

Draft Minutes of the Environmental Justice Council

January 26, 2023

10:00am-1:00pm

Virtual meeting via ZOOM Platform

Due to limited staff capacity, Environmental Justice Council (Council) staff are working to streamline the Council meeting notes. The notes now include only very high-level points and the final decisions made along with voting records. The full meeting recordings can be found on the Council's website: [Environmental Justice Council Meetings | WaPortal.org](https://www.wa.gov/EnvironmentalJusticeCouncilMeetings). However, it is important that meeting notes are useful to the Council Members and the public. Please share feedback with Council staff on how we can make these notes most useful to you by emailing envjustice@ejc.wa.gov or by calling 360-584-4398.

Council Members present:

- Council Member Maria Batayola
- The Honorable Patrick DePoe
- Council Member Maria Blancas joined at 12:00pm
- The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson
- Council Member Running-Grass
- Council Member Rosalinda Guillen
- Council Member Aurora Martin
- Council Member David Mendoza
- Council Member Esther Min
- Council Member Todd Mitchell
- Council Member Nirae Petty
- Council Member Raeshawna Ware
- Dawn Vyvan on behalf of the Honorable Sylvia Miller
- Council Member Faaluaina Pritchard joined at 10:25am

Council Members absent:

- Council Member Nichole Banegas
- The Honorable Sylvia Miller
- The Honorable Misty Napeahi

Agency Ex Officio Liaisons Present

- Melissa Schutten on behalf of Laura Blackmore and Puget Sound Partnership
- Eliseo (EJ) Juarez, Department of Natural Resources
- Ahmer Nizam, Department of Transportation
- Michael Furze, Department of Commerce
- Nicole Johnson, Department of Agriculture
- Millie Piazza, Department of Ecology
- Lauren Jenks, Department of Health

Council staff present:

- Jonathan Chen
- Angie Ellis
- Rowena Pineda
- Sierra Rotakhina

Sierra Rotakhina, Council Staff, provided instructions on how to use the language interpretation channels and access closed captions.

I. Welcome and Roll Call

Patrick DePoe, Council Co-Chair, called the public meeting to order at 10:05am and provided an opening prayer. Maria Batayola, Council Co-Chair, acknowledged the Chinese Lunar New Year and provided opening comments. Rowena Pineda, Council Staff, conducted roll call.

II. Approval of Agenda and Past Council Meeting Notes

Co-Chair DePoe facilitated discussion and adoption of the meeting agenda and past meeting notes. The Council came to full consensus with Members present and adopted the agenda as posted in advance of the meeting without changes. The Members voted as follows:

Nichole Banegas	absent
Co-Chair Maria Batayola	A
Maria Blancas	absent
Co-Chair Patrick DePoe	A
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson	A
Running-Grass	A
Rosalinda Guillen	A

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Aurora Martin	A
David Mendoza	A
The Honorable Sylvia Miller	absent
Esther Min	A
Todd Mitchell	A
The Honorable Misty Napeahi	absent
Nirae Petty	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	absent
Raeshawna Ware	A

The Council came to full consensus with Members present and adopted the meeting notes from the October 27, November 15, November 18, and December 13, 2022, meetings with amendments agreed upon at the January 26, 2023, meeting. The Members voted as follows:

Nichole Banegas	absent
Co-Chair Maria Batayola	A
Maria Blancas	absent
Co-Chair Patrick DePoe	A
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson	A
Running-Grass	A
Rosalinda Guillen	A
Aurora Martin	A
David Mendoza	A
The Honorable Sylvia Miller	absent
Esther Min	A
Todd Mitchell	A
The Honorable Misty Napeahi	absent
Nirae Petty	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	absent
Raeshawna Ware	A

III. Public Comment

Co-Chair Batayola opened the public comment period.

Jean Mendoza, Friends of Toppenish Creek, shared that they were hearing contradictory information coming from the Department of Ecology about which criteria pollutants would be used

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to identify overburdened communities. They are concerned that if only carbon monoxide was used, the Lower Yakima Valley would not be considered for air monitoring. They are also concerned that the Department of Commerce would fund anaerobic manure digesters in the Lower Yakima Valley in the absence of air testing and community engagement.

