

Attachment 1:
Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee
May 15th 1:00 - 4:00pm PT
Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by the Chair.

- **Present:** Jennifer Mayne, Tess Albin-Smith, Susan Sher, Shai Larsen, Marie Jones, Ellen Drell, Michael Potts, Cathy Monroe, John Nickerson, Patrick Hentschel, Raul Gardea.
- **Absent:** Walter Smith, Javier Silva, Jade Swor (resigned), Mac Lojowsky

II. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

- Comment from Alicia Littletree: Thank you for continuing to prioritize climate.
- Other members of the public who announced themselves: Alicia Littletree, Neil Davis, Elisha Hardy, Richard Hubacek.

III. Climate Action Committee Introductions, Review of Agenda, and Consider Approval of Minutes from the March 16th MCCAC. (See Attachment Item 3).

- On the agenda order, John Nickerson noted that baseline analysis in Agenda item 5 should be considered an Agenda item 6, Ad Hoc Committee Report. Marie notes that Agenda Items 5,6, & 7 are all linked.
- A motion was made by Shai Larsen and seconded by Susan Sher to approve the March 16 Meeting Minutes as written. The minutes of the March 16th MCCAC meeting were approved unanimously.

IV. Receive Report and Consider Adoption of a Resolution Declaring that Climate Change is an Emergency and Consider Recommending that the Board of Supervisors Adopt Same (Action). - Presented & Facilitated by Susan Sher. (See Attachment Item 4).

- This item was presented by Susan Sher who expanded on Cathy Monroe's initial draft of the document. Cathy Monroe, John Nickerson, Jennifer Mayne and Patrick Hentschel participated.
- Susan mentioned that Supervisor Ted Williams made one revision on the document and has committed to holding space for the resolution during a future Board of Supervisors' Meeting.
- Committee had a discussion about rewording line 75 to read: Whereas, the County of Mendocino must do everything in its power to swiftly convert to an ecologically, socially, and financially sustainable economy.
- Michael Potts made a motion to adopt the Resolution Declaring that Climate Change is an Emergency. Cathy Monroe seconded the motion. Marie Jones conducted a roll call vote:

Jennifer Mayne - Aye	Ellen Drell - Aye
Michael Potts - Aye	Raul Gardea - Aye

Tess Albin-Smith - Aye	Cathy Monroe - Aye
Susan Sher - Aye	John Nickerson - Aye
Shai Larsen - Aye	Patrick Hentschel - Aye
Marie Jones - Aye	

The Resolution Declaring that Climate Change is an Emergency was adopted unanimously by the committee.

- o Michael Potts volunteered to finalize the resolution (moving the footnotes, revising the language per above, keeping sideline numbers). Michael will send the final document as an attachment to all members of the Board of Supervisors, and ask Ted Williams for the date of the Board of Supervisors meeting during which the Resolution will be put forth. Michael will report back.

V. Agenda Item 5 was looped into Agenda Item 6 per John Nickerson’s comment above.

VI. Receive Brief (10 minute each) presentation from each Ad Hoc Committee Regarding Proposed Work Plan and Activities to Date.

Receive Report and Consider Possible Action on Climate Change Baseline Analysis (Committee presentation) (See Attachment Item 5).

- o Presented and facilitated by John Nickerson. Report Participants: Walter Smith, Cathy Monroe, Ellen Drell, Javier Silva and John Nickerson, with Elisha Hardy as an adopted member from the public. The participants have met three times since the last full committee meeting.
- o The Ad Hoc Committee developed a rationale for why there’s a baseline of emission in carbon storage on the county level to establish mitigation and test how we’re doing in the future by monitoring against the baseline. The county has a mandate that a baseline be developed. John reviewed the report, fielded feedback and discussion from committee members. John noted that this represents a desired strategy, noted the committee recommendation to not push sewage down, and to be cautious in what we endeavor. Marie Jones and Michael Potts volunteered to help the Ad Hoc Committee.
- o Public Comment received via chat by Neil Davis recommending the Mendocino Council of Governments as a reference for the transportation analysis.

