

**Climate Change Task Force Meeting  
Wednesday, August 19, 2020  
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM**

**WebEx platform, virtual meeting**

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

Members Present

Co-chair: Senator Rich  
Co-chair: Commissioner Furr  
Bartleman, Robin  
Bush, Lois  
Carballo, Isabel Cosio  
Cavros, George  
Etessam, Shahin  
Forbes, Sasha  
Gottlieb, Lee  
Kaltman, Adrienne  
Kaufer, Ilan  
Kornahrens, Robert  
Commissioner Lonergan  
Polsky, Colin  
Commissioner Shuham  
Commissioner Welch

Members Absent

Chris Rotolo

- I. Welcome**  
Commissioner Rich and Commissioner Furr welcomed the members of the task force.
- II. Roll Call**  
Roll was called. Fourteen members were present and three were absent. A quorum was present.
- III. Call to Order**  
Commissioner Rich called the meeting to order at 1:21 PM.
- IV. Approval of Minutes of February 27, 2020**  
A motion was made, approved, seconded, and passed to accept the minutes of the February 27, 2020 meeting.
- V. Announcements**
  - a. Senator Rich provided a list of vacancies for Climate Change Task Force;

- The positions shall be filled by members representing the categories of hospital district, financial institution, SFWMD, BSO, community equity.
- b. Senator Rich mentioned the importance of the 2020 Census and workforce campaign to aid in getting completed forms from workers, setting aside a specified time to complete a form while on the job. Census collection will end August 31, 2020.
  - c. Catherine Uden, with Oceana, reminded members of the importance of limiting single-use plastics, their connection to fossil fuels and greenhouse gasses, and incorporating this idea into Climate Action Plans for municipalities and in the Climate Action Plan at the County level.
  - d. Stephanie Pearson, with the League of Women Voters, echoed the need to limit the use of single-use plastics, due to the connection between plastics, chemical and fossil fuel use, and urged members to consider placing this in the updated Climate Change Action Plan.

## **Presentations and Discussion Items**

### **a. Electric Car Chargers for County Fleet Vehicles**

- a. David Hawke, Construction Management Division, Broward County provided an overview of County plans to provide electric vehicle (EV) charging stations, including possible solar arrays at appropriate County sites. The County is adding electric vehicles to the fleet and requires facilities to charge them. There are different schemes to consider, starting with what is currently available now and leading to schemes that may be available at some future point depending on levels of electricity made available through FPL. These sites include Government Center East, Government Center West, Fleet Services Three in Pompano and the Broward County Transit Hub at the Lauderhill Mall, which is currently under construction.
- b. In the case of utilizing solar where available and cost effective, an array system would be built directly over the top of the vehicle, so that it could be charged while parked underneath. The transit hub at the Lauderhill Mall, a proposed LEED Gold Project, is an example of one that already has solar and EV charging units in it. It will actually be a net positive building, producing more electricity than it will use. Staff also have to monitor consumption to make sure investments are beneficial.
- c. Discussion followed regarding the County's future investment in the infrastructure, budget commitments required and the improvements to the power grid by FPL that will be needed to allow for rapid charging of County vehicles. This initial phase is to allow for conversion of the County fleet to electric vehicles by 2030.
- d. Discussion also followed related to the use of surtax money for vehicle charging infrastructure and what is consistent with state statutes. Use of surtax funds seems integral to many of the County interests and

more review of eligibility is needed.

**b. Environmental Workforce Opportunities**

- a. Commissioner Furr, relating the loss of hospitality jobs throughout Broward County because of the pandemic, raised the question could a work force be trained to focus on the environmental needs of the Community? As an example many bus shelters, re-use water availability, storm drain painting, shade tree planting are needed. Creating a workforce that could assist in promoting and accomplishing identified objectives related to improving environmental conditions could prove valuable.
- b. Community irrigation education, tree giveaways, looking for a synergy of sustainability ideas and economic viability are optional focus areas. Exactly where the funding comes from to provide climate jobs and green climate justice remains uncertain, but the ideas and discussion to bring this about are required now. Further consideration and ideas are needed.

**c. Covid Considerations that can help Guide the Counties Response to Climate Change**

- a. Commissioner Rich discussed outcomes from covid that relate to climate change issues such as the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from reduced commuting and the economic hardship and health vulnerabilities exposed by covid that could similarly be caused by climate change. The question was discussed, “What would be considered a fair trade off in terms of maintaining quality of life while prioritizing a global reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.”
- b. These issues illustrate the economic, health and racial inequalities that exist in lower income families. Things one can do to reduce carbon footprint are not available if the financial means is not available. Programs like PACE are out of reach for many. There is a need to continue looking for new and innovative funding mechanisms that can assist lower income families.
- c. Despite the negative impacts of Covid, there have been some reminders as to quality of life considerations that may be less apparent. Less commuting time, fewer cars on neighborhood streets, outdoor exercise, less stress are tangible considerations as the return to a new normal lifestyle post pandemic occurs.

**d. Subcommittee Updates**

- a. Sasha Forbes and George Cavros were co-chairs of the Social Equity and Engagement Subcommittee. Sasha will be leaving the Task Force after this meeting and she related recent subcommittee discussions on the need to have voices from and members of the community represented on calls and on the Task Force. Their voices are needed to help identify the disparities across the region that are necessary to help

lift up. Topics such as climate resilience, environmental justice, housing, climate gentrification and elevation need to be addressed working with the community to create tangible outcomes that will really provide benefit and not become just an extractive process. George Cavros echoed those sentiments and reaffirmed the focus on getting community representation to the subcommittee, which he feels can help grow the subcommittee in really profound ways. Commissioner Rich and George both thanked Sasha for her time working with the subcommittee and Task Force.

