

Monroe County Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Monroe County Fleet Center / Zoom
February 2, 2023 (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)
Drafted: February 3, 2023
Approved: March 2, 2023

Members: Richard Milne, Matthew O'Connor, Sue Hughes-Smith, Mike Garland, Michael Yudelson, John Botelho, Kate Walker

Absent: Sean Delehanty

Staff: Clement Chung, Tina Stevens, Pat Gooch, Joe VanKerkhove

Guests: Loretta Morrell, John Steinmetz, Molly Gaudioso, Tom Robinson

Attending via Zoom: Alden Smith, Anna Yatteau, Lola D'Ascentiis, Jordan Vogler, Andre Primus

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

Meeting called to order at 3:33 P.M. by Co-Chair O'Connor.

Approval of Minutes (Co-Chair Yudelson):

Minutes from the January 5, 2022 meeting unanimously approved. Motion by Matt O'Connor; seconded by Mike Yudelson.

Legislative Update (Legislator Hughes-Smith):

No report.

Climate Action Plan Phase 2 (All):

- Molly Gaudioso thanked the committee for their patience with the delivery of receivables.
- Project schedules were reviewed and discussed:
 - March: Outreach updates, Review Case Studies/Best Practices
 - April: Outreach updates, Existing Plans Overview, GHG Inventory Intro
 - May: GHG Inventory Review, Workshop #2 Coordination
 - June: Outreach updates, Baseline Analysis and BAU Review
 - August: Outreach updates, Draft Goals/Scenarios Review, Workshop #3 Coordination
 - September: Outreach updates, Preliminary Policies and Strategies Review
 - October: Outreach updates, Preliminary Action Plan Review
 - November: Draft Phase 2 CAP review, Legislature Referral
- Suggested changes were made and incorporated into the project logos.
- Target for first public meeting is first week of March. 4 weeks of advertising will promote additional conversation via an online tool.
- Survey will be launched as part of first public workshop. Second public workshop will share specifics regarding the GHG inventory.
- Kate Walker asked about development of the initial survey, which will be done during the advertising period. Three surveys will be done to align with the three public meetings. Stakeholder summaries will be compiled after the first public meeting and submitted to the committee. It is hoped that these efforts will drive task #2.
- Matt O'Connor asked about website development. Molly stated changes suggested by the committee will be incorporated and the website will be up and running by February 10.
- The second strategy of outreach is to go back to the stakeholders and discuss how the County can support their ideas.
- Kate Walker stated that the committee would like to see deliverables of all documents with enough time to review and identify issues. Clem Chung said Bergmann would provide a list of deliverables, and Kate asked for more detail on what deliverables Bergmann would provide.
- Clem Chung said committee input will need to be prioritized in some areas, and there will be opportunities to provide additional feedback. It will be decided each month if a formal report is necessary. Each deliverable will be a section of the plan, as was done in Phase 1.
- Kate Walker stressed the need for outreach to be done through different and diverse avenues. Molly said this would be added.
- Pat Gooch talked about sharing information among the County's many initiatives, such as Active Transportation, the Comprehensive Plan, and others. Outreach could all be tied together at one event.

- Website: questions were asked about where the website would be housed. Clem stated it would be similar to other County and housed outside the County website but linked to through the County website which makes the website easier to update. County Communications will be contacted to add new items to website. Sue Hughes-Smith asked about adding links to NYS initiatives (such as the Climate Act. It was also discussed that the website become a repository for other climate-related information, such as news articles. Environmental Services would be the keeper of the website and responsible for updating. Meetings will be recorded and available for viewing as well, and the website will include a “share your events with us” feature. Blogs will also be posted.
- Logos: a one color option was suggested to make printing easier. The goal is to have all public-facing materials ready by February 10.
- Clem asked about a social media plan. Molly said there is no specific plan to create project-specific social media accounts, but could piggyback on current county accounts. The advertising toolkit will help in creation of content and will be shared with all partners. Kate Walker suggested sharing key dates with County Department of Communications. Mike Garland took an action item to work with Communications.
- Molly stated that there are elements that can be shared and in the March / April timeframe will work with kids to develop tools that they can use.
- Discussion about “pre-screening” the list of community groups that have been identified to gauge interest. This is thought to be a quick canvass to be able to tailor outreach, collect the information and prioritize.
- Survey draft will be distributed to participants.
- Clem suggested reaching out to Causewave for the Amped campaign to share their list of stakeholders.
- It is thought that Zoom will be the best meeting format. Kate suggested a variety of options and times be made available, and to examine data from other initiatives to decide the best course of action. Pat Gooch said it had been his experience that there was no “perfect” time, that an attempt should be made to diversify between the afternoon and evening and to take length into account. Other efforts found that meetings should not be longer than an hour. Also discussed were engagement elements, such as live polling. The first engagement effort will be open to all and everyone will be asked to take the survey.
- Kate asked if Bergmann could provide a template for questions, and Molly said they would.
- Committee members were asked to summarize their comments on the draft website and send to Molly ASAP.

New Business:

1. Sue Hughes-Smith reported on a presentation she and Lola D’Ascentiis made to students at School 12, which was well received. Anna Yatteau said she would help with this effort in the future.
2. Clem Chung mentioned the annual Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District’s Envirothon Competition. CAP has been asked to assist as this year’s topic is Climate Change. The specific items assistance is required with are authoring an exam and judging at the event in May. Information will be forwarded to the committee via email.
3. Clem updated the Committee on the search for a Sustainability Coordinator. 25 applications have been received but only three of those met the qualifications for the position. CAP members will be forwarded the posting via email and asked to encourage anyone they know who may be interested to apply.
4. Sue Hughes-Smith asked Mike Garland for his follow up regarding the \$1,000,000 in funds that had been allocated for Phase 1 initiatives by County Executive Bello. Mike said that one of the proposed projects is through the Department of Transportation, and meeting with that group will be scheduled. Once that is complete, DES officials can meet with Finance and encumber the money for the proposed projects.
5. Members of Metro Justice and its RED (Energy Democracy Campaign) had sent e-mails asking the CAP to recommend adding funding for a feasibility study of the public takeover of Rochester Gas and Electric to the Phase 2 plan. Mike Garland indicated that a very high-level group of County administration was currently studying the issue and at this time did not have a position on the matter. Kate Walker suggested sharing the engagement strategy for Phase 2 with the group and encourage their participation. The group had previously presented to the CAP in 2021, and it was thought an update during 3Q 2023 may be appropriate. Mike Yudelson said that the CAP is in a very different place since RED’s initial presentation to the group, and has managed to stay away from politics and worked well together despite differing beliefs. John Botelho questioned that with current NYS mandates for a “green” grid by 2040, how might this effort fit in? Matt O’Connor will draft a reply.
6. Kate Walker asked that legislative updates from the Federal and NYS levels be given at least quarterly to the group.

Public Forum:

No comments or requests to speak were received.

Next meeting is Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 3:30 **in-person** at the Monroe County Fleet Center Building 1 Conference Room. Changes or updates to the meeting venue will be communicated to the committee via email.

Motion to adjourn by Sue Hughes-Smith; second by John Botelho. Meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.