

Adopted Minutes of the Environmental Justice Council

09/28/2023

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/EnvironmentalJusticeCouncil/Meetings). 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 Member Running-Grass
- Council Member Rosalinda Guillen
- 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 Faaluaina Pritchard
- Council Member Raeshawna Ware

Council Members absent:

- Council Member Nichole Banegas
- Council Member Maria Blancas
- Council Interim Co-Chair, the Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson

Agency Ex Officio Liaisons 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

- Millie Piazza, Department of Ecology
- Lauren Jenks, Department of Health

Council staff:

- Jonathan Chen
- Christy Curwick Hoff
- Rowena Pineda
- Sierra Rotakhina

I. Welcome and Roll Call for Quorum

Maria Batayola, Council Co-Chair, called the public meeting to order. She noted that there are two public comment periods. Rowena Pineda, Council Staff, facilitated roll call.

Nichole Banegas	Absent
Maria Batayola (EJ Council Co-Chair)	Present
Maria Blancas	Absent
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (EJ Council Interim Co-Chair)	Absent
Running-Grass	Present
Rosalinda Guillen	Present
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	Present
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.

III. Approval of July 27, 2023 and August 25, 2023 Meeting Notes by Council

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Member Martin facilitated adoption of the July 27, 2023 and August 25, 2023 meeting notes.

Motion: The Council adopts the July 27, 2023 and August 25, 2023 Meeting notes.

No objections noted. The motion passed.

IV. Public Comment

Rosalinda Guillen, Council Member, opened up the public comment period.

Nico Wedekind, Front and Centered, shared recommendations for identifying overburdened communities. In cases where the Legislature or an agency is taking action, they recommend a broader definition of areas ranked 7+ on the Environmental Health Disparities Map, or Tribal lands, or areas that are on the White House CEQ Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool. In programmatic definitions, they recommend including households that are 200% below the poverty level, those with limited English proficiency, those working outdoors, or those with other vulnerabilities that are relevant to the program. For budget items, they recommend using a more targeted approach – identifying need similar to the broad definition but also narrowing down to recognize there may be limited funding opportunities. All uses should result in publicly available lists and a petition for inclusion/exclusion and should recognize the need for community input.

Guillermo Rogel, Front and Centered coalition, thanked members for their service. They analyzed the budget and found less than 7% of CCA funding was explicitly and exclusively allocated to the benefit of overburdened communities when isolating for non-tribal appropriations – this is short of the 35% minimum. Tribes will decide if their portion has been realized. They conclude that the appropriations did not meet the CCA requirements. He said changes can be made for the supplemental budget. He encouraged the Council to continue advocacy.

Marcy Bowers, Statewide Poverty Action Network, spoke on community assemblies. She said the proposal was developed after 20 years of listening to communities. They've heard about a lack of resources and how people feel treated badly by the system. They engaged in the Poverty Reduction Workgroup. They had a steering committee that created a 10-year plan, which was guided by

community members. They have requested funding to pilot statewide assemblies that build on many years of work.

Faduma Fido, Peoples Economy Lab, added to points that the previous speaker shared and emphasized the cross-boundary collaboration in piloting assemblies across the state. She provided information on the statewide, geographically diverse organizations that are collaborating on this project. She said assemblies are an opportunity to strengthen communities' institutional leadership at the grassroots level to understand and diagnose policy.

Camille Gipaya, said she is supporting the recommendation to make school environments healthy and safe. She spoke to how students spend a lot of time in these environments. As climate change increases, weather events, such as flooding and fires, will exacerbate health inequities and children will face the consequences of indoor air quality problems. The health and wellness of students must be priorities. She emphasized the need to prioritize funding for upgrades and system maintenance for K-12 schools. She spoke to the need to monitor the school environment.

Paulina Lopez, Duwamish River Community Coalition, thanked the Council for its work and said it is an important time to acknowledge environmental justice. She stressed the importance of centering community voice and working with communities to design policies. She spoke to the cumulative impacts facing her community and how it influences life expectancy. She added the importance of centering the voice of youth of color.

Ahlmahz Negash, Principal Investigator at UW, invited Council Members to participate in an energy justice project. She said they have seen a large increase in energy justice laws, and they all have provisions for equitable costs and benefits. The laws are vague in definitions or lacking in accountability. There are differences in definitions. For these policies to achieve intended goals we need a well understood definition of energy justice. The research aims to develop a model to allow decision makers to understand the complexity of energy justice factors and how they interact as a system. She said she is available to answer questions.

