-Chair O'Connor.

Approval of Minutes (Co-Chair Yudelson):

1. Minutes from the February 3, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved. Motion by Matt O'Connor; seconded by Sue Hughes-Smith.

Legislative Update (County Legislators Yudelson and Hughes-Smith):

1. Legislator Yudelson has been active in the process with Executive staff to fill current vacancies on the committee. Current vacancies include appointments by the President of the Legislature, Majority Leader Legislator and County Executive Student.
2. Legislator Hughes-Smith added that several students had submitted resumes and support materials for consideration.

Climate Action Plan Update (Joe Vankerkhove / Bergmann Associates):

Joe Vankerkhove, Monroe County Project Manager was joined by Molly Guadoso and John Steinmetz from Bergmann Associates who gave an update on the Climate Action Plan:

1. Draft file for the first 21 pages and Parts 1-3 (Introduction, Climate Action Planning Process and Local Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Guide) was distributed to Committee members on March 1.
2. Discussion about the best way to compile input and change information: it was decided that Co-Chairs O'Connor, Yudelson and Hughes-Smith will decide on a method and communicate it to members, who would then be welcome to submit feedback and input on the Draft sections.
3. Helen Frank asked that a Land Acknowledgement be added to the introduction. All parties were in agreement.
4. It is expected that Parts 4-5 will be available for committee members by the May meeting.
5. Buildings and Facilities is the latest area to undergo review by Michael Baker.
6. The CAP will be a sub-plan to the County Comprehensive Plan, which is currently under development.
7. Climate Smart Community Actions update: County has currently enough points to apply for Bronze; need priority actions, of which Phase 1 is included. When Phase 1 is issued, application will be made for Bronze.
8. One important mission of the CAP is to memorialize work that the County has already accomplished. Baselines and percentage targets are important, but always with mitigation and adaptation front of mind.
9. One thing that will be included are Local Climate Action plans, such as County communities that have applied for CSC status.
10. Citations will be included, format to be determined (possibly hyperlinks).
11. A consideration for committee members is what does the Monroe County community want to see?
12. An index as to how various County plans, such as CAP, Comprehensive, and others work together will be added.

New Business:

1. Patrick Gooch, Senior Planner for Monroe County Planning and Development, gave an overview of the County's effort to update the Comprehensive Plan. The effort is called Plan Forward, and will replace the plan which was last updated in the 1970's:

A comprehensive plan:

- Outlines a community's vision and provides a conceptual road map for how to achieve it.
 - County v. Municipal differences: Land Use / Zoning
- Process for developing community resources, long range goals, and commonly held goals.
- The planning process can develop community consensus.
- Can add a level of certainty and preparedness, especially during times of change.
- Sends a clear indication to citizens, leaders, and developers of the desired direction (vision) for the community.

Why a County Plan?

- Address various topics of inter-community interest and associated countywide impacts
- Develop strategies to protect, enhance and encourage balanced growth and development
- County-wide approach to addressing new and emerging challenges
- Framework for encouraging and facilitating public-private partnerships
- Guide for investing County resources

How does the County Comprehensive Plan work?

- The plan set priorities for County resources that impact daily life, such as roads, parks and trails, health and wellness, and community development
- The Plan can support/ bolster projects that impact local communities through finding, advocacy and awareness
- The Plan can start a conversation or help advocate for large-scale projects that have inter-municipal impacts

County Planning and Development will coordinate the development of the Plan within and outside of County government; facilitate conversations and partnerships with focused conversations; and engage the community through outreach, including 25+ pop-up events, drop in meetings, and dedicated public meetings.

Factors outside County control:

- Conversations will identify systems and organizations outside Monroe County's control.
- Conversations will be incorporated and considered through this effort.
- Outside organizations, volunteer groups, and community-based leaders will be identified to help in implementation
- Zoning is done at Municipal level only

Schedule:

2021 – Data Gathering and exploration; County snapshot – where is the focus?

2022 – Visioning; Goals and Policies; Action Steps, Draft plan and Formal Adoption Process

Community Profile – gives a snapshot of Monroe County:

- Establishes a baseline for the County's assets across topic areas
- Provides a preliminary understanding of existing trends, challenges, and areas of opportunity
- Allows local municipalities to understand how they compare to other municipalities and the Monroe County as a whole on a topic-by-topic basis
- Used to guide further analysis in the Inventory and Analysis

Areas of Analysis: Health, Environment, Infrastructure, People and Communities, Economy

Health: Wellness, Quality of Life, Food Security, Safety, Parks and Recreation, Healthy Indoor Environments, Community Mental Health and Land Use

Environment: Resiliency, Climate Change, Agriculture, Flooding, Development Constraint, Water Quality

Infrastructure: Transportation – Roads, Sidewalks/Trails/Bike Lanes, Public Transit, Airport; Alternative Energy – Generation (solar/wind/waste), Availability (EV Charging); Waste and Recycling; Water Quality – Treatment Facilities, Stormwater Management; Communications / Broadband and Other Utilities (electric/gas)

People and Communities: Community and Neighborhood Character; Population Centers, Demographic Changes, Housing, Land Use, Public Space and Historic Resources

Economy: Employment and Workforce Trends; Economic Opportunities; Innovation and Competitiveness

Next Steps:

- Stakeholder Groups and In-Person Workshops – Spring 2021
- Survey
- Local Pop-Up Events
- Draft Vision and Goals
- Spring Workshop

It is expected the Plan will be periodically updated to reflect changes in the community.

2. Open C-Pace financing: questions were asked about the County's promotion of the Open C-Pace financing for businesses. Clem Chung and Pat Gooch mentioned that the County's only involvement was to secure access to property liens for the loans. Planning is working on ways the County can be more involved, including promoting the program to builders, landlords, etc. It was noted that the City of Rochester has a flyer and a website page. Developers would work through EIC and tend to be skeptical of the process and program; other avenues are being considered, such as banks, lenders, etc. Partnering with companies like AMPED may be another way. Causewave Community Partners works with AMPED and that may be a possible partnership. Clem is welcoming all ideas for promoting the program.

Public Forum:

No correspondence or requests to speak were received.

Next meeting is Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 3:30 via zoom.

Motion to adjourn by Kate Walker; second by Mike Yudelson. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 PM.