VII. Receive Brief Presentation and Prioritize First Recommendation Action Items and Develop Strategy to Present the Items to the Board of Supervisors Presented by Coast Ad Hoc Group (See Attachment Item 7)

- The Coast Ad Hoc Committee presented an update on the First Recommendations Document, presented by Michael Potts. Jennifer Mayne, Marie Jones and Patrick Hentschel will submit recommended language, John Nickerson and Tess Albin-Smith will work together on the fire safety element. Michael asked the committee to send comments about specific and additional elements to him via email. Michael to check all the links. Michael to help capture an introduction of the purpose of the document.

VIII. Receive Report and Consider Proposal to Work on Establishing a Public Bank. Presented by Patrick Hentschel. (See Attachment Item 8)

- This item was presented by Patrick Hentschel for initial consideration on working to establish a public bank and divestment.
- Public comment received by Madge, who recommended a regional effort with Sonoma County and others, supporting the idea.

IX. Discuss ways to better involve the public and develop a strategy to track and record specific ideas and suggestions from the public. Discussion facilitated by Michael Potts and Jennifer Mayne.

- This item was presented by Jennifer Mayne. Committee discussed ways to further involve the public, including roundtable meetings, virtual meetups, notation of public follow up in the minutes, participation on Ecology Hour with Patrick Hentschel volunteered to be a resource on.
- Public comment received from Richard Hubacek regarding the Little River Environmental Action Committee at the Woods and some of their overlapping efforts including fire safety.
- Public comment received from Madge regarding the North Inland Group and using Zoom as a public forum. Ellen Drell to follow up with Madge.

X. Election of Officials: Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary (Action).

- **Chair Seat.** Ellen Drell nominated Jennifer Mayne for the chair of the committee. Marie Jones explained the tasks of the chair, and Jennifer decided not to run; Ellen withdrew her nomination. The current Interim Chair, Marie Jones, was approved unanimously as Chair for a term of one year from today, May 15, 2021.
- **Vice Chair.** Michael Potts, the Interim Vice Chair, was approved unanimously as Vice Chair for a term of one year from today, May 15, 2021.
- **Secretary.** Shai Larsen, the Interim Secretary, was approved unanimously as Secretary, for a term of one year from today, May 15, 2021.

XI. Seat Elected Officials (Action).

- Performed virtually.

XII. Discuss possibly Agenda Items for Next Meeting and Provide Direction to the Chair (Action).

- Items will be submitted to Marie Jones via email.

XIII. Consider Identification of a Meeting Date for July (Action).

- Next meeting confirmed for Friday, July 17, 2020 from 1pm to 4pm.

XIV. Adjournment (Action)

- The meeting was adjourned.

Update from Baseline Committee

July 9, 2020

Sector	Sub-sector	Notes	Advances/Status
Transportation	Commercial	Transportation accounting to include transportation of solid waste	MCOG released a study of VMT for Mendocino County which was done by consultant Fehr & Peters. Would need to engage again to get updated yearly results. Needs to have an earlier estimate circa 2010 to develop trend analysis.
	Personal/Commuting		
Energy	Heating	May be broken out more based on approach to inventory methodology. Energy use for managing solid waste to be included here.	Estimate from Ascent Environmental: \$36,000. Includes Baseline Greenhouse Gas Inventory, Forecast, Target Setting and Gap Analysis.
	Industrial Use		
	Residential Use		
Natural and Working Lands	Coniferous Forests	Forests to be further sub-divided within sector by broad species, size, and density classes, which will enable further trend analysis	Cost estimate (from John Nickerson) of approximately \$35k to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify Sinks, Sources and Reservoirs (SSRs) to be included in Project Accounting throughout Tahoe Basin. 2. Identify the GHG gases to be included. 3. Develop inventory estimates of carbon stocks historically and present to develop trajectory. 4. Develop baseline reports.
	Hardwood Forests		
	Brush/Chaparral		
	Grasslands		
Urban Forests	Urban Forests	Urban Forests	Urban forest inventories have been developed by the baseline committee and friends. See Urban Forest Report in Appendix A.
Water Treatment/Sewer	Sewer	NA	No Update
Agriculture	Row Crops	May be broken out by more specific crop/orchard type based on data availability	Mendocino Resource Conservation District (RCD) has been given the lead in the county and is contracting with Ascent Environmental. Baseline ad hoc committee is coordinating with the RCD.
	Orchards		
	Vineyards		
	Irrigated Pasture		
	Marijuana		

