

Adopted Minutes of the Environmental Justice Council

10/26/2023

Virtual 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 Co-Chair Maria Batayola
- Council Interim Co-Chair, the Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson
- Council Member Aurora Martin
- Council Member David Mendoza
- Council Member Esther Min
- Council Member Todd Mitchell
- Council Delegate AJ Dotzauer on behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi
- Council Member NiRae Petty
- Council Member Raeshawna Ware

Council Members absent:

- Council Member Nichole Banegas
- Council Member Maria Blancas
- Council Member Running-Grass
- Council Member Rosalinda Guillen
- Council Member Faaluaina Pritchard

Agency Ex Officio Members present:

- Lea Anne Burke, Puget Sound Partnership
- Eliseo (EJ) Juárez, Department of Natural Resources
- Ahmer Nizam, Department of Transportation
- Michael Furze, Department of Commerce
- Nicole Johnson, Department of Agriculture

- Courtney Cecale for Millie Piazza, Department of Ecology
- Lauren Jenks, Department of Health

Council staff:

- Amina Al-Tarouti
- Jonathan Chen
- Angie Ellis
- Christy Curwick Hoff
- Rowena Pineda
- Sauncha Romey
- Sierra Rotakhina

I. Welcome and Roll Call for Quorum

Maria Batayola, Council Co-Chair, called the public meeting to order at 3:34pm. Rowena Pineda, Council Staff, facilitated roll call.

Nichole Banegas	absent
Maria Batayola (EJ Council Co-Chair)	present, left at 4:53pm
Maria Blancas	absent
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (EJ Council Interim Co-Chair)	present
Running-Grass	absent
Rosalinda Guillen	absent
Aurora Martin	present
David Mendoza	present
Esther Min	present
Todd Mitchell	present
AJ Dotzauer on behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	present
NiRae Petty	present
Faaluaina Pritchard	absent
Raeshawna Ware	present

II. Approval of Agenda by Council

Aurora Martin, Council Member, facilitated adoption of the agenda.

Motion: The Council adopts the agenda.

No objections noted. The motion passed.

To request this document in an alternate format or a different language, please contact Sierra Rotakhina in any language, at envjustice@doh.wa.gov or 360-584-4398.

III. Approval of September 28, 2023 Meeting Notes by Council

Member Martin facilitated adoption of the September 28, 2023 meeting notes.

Motion: The Council adopts the September 28, 2023 meeting notes.

No objections noted. The motion passed.

IV. Public Comment

Member Martin opened up the public comment period and staff read from a prepared statement.

TaNeashia Sudds, Executive Director of Hilltop Urban Gardens in Pierce County, introduced her organization as a farm and gathering place for African American community leaders that stands at the intersection of racial, social, and economic justice. She shared thoughts on how frontline community organizations can partner with the Council to further environmental justice. She invited the Council to hold a meeting at their farm and to visit community sites like theirs. She said they are a new member of the Front and Centered Coalition. She said the leadership of Pierce County looks less like those suffering oppression and more like oppressors.

V. Consider Adoption of Council Recommendation on Whether or Not Ecology Should Link Washington's Cap and Invest Program to California and Quebec's Programs

David Mendoza, Council Member, introduced this agenda item. He referred Members to a proposed letter drafted by the Climate Commitment Act Committee and asked the Council to consider adoption.

Motion: The Environmental Justice Council adopts the Letter to Ecology Re: Linkage as drafted by its Climate Commitment Act Committee and as amended at the October 26, 2023 Council meeting.

The motion passed.

A: Yes, I approve.

B: Yes, with reservations.

To request this document in an alternate format or a different language, please contact Sierra Rotakhina in any language, at envjustice@doh.wa.gov or 360-584-4398.

- 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.