Jean Mendoza submitted the following written comments: My computer connection is weak. Here are my public comments. The WA State Dept. of Commerce has allocated half a million dollars for an anaerobic manure digester to be built in Sunnyside, WA. This will be one of the largest manure digesters in the nation, if not the largest. It will be constructed in the midst of family homes, in a part of Washington designated as underserved and overburdened. There was a SEPA review for this project with a determination of mitigated non-significance. Ecology did not comment on air emissions. Neither did the Yakima Regional Clean Air Agency, even though the plan calls for 140 truck trips per day hauling manure to and through the City of Sunnyside. The SEPA review was only advertised by posting a sign in the corn fields where the digester will be built, and by sending letters to properties that directly border the project. I ask Millie & Michael to take this [information] back to your respective agencies. Thank you.

V. Discussion and Potential Adoption of Interim Policy to Support Leadership Development and Co-Governance through Increasing Capacity for Members to Engage in Committee Work

Running Grass, Council Member, and Co-Chair Batayola provided some background information for the proposal. Members discussed whether support individuals could be assigned to multiple committees or not. They agreed to pilot the policy as written and assess how it goes.

Motion: The Environmental Justice Council adopts the “Interim Policy to Support Leadership Development and Co-Governance through Increasing Capacity for Members to Engage in Committee Work” with any amendments agreed to by the full Council on September 28, 2023.

The motion passed.

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.

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

VI. Adopt Climate Commitment Act & HEAL Act 2024 Budget Recommendations

Co-Chair Batayola said adopting budget recommendations at today's meeting would be timely for influencing the Governor's 2024 supplemental budget proposals. Council members discussed the budget proposals. Members discussed the proposal for a CCA mitigation fund and whether it should be turned into an anti-displacement fund to prevent green gentrification. They agreed that a new anti-displacement fund could be developed as an additional recommendation for the future.

Motion 1 (Recommendations with Agreement): The Environmental Justice Council adopts the following [2024 Supplemental Budget Recommendations](#) as presented by the Budget Committee of the Council: #'s 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14.

The Council directs staff to work with Council Members (appointed and ex officio members), the Governor's Office, the Office of Financial Management, relevant agencies, and others as needed to continue to refine the budget estimates and other details (such as identifying the most appropriate implementing agency) while centering the intent of the recommendations adopted today.

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 (#’s 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 adopted without edits)

- 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)	Absent
Running-Grass	A
Rosalinda Guillen	A
Aurora Martin	A
David Mendoza	A
Esther Min	Absent
Todd Mitchell	B
AJ Dotzauer on behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	A
NiRae Petty	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	A
Raeshawna Ware	A

Motion 2: The Environmental Justice Council adopts the following [2024 Supplemental Budget Recommendations](#) as presented by the Budget Committee of the Council with any amendments agreed to by the full Council on September 28, 2023: #3 (Community Assemblies).

The Council directs staff to work with Council Members (appointed and ex officio members), the Governor’s Office, the Office of Financial Management, relevant agencies, and others as needed to continue to refine the budget estimates and other details (such as identifying the most appropriate implementing agency) while centering the intent of the recommendations adopted today.

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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 (#3 adopted with edits agreed to by the full Council)

- 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)	Absent
Running-Grass	A
Rosalinda Guillen	A
Aurora Martin	F
David Mendoza	A
Esther Min	Absent
Todd Mitchell	A
AJ Dotzauer on behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	A
NiRae Petty	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	Absent
Raeshawna Ware	A

Motion 3: The Environmental Justice Council adopts the following [2024 Supplemental Budget Recommendations](#) as presented by the Budget Committee of the Council with any amendments agreed to by the full Council on September 28, 2023: #4 and #9

The Council directs staff to work with Council Members (appointed and ex officio members), the Governor’s Office, the Office of Financial Management, relevant agencies, and others as needed to continue to refine the budget estimates and other details (such as identifying the most appropriate implementing agency) while centering the intent of the recommendations adopted today.

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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 (#4 and #9 adopted with edits to #9 agreed to by the full Council)**

- 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)	Absent
Running-Grass	A
Rosalinda Guillen	A
Aurora Martin	A
David Mendoza	A
Esther Min	Absent
Todd Mitchell	A
AJ Dotzauer on behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	A
NiRae Petty	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	Absent
Raeshawna Ware	B

VII. Discussion on Linking Washington’s Cap and Invest Program

The Council discussed the draft statement on linkage developed by the Council Climate Commitment Act (CCA) Committee. David Mendoza, Council Member, said there would be drop-in workshops for members to ask questions. He invited members to attend the next CCA Committee and said the committee would bring a proposal to the Council for a possible vote at their October meeting.

VIII. Appreciation and Adjournment

Co-Chair Batayola adjourned the meeting.

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