[0] Immediate Purpose

[new material]

This document is intended to provide the County Board of Supervisors (BoS) with a few easy to achieve and meaningful policy actions for the 2020/21 fiscal year. The Mendocino County Climate Action Committee (MCCAAC) supports the climate adaptation efforts by other organizations, businesses and neighborhood groups. To that end we have listed some activities that are already underway and others that the County can begin this year.

[1] Recognize Global Climate Change – (Susan Sher)

Resolve that global climate change is a local (county) challenge, and that all measures to reduce the Mendocino County Greenhouse Gas emissions will be a small but worthwhile contribution to mitigating the Climate Crisis.

[RESOLUTION SUBMITTED TO BoS](#)

[2] Wildfire Safety through Fuels Management – (Tess Albin-Smith, John Nickerson)

Prescribed Fire

The California Dept of Forestry (CDF) has a Vegetation Management Program (VMP) with highly trained professionals using best management practices (BMPs) to conduct prescribed burns. Yet there are many institutional and social barriers to overcome before such burns can be implemented, and these barriers have in some cases halted burning in some areas of California altogether. Barriers include landowner fears, multi-agency jurisdictional hurdles, insurance hurdles, and even internal resistance due to possible unexpected outcomes and costs associated.

- Mendocino County, should be working with CDF and stakeholders to help identify and schedule burns in the highly flammable dense vegetation types, including the coast Pygmy vegetation on the Mendocino Coast and Inland, where there has never been any prescribed burning and where alternative egress is mostly nonexistent.
- The County should be working with insurance companies to develop a financial carrot for stakeholders to encourage removal of fuels through prescribed burning and other methods.

[3] Wildland Safety Egress – (Tess Albin-Smith, Shai Larsen)

Recent fires, unprecedented in size and impact, resulted in many human deaths due to a lack of warning communication methods, homes built with no thought to fire escape routes, lack of water sources to wet down the areas, and fuel buildup in rural neighborhoods.

At the very least, the County of Mendocino must work with CDF and local fire agencies to provide early warning systems, identify safety zones, support firesafe councils for neighborhood safety contacts, and identify or construct multiple evacuation routes in rural neighborhoods. This is especially important in areas with constricted access and high wildfire isolation risk, such as in the highly flammable dense Pygmy vegetation (e.g., Simpson Lane, Roads 408 and 409, Fern Creek Drive (Caspar), Little Valley Road (Inglenook), Comptche-Ukiah Road, Gibney Lane East to Mitchell Ck, and Little River-Airport Road, Albion Ridge and Middle Ridge)

[4] Encourage Renewable Energy by Permit Streamlining – (Marie Jones)

40 Recognizing that the County currently has regulatory barriers that limit the ability of businesses and residents to implement 21st century energy efficiency technology such as photovoltaic systems, electric vehicle charging stations, and water storage systems, the County shall implement a forward-thinking regulatory framework to address Climate Change at the local level, to include:

- 45 • Develop a Programmatic Coastal Development Permit and a programmatic CEQA document to enable more cost and time efficient permitting for roof top and ground mounted solar panels, EV Charging Stations, and water storage tanks. The Programmatic CDP will set forth standard environmental mitigations for the installation of these climate positive technologies in order to enable cost effective installation. Currently, businesses and residences in the Coastal Zone must pay for individual Coastal Development Permits which can cost more than \$8,000 and they must wait for 8 to 12 months to receive approval for these permits.
- 50 • Identify and resolve other regulatory barriers to local climate-positive action, for example, the County could allow two parking spaces to be turned into one EV charging station even if it results in the loss of one code required parking space. Explore the zoning code for other similar limitations.
- 55 • Seek funding to install one or more EV charging stations in all existing County facilities with parking lots of more than ten spaces, to bring these facilities up to current building standards.

[5] Efficient Energy Use & Accessibility – (Marie Jones, Michael Potts, Susan Sher)

60 Sonoma Clean Power offers “EverGreen service” that is 100% local AND renewable and costs a small amount (2.5¢/kWh) more. Mendocino County should immediately convert ALL County electrical service to SCP’s 100% local/renewable service, and institute measures to reduce electrical usage in all departments sufficiently to keep the total electricity cost revenue neutral.

Encourage Energy Accessibility:

- Facilitate permitting for EV Charging Stations County-wide
- EV charging stations at all County Points of Presence
- 65 • Phone and device charging stations at public locations during PSPS and outages

Encourage Energy Efficiency (Susan Sher)



- 70 • The County and municipalities within the County must establish a protocol for government employees to refrain from idling government vehicles, thus modeling behavior for protecting the health of residents and not wasting tax payer funded resources.
- The County and municipalities should place a moratorium on issuing permits for drive-thru restaurants, coffee shops etc. and establish a policy of encouraging drivers to get out of their vehicles and park rather than use drive-thrus.
- The County and municipalities should enact laws regulating idling such as been passed in twenty-nine states and numerous counties and local jurisdictions throughout the U.S.

75 **[6] Build and Buy for Energy Efficiency** – (Marie Jones)

The County should maximize opportunities for energy efficiency in all county projects and purchases including:

1. all proposed County remodels and new construction projects; and

2. all major equipment of more than \$2,000.

80 County Staff should include an energy analysis for all construction projects and equipment purchases of more than \$2,000 in all staff reports that are brought forward to the Board of Supervisors (BoS) for their consideration. The staff report should include both an analysis of the purchase costs and the operating costs related to energy use (taking into account likely rising energy costs) over the life of the construction project and/or equipment. Staff and Department Heads shall also consider energy costs
85 when making purchases or investments which are not referred to the BoS for direction or decision.

[7] **Eliminate Wasteful Paper and Travel** – (Jen Mayne)

Reduce paper use by posting meeting packets online and eliminating duplicative printing of documents already in circulation.

90 Encourage and enable virtual public meetings by developing a network of internet-ready Brown-act eligible public meeting spaces, and eliminating meetings in venues without internet access.

[8] **Responsible Investment** – (Patrick Hentschel)

95 Evaluate County mechanisms for tax revenue investment and borrowing of funds for county infrastructure development with the goal of establishing and transitioning to a public bank with a community-defined charter or divesting from private banks that invest without considering climate implications – fossil fuel portfolios, deforestation, chemical-based agribusiness, etc. Divestiture from out-of-state banks with ecological-averse strategies would be viable and would provide a credible response to the climate emergency. By voting with our “collective wallet,” we bring County banking in line with best current investment practices as modelled by other governmental entities and corporations that take climate change seriously.

 BACKGROUND

100 [9] **Develop a Resiliency Information Portal** – (Michael Potts, Shai Larsen)

Develop an online public information portal for relevant references, resources, and initiatives relating to climate change in and around Mendocino County. The portal will include, among other items, a county-wide clearinghouse of Mendocino County community preparedness best practices, local successes and resources from local fire departments and neighborhoods. (Can this be a part of the County official website? Can CAAC members work with the County to publish and maintain this resource on the County’s website? For CAAC discussion: should this portal include a comment / feedback mechanism?)
105

[10] **Habitat Protection** – (Tess Albin-Smith)

110 Several Mendocino wildlife habitats are imperfectly identified and protected. Oak Woodlands are important for wildlife habitat, watershed stability, and environmental health. Hillslope protection is urgently needed in Mendocino County to protect water quality and downhill property. Good Oak Woodland management offers important opportunities for carbon sequestration.