- b. Lois Bush spoke for the EV and Transportation Subcommittee. There have been no new meetings of this subcommittee. Henry Sniezek, Director of EPGMD retired and was leading many of these discussions. The next focus will be determined in the coming months.
- c. Colin Polsky has been working with the Social Equity and Engagement Subcommittee presenting an FAU student project to develop a GIS based tool for climate resilience studies with an equity focus. By utilizing data students can acquire from the census or elevation data from GIS to identify criteria relevant to characterize a “vulnerable” community (step 1). Step 2 is where identification of representatives into those communities who might wish to partner and collaborate work on solutions. Community feedback and involvement is necessary to make sure this kind of project is not merely a superficial understanding of what the community looks like, but a viable tool that can achieve beneficial results when used appropriately. A more detailed explanation of this project and process could be available to the Task Force if they would be interested, perhaps at a future meeting.
- d. Commissioner’s Lonergan and Shuham presented updates from the Municipal Collaboration Subcommittee. The subcommittee has not had a scheduled meeting but each Commissioner has been providing improvements made in their municipalities relevant to the Climate Change Action Plan that will be updated this year. Commissioner Lonergan (Oakland Park) indicated converting to smart water meters helps keep the City and customers more informed of their water usage and hopefully lead to more conservation efforts and water savings. Conversion to LED lighting at ball fields and municipal facilities has helped with dark sky and energy reduction. Commissioner Shuham (Hollywood) highlighted LED light conversions for energy savings and dark sky, ending of the ocean outfall in favor of deep injection wells, conducting a stormwater vulnerability assessment for the city, and infrastructure improvements at a low lying marina to prevent impactful king tide flooding.

#### **e. Legislative Update**

- i. Jason Liechty, Senior Environmental Project Coordinator, EPCRD, presented methods that can be used to express preferences on policy at various legislative levels, federal, state, County and municipal. Working with the Governmental Affairs Office, County Attorney and/or with the County Commission, the Task Force can make their preferences known in both formal via a Resolution or more informal via providing an opinion. These processes do take time to move through the various steps and agencies. Generally, the more formal the message the more time it will take to execute.
- ii. State Legislative Budgets, there will be proposed shortfalls.
- iii. Federal Legislative Budgets, House has acted on some bills while Senate has not.
- iv. Rundown of the 2020 legislative session, Senate Bill 178 would require sea level impact projection studies for state funded coastal infrastructure projects, where considering the lifespan of a project with sea level rise projections that would help to protect that infrastructure. Senate Bill 7018 was a requirement that the state develop a master plan for charging stations along highways. Senate Bill 172 was a Drug and Cosmetic Act that will prevent the sale of certain sunscreens that contain ingredients strongly suspected of causing coral reef damage. Senate Bill 712 Clean Waterways Act intended to address the blue green algae bloom. Everglades Restoration Funding continues without cuts.
- v. Any attempts to weaken or eliminate net metering policies in the State of Florida will be tracked.
- vi. Federal Scene: net metering petition unanimously denied. Regulation will remain at state level. Methane rules were rescinded by administration, which will roll back the methane emissions rules for oil and gas. Methane is a very powerful greenhouse gas which is short-lived but has a high global warming potential. The use of scientific research was limited in decision making.
- vii. House Select Committee, Climate Crisis Report is a comprehensive and extensive plan for what the federal government should do regarding the climate crisis. There are much shorter fact sheets and summaries for review.

#### **f. Climate Change Action Plan Update**

Samantha Danchuk, Assistant Director EPCRD, provided an update of the promotions and outreach being utilized to solicit input from as many sources as possible to update the Climate Action Plan. This process is an opportunity to educate the community on County progress. Technical work groups and subcommittees will have the opportunity to convene in October and early November. This timeline can be altered to some extent, but the plan is to have a general idea of the types of actions by November and specific actions to review by next February.

Mechanisms employed to solicit input include a September 15, 2020 public webinar, social media posts, technical review sessions, school engagement through curriculum modules, radio and local cable outlets, online and through traditional phone calls to the division office number. Any support, assistance or ideas from Task Force members is encouraged as process is advanced.

**g. Southeast FL Regional Climate Change Compact and Broward Resilience Initiatives Update**

Dr. Jennifer Jurado, Director and Chief Resilience Officer, EPCRD, presented an update on the Priority Planning Area Map with the adoption of the updated sea level rise projection adopted by the County Commission. The map now accounts for an additional foot of sea level rise and a sizeable expansion from about six square miles to about eighteen square miles of priority planning areas results from the change. The public engagement process was completed and backup materials have been submitted to the planning agency. The map will now be referenced when a proposed land use amendment is reviewed and comments on the proximity to problematic areas will be noted which effects the level of review from a resilience perspective. The future conditions groundwater table map was based on a two foot sea level rise scenario and now this map will need to be revised to address the new projection.

Business Case for Resilience Study was an assessment of the return of investment that comes with strategic investment and coordinated resilient infrastructure initiatives and plans. It includes case studies such as sea wall improvements and investments, beach renourishment and considerations for structure elevation. This study was a recommendation that came out of the Resilience Roundtable, endorsed by County Administrators of the four Compact Counties and funded through contributions from all, including a sizeable grant from DEP and the business community. A good study to begin using as future development decisions are being made. More discussion on the Study will be held at the 2020 Compact Virtual Summit to be held in October.

**Adjourned at 4:02 PM.**

**Next meeting: Thursday, November 19, 2020, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM.**