Nichole Banegas	absent
Maria Batayola (EJ Council Co-Chair)	A
Maria Blancas	absent
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (EJ Council Interim Co-Chair)	B
Running-Grass	absent
Rosalinda Guillen	absent
Aurora Martin	A
David Mendoza	A
Esther Min	A
Todd Mitchell	Second, A
AJ Dotzauer on behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	A
NiRae Petty	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	absent
Raeshawna Ware	First Motion, A

VI. Consider Adoption of Additional Climate Commitment Act & HEAL Act 2024 Budget Recommendations

Co-Chair Batayola introduced the agenda item, stating that this was an opportunity for the Council to consider adoption of additional budget recommendations, including endorsement of agency budget requests related to HEAL implementation. AJ Dotzauer, Council Delegate, shared concerns with the recommendation related to drinking water and said she would like to receive review from the Tribe’s attorneys. Interim Co-Chair Erickson concurred.

Motion: The Environmental Justice Council adopts the additional 2024 Supplemental Budget Recommendations #17, 18, 19, and 20 as presented on October 26, 2023. The Council directs staff to submit the recommendations to the appropriate committees of the Legislature, the Governor, and the Office of Financial Management to inform the development of the 2024 state supplemental budgets.

The Motion passed.

To request this document in an alternate format or a different language, please contact Sierra Rotakhina in any language, at envjustice@doh.wa.gov or 360-584-4398.

- 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.

Nichole Banegas	absent
Maria Batayola (EJ Council Co-Chair)	A
Maria Blancas	absent
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (EJ Council Interim Co-Chair)	A
Running-Grass	absent
Rosalinda Guillen	absent
Aurora Martin	A
David Mendoza	First Motion, A
Esther Min	A
Todd Mitchell	A
AJ Dotzauer on behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	A
NiRae Petty	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	absent
Raeshawna Ware	Second Motion, B

VII. Discuss Draft Update and Report Due to the Public, Legislature, and Governor

Interim Co-Chair Erickson introduced the agenda item, stating that the Council has a statutory duty to submit an update and a report next month. Today the Council will review the draft report and provide feedback on needed changes. The Council is scheduled to consider adoption of the report at its November meeting. Staff reviewed the contents of the draft report.

VIII. Public Comment

Martha Lucas, WA State Coalition of African Community Leaders, had audio connectivity issues so submitted written public comments (see page x of the meeting packet).

Ione Jones, Executive Director of Khimstonik, introduced her organization as a grassroots Native-led non-profit organization that is beginning to engage in environmental justice discussions for

To request this document in an alternate format or a different language, please contact Sierra Rotakhina in any language, at envjustice@doh.wa.gov or 360-584-4398.

Native and Indigenous peoples in Southeastern, WA. They are beginning to advocate through case study, community events, and engagement with state agencies. They are looking forward to learning about the Environmental Justice Council's priorities so they can align and work together.

IX. Discuss Council Process for Engaging with the Governor and Legislature Before and During the 2024 Legislative Session

Sierra Rotakhina, Council staff, introduced the agenda item, stating that today's meeting is an opportunity for the Council to discuss the process they want to use to engage the Governor and Legislature on its budget recommendations and any policy priorities leading up to and during the upcoming legislative session. At the August meeting, Co-Chair Batayola asked for volunteers to help develop a proposed process. Council Members Maria Batayola, David Mendoza, AJ Dotzauer, and Lua Pritchard volunteered. During the Council meeting discussion, Council Members provided input on several topics including meeting with Legislators to share the Council's budget recommendations and the need to adopt policy statements to be responsive during session.

X. Update on Planning for Youth Advisory Council

Sierra shared background information and current plans for creating a Youth Advisory Council. They are hoping to convene a small group of youth (a brainstorming workgroup) to develop a plan to bring back to Council for discussion. Council Member NiRae Petty will be stepping down from the Council, as she is taking a position with the Department of Commerce, but she has indicated she would like to stay engaged on the planning for the Youth Advisory Council.

XI. Appreciation and Adjournment

Interim Co-Chair Erickson adjourned the meeting at 6:24.