

## Advisory Committee on Sustainability and Innovation (ACSI)



### Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 4/13/22, 9am-11am

Remote Access Only

### Next Meeting

Wednesday, 7/13/22, 9am-11am

Remote Access Only

### ACSI MEMBERS PRESENT / PHONE

Lukas Angus, Adah Crandall, Jona Davis, Koffi Dessou, Mara Gross, Tammy Lee, Sasha Pollack, Emma Sagor, James Wooten

### MULTNOMAH COUNTY LEADERSHIP / STAFF / PUBLIC MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Lynch, Knowledge Murphy, Sara Mihm, Silvia Tanner, John Wasiutynski (Office of Sustainability), Hayden Miller (Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson), Roy Iwai (Department of Community Services), Anne Pernick (SAFE Cities Stand.Earth)

### ACTION ITEMS

- **Office of Sustainability:**
  - **John Wasiutynski** will schedule a deep dive into Climate Justice by Design for **ACSI members**.
  - **John Wasiutynski** will follow up with the Climate and Energy subcommittee regarding their desire to publicly express support for the **Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF)**.
- **ACSI members:**
  - **Sasha Pollack** offered to write a first draft of a letter in support of **PCEF**. Before writing begins, a follow up to all **ACSI members** should be sent to flag this since several members were not present on the call.

### DECISIONS MADE

- None.

### REVIEW AND APPROVE MEETING MINUTES

- **ACSI members** unanimously approved the minutes from the January meeting.

### DEBRIEF ACSI PRESENTATION TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

- **The ACSI** annual letter was presented by **Mara Gross, Amanda Zuniga, Knowledge Murphy,** and **Tim Lynch** to the **Board of Commissioners** in early January. More feedback was given this year than in the past. The presentation received press from two sources: [Bike Portland](#) and [Pamplin](#).

- **John Wasiutynski** shared that Climate Justice by Design is moving from a process development phase to a plan development phase. **Tim Lynch** added that we're working with **Coalition for Communities of Color** to apply for grants through Partners for Places, and that we're looking forward to working with **ACSI members** to help shape the direction of the work that is soon to come.

## UPDATES FROM STAFF

- **FY2023 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS**

- **John Wasiutynski** shared that the budget will be finalized in June, but several opportunities are looking strong. Our core programs are fully funded, including the existing five full time positions, and one Climate Resilience Coordinator position will be added. **Commissioner Lori Stegmann's** office has been working on a Resilience Hub in East County, which is a physical location. It will supply vital community services and, in the case of emergency, will be a staging ground for response and recovery. She has asked for money in the general fund to continue her planning on this. The program offer will be housed within the **Office of Sustainability**, where the **Office of Sustainability** will provide a deeper commitment to this project.
- **John Wasiutynski** shared continued work with the CROPS Program, a 3 acre farm in Troutdale near McMenamins Edgefield. A lease has been awarded to **Mudbone Grown** to operate the farm on the County's behalf for five years, with the option to extend the lease for an additional five years. Infrastructure has been added to the site, including water, and the **Board of Commissioners** have provided funding to build a new barn.
- The **Board of Commissioners** expressed support in providing funding for our work on Climate Justice by Design.

- **OTHER STAFF HIGHLIGHTS**

- **John Wasiutynski** shared that in partnership with the **City of Gresham** and **Friends of Trees**, an additional \$50,000 has been secured for the upcoming fiscal year to plant more trees in East County.

- **SHORT LEGISLATIVE SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

- The **Oregon Legislature** has approved a bill to spur planning around the impact of a major earthquake on fuels stored at the **Critical Energy Infrastructure Hub**, located along a 6-mile stretch of the Willamette River in Northwest Portland.
- The State's environmental justice task force will become an official committee, and will receive staffing from the **Department of Environmental Quality**.
- SB 1536 (2022) built on the 2021 successes of environmental justice-led coalition work to pass justice-centering climate bills. Directs **Oregon Department of Energy** to create a heat pump deployment program, a grant/rebate program for installation of heat pumps by landlords, grant for a Community Cooling Center program for extreme heat events, and to identify existing cooling and barriers to cooling access in government supported housing. It changes landlord obligations to provide safe housing for tenants, and directs

