

Adopted Minutes of the Environmental Justice Council

8/25/2023

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 Member Maria Batayola
- Council Member Maria Blancas
- Council Member Running-Grass
- Council Member Rosalinda Guillen
- Council Member Aurora Martin
- Council Member David Mendoza
- Council Member Esther Min
- AJ Dotzauer on behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi
- Council Member Nirae Petty

Council Members absent:

- Council Member Faaluaina Pritchard
- Council Member Todd Mitchell
- The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson
- Council Member Nichole Banegas
- Council Member Raeshawna Ware

Agency Ex Officio Liaisons present:

- Melissa Schutten, Puget Sound Partnership (virtually)
- 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:

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

Guests and other participants:

- Joe Nguyễn, Washington State Senator (virtual recording)
- Rebecca Saldaña, Washington State Senator (virtual)

I. Welcome and Roll Call for Quorum

Esther Min, Council Member, called the meeting to order at 2:49pm. Rowena Pineda, Council Staff, facilitated roll call.

Nichole Banegas	Absent
Co-Chair Maria Batayola	Present
Maria Blancas	Present
Tribal Rep (vacant)	Vacant
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson	Absent
Running-Grass	Present
Rosalinda Guillen	Present
Aurora Martin	Present
David Mendoza	Present
Esther Min	Present
Todd Mitchell	Absent
AJ Dotzauer on behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	Present
Nirae Petty	Present
Faaluaina Pritchard	Absent
Tribal Rep (vacant)	Vacant
Raeshawna Ware	Absent

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II. Approval of Agenda by Council

Aurora Martin, Council Member, called for a motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion: The Council adopts the agenda.

No objections. The motion passed.

III. Public Comment

Daryl Williams, Environmental Consultant for the Tulalip Tribes and Chair of Washington State Conservation Commission, shared his appreciation for the EJ Council and thanked the members for their service.

John Worthington, said he has been trying to figure out the emissions pie chart. He said this requires going into different stores to track product (e.g., watermelons from Mexico that are shipped to Seattle.) He told the EJ Council that they need to consider his input before writing any rules.

Katherine Woolverton, 350 Seattle's Community Action Team, said she was speaking on behalf of their aviation group. She said the idea of adding new airports or expanding existing airports is an environmental justice issue that isn't getting enough attention. She said the Commercial Aviation Coordinating Commission did not adequately evaluate community health, environmental justice, climate impacts, and land use and the new workgroup's mission is narrow in scope and incomplete. She said without these analyses, we risk making choices that burden communities proximal to airports. She said aviation is also a significant climate pollution contributor. She asked that the Council support a comprehensive study that looks at race, health, equity, climate, land use and find ways to provide transportation while meeting climate goals and providing equitable outcomes.

Ekaterina Ench, co-founder of United Stateless, asked the Council to include stateless constituencies in environmental justice efforts. She said there are about 218,000 stateless persons in the United States and they are a largely invisible and underserved population. She said stateless individuals face unique challenges, including lack of data, disproportionate vulnerability, and resource barriers. Stateless individuals are often unaccounted for in data. They lack access to

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healthcare, education, ability to secure legal employment, and are unable to leave the US to address their problems elsewhere. Stateless persons lack legal status in most cases. She said the Council can serve as a vital advocate for the rights of stateless persons.

IV. Discussion and Possible Adoption of Community Engagement Values and Guidance

Nirae Petty, Council Member, addressed the concerns expressed during the last meeting regarding the Community Engagement Values and Guidance and that everyone should have input into government decision making. She said the last motion didn't have the votes and she received feedback on why. She asked for approval of the values and guidance to serve as a living document.

Motion: The Environmental Justice Council adopts the Community Engagement Values and Guidance drafted by its Community Engagement Committee