- The EJ Council requested that the Department of Commerce and the Department of Ecology respond to Jean Mendoza's letter and testimony at the next Council meeting.

Arvia Morris, Climate Rail Alliance, spoke about the Ultra High Speed Rail Project connecting Vancouver, BC to Eugene, OR. The Alliance believes the project should be paid for with private funding and not Climate Commitment Act funds. At a minimum, they hope the Council would have a representative serve on the governing body for the project or recommend another entity to be represented.

Bridget Ray, Salish Sea Collective, thanked Co-Chair DePoe for opening in a good way and for gathering in this important work. The Salish Sea Collective consists of 13 organizations that use community-based participation models and an equitable governance structure. Bridget Ray outlined the Salish Sea Collective's goals and upcoming work.

IV. Executive Committee Updates for Group Discussion: 2023 Meeting Goals and Workplan

Co-Chair Depoe introduced this agenda item and shared that the Executive Committee has been talking about meeting goals to guide facilitation. The Council discussed the proposed language. Eliseo (EJ) Juárez, Ex Officio Liaison for the Department of Natural Resources, proposed to add "as well as agency needs" to item vi on "responsiveness."

The group decided to bring these goals to a Council committee for further discussion and directed staff to identify the appropriate committee(s) or to create drop-in sessions for Council Members to share additional feedback on the language.

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VI. HEAL Agency Updates

Co-Chair Depoe opened time for discussion and Q & A with HEAL Interagency Workgroup Members after the video. David Mendoza, Council Member, introduced a motion for the Council to convene an Environmental Justice Assessment Committee.

A: Yes, I approve.

B: Yes, with reservations.

C: Not voting until we have further discussions.

D: I don't approve, but I won't block.

E: I block, have serious concerns.

F: I stand aside, recuse myself.

MOTION: The Council convenes an Environmental Justice Assessment Committee and directs Council staff to take the next steps to convene this committee.

Nichole Banegas	absent
Co-Chair Maria Batayola	A
Maria Blancas	Absent
Co-Chair Patrick DePoe	A
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson	A
Running-Grass	A
Rosalinda Guillen	A
Aurora Martin	A
David Mendoza	A
The Honorable Sylvia Miller	absent
Esther Min	A
Todd Mitchell	A
The Honorable Misty Napeahi	absent
Nirae Petty	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	A
Raeshawna Ware	A

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The Council took a break at 11:46am and then reconvened at 11:53am

VII. Discussion and Adoption of Recommendations to the Legislature on the Spending of Climate Commitment Act Fund

The Council discussed, made amendments, and adopted the draft funding recommendations with full consensus among the Members present.

A: Yes, I approve.

B: Yes, with reservations.

C: Not voting until we have further discussions.

D: I don't approve, but I won't block.

E: I block, have serious concerns.

F: I stand aside, recuse myself.

MOTION: The Council adopts the Climate Commitment Act funding priority recommendations as amended at the January 26, 2023 Council meeting, and directs staff to submit those recommendations to the appropriate committees of the Legislature, the Governor, and the Office of Financial Management to inform the development of the 2023-2025 state budgets.

Nichole Banegas	absent
Co-Chair Maria Batayola	A
Maria Blancas	A
Co-Chair Patrick DePoe	A
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson	A
Running-Grass	A
Rosalinda Guillen	A
Aurora Martin	A
David Mendoza	A
Dawn Vyvyan on behalf the Honorable Sylvia Miller	A
Esther Min	A

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Todd Mitchell	A
The Honorable Misty Napeahi	Absent
Nirae Petty	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	A
Raeshawna Ware	A

VIII. Review of Next Steps/Discussions

The Council discussed how budget priorities would be shared with organizations that might want to support the Council’s recommendations. They discussed how each member has their own network and how there is a need for transparency in how members represent themselves in discussions about the recommendations (e.g., whether they are speaking as a Council member or in another capacity). Members discussed holding space for a future conversation about transparency and the need for a code of ethics, to include standards of conduct when making requests or doing business between state agencies and community partners.

IX. Appreciation and Feedback

The Co-Chairs thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting. The Council adjourned at 1:02pm