[11] **Energy Security** – (Michael Potts)

 BACKGROUND

115 Distributed electricity is uncertain. This is especially important to County residents when so-called “Public Safety Power Shut-Offs” and seasonal outages make a minimal level of electrical autonomy desirable, if not critical, at County installations as well as businesses and private residences. County policy should be:

- Electrical storage, in support of basic operations at every County facility
 - Facilitate acquisition and maintenance of electrical storage capacity for rural homes and businesses
 - Facilitate the establishment of “micro-grids” and “islanding” in residential areas where there are many homes have photovoltaic or wind generation capability. (Randal Stuart MacDonald)
- 120

- Proscribe night-time generator use during “PSPSes”
- Require generator permits, fuel storage protections, and noise abatement mitigations for all generator installations
- Work with Sonoma Clean Power and PG&E to eliminate “PSPS” incidents

125 Distributed electricity is likely to be around for awhile, but after a century of above-ground
distribution, with its attendant dangers and failures, small and large, it’s time to do better.
Undergrounding is feasible, yet utilities habitually maintain that it’s prohibitively expensive. However, if
130 the whole cost of above-grounding, including losses of life and property damage in Paradise, Santa Rosa,
and eastern Mendocino County are included in the accounting, the picture shifts. Mendocino County
should lead the effort to force utilities to (1) identify the highest risk portions of their grid, and (2)
immediately begin planning to underground those portions in the very near future.

[12] Oak Woodland and Carbon Sequestration – (Tess Albin-Smith)

135 Mendocino County has approximately 374,000 acres of oak woodlands according to the Ca. Dept. of
Forestry. This ecotype is home to more than 50% of all vertebrate species, but sadly Oak species have no
legal protections in California except in a few cities and counties that chose to protect them. Mendocino
County does not have any restrictions to cutting and converting the land to other uses, nor does the
county require an erosion control plan for any type of developments. Oak Woodlands are among the most
fragile soil types in terms of watershed stability—it is generally highly erodible shallow soils perched on
top of bedrock.

140 The county must protect oak woodlands by restricting cutting of oaks, encouraging planting and
regeneration, discouraging conversion of oak woodlands to land uses involving removal of oaks, and
requiring erosion control plans for any new land uses permitted on Oak Woodlands.

[THIS DOCUMENT IN EDITABLE OPEN DOCUMENT TEXT \(.ODT\) FORM](#)

145 Last edited by Michael, 13 July 2020 – please send suggestions to Michael at mpotts@mcn.org

Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee
July 17th 1:00 - 4:00
Via ZOOM
Meeting Agenda

Zoom Meeting Information

Topic: Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee (MCCAAC)

Time: Jul 17, 2020 01:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://mendocinocounty.zoom.us/j/97090097198>

Meeting ID: 970 9009 7198

One tap mobile

+16699009128,,97090097198# US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 970 9009 7198

Find your local number: <https://mendocinocounty.zoom.us/u/abwnFnDxXq>

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items
3. Climate Action Committee Introductions, Review of Agenda, and Consider Approval of Minutes from the May 15th MCCAAC. (Attachment Item 1).
<https://headlandsu.org/CAAC/vwpdf.php?pdf=AC/Minutes200515.pdf>
4. Receive Report and Consider Possible Action on Climate Change Baseline Analysis (Committee presentation) (Attachment Item 2) or link:
<https://headlandsu.org/CAAC/vwpdf.php?pdf=AC/Minutes200515.pdf>
5. Receive Brief (10 minute each) Presentation from each Ad Hoc Committee Regarding Proposed Work Plan and Activities to Date. Presented by Ad Hoc Committee Chairs Michael Potts, Walter Smith, and Susan Sher
6. Receive Brief Presentation and Discuss any final revisions to the First Recommendation Action Items (Attachment 3) see link below
https://headlandsu.org/CAAC/vwpdf.php?pdf=REC/FirstRecommendations_latest.pdf
7. Discussion of BOS Climate Resolution
https://headlandsu.org/CAAC/vwpdf.php?pdf=AC/BOS_Resolution.pdf
8. Discussion of and possible formation of a public education ad hoc committee (Cathy Monroe).
9. Discuss possibly Agenda Items for Next Meeting and Provide Direction to the Chair (Action).
10. Consider Identification of a Meeting Date for September (Action).
11. Adjournment (Action)