**Oregon Health Authority** to implement an emergency air conditioner and air filter program.

- **COMMISSIONER VEGA PEDERSON HIGHLIGHTS**

- **Hayden Miller** shared that **Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson** is on Metros' Joint Policy Advisory Committee on Transportation to represent Multnomah County.
- **Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson**, in collaboration with **Commissioner Susheela Jayapal**, the **Multnomah County Health Department**, and the **Office of Sustainability** worked with a work group to develop a policy matrix that provided ideas for work that the County can do to address wood smoke pollution, particularly around commercial use and wood stove changeouts to cleaner sources of heat. Instead of wood smoke being monitored only in the winter months, wood smoke is now being monitored all year. Additional changes include:
  - Year round monitoring of air quality;
  - Switching from a red/yellow/green system to a red/yellow day to discourage the idea that it is ever "ok" to burn wood. It's expected the **Environmental Protection Agency** will change the ambient air quality thresholds later this year, impacting the thresholds by which we determine a yellow or red day; and
  - Updating the exemption list as it relates to some people who can continue to burn wood, even on poor air quality days.
- **Hayden Miller** shared that the County will resume past work related to the phase out of leaf blowers. A work group will be established, where a community-led process will ultimately lead to a proposal submitted to the **Board of Commissioners** later this year.

## **SUBCOMMITTEES REVIEW**

### **TRANSPORTATION**

- **Tim Lynch** shared that **Charlene McGee** from **Multnomah County's REACH Program** joined a past subcommittee meeting, broadening the conversation around health and safety, and also supported bringing transportation policy back to the **Board of Commissioners**.
- **Adah Crandall** shared that she's excited to learn about the Burnside Bridge replacement project and will be interested in providing support.
- **Koffi Dessou** shared that behavior change is necessary to adapt to new and needed technologies, especially as people are showing increased interest in personal vehicles. In the chat, he said: "It would be useful to survey Multnomah County and/or Metro residents on their intentions and plans for transportation in the next 1 to 3 years. For example, will people prefer public transportation to private/personal transportation?"
- **Jona Davis** shared in the chat: "Good points. None of my young adults drive currently, but since the pandemic they have changed their attitudes and are less comfortable with public transportation especially since we've had to move further out due to lack of affordability in Portland."

## FOOD AND WATER

- **Lukas Angus** shared that water is a multijurisdictional issue, and toxins, like mercury and pesticides, are found throughout the ecosystem with different sources, and regulated by different agencies, is challenging. To ensure that the County is connected to the community's reliance on food, the following needs to be addressed to support food security and communities who farm or rely on fishing:
  - Leadership with holistic messaging and addressing communications barriers;
  - Elevating how pesticides and mercury end up in the water;
  - A lack of knowledge in the agricultural community;
  - Increasing in funding and the need to act and collaborate holistically;
  - Focus on engagement and outreach, like programs at schools, social media and ads, community organizations, events, business organizations; and
  - Changing public knowledge about water contamination and the culture.
- Roy Iwai shared that [Follow the Water](#) has launched, and a larger launch will take place on May 1. All are encouraged to support and engage with this new campaign.

## CLIMATE AND ENERGY

- **Sasha Pollack** shared that the subcommittee has discussed the recent challenges facing **PCEF**, and that the committee can voice their support for **PCEF** and aligning with the County needs to achieve equity and climate goals.
- **Tim Lynch** shared appreciation for the content of the first subcommittee meeting and the discussion around who was at the table and what drives members; the conversation was valuable due to the humanity and intersectionality.
- Regarding **PCEF**, **John Wasiutynski** shared that the committee can show support. He said that another way to provide support is to offer some County projects, in partnership with nonprofit organizations, that can be "PCEFable," ensuring that there are successful projects that are easy for the community to understand.
- Additional project ideas shared in the chat include the wood stove exchange program, and supporting the East County Resilience Hub.
- **Knowledge Murphy** encouraged **ACSI** to take advantage of the recent press and show support for **PCEF**.
- **Jona Davis** expressed support for writing an op-ed and signing a letter in support of **PCEF**. **Koffi Dessou** and **Emma Sagor** voiced their support as well.

## REVIEW ACTIONS AND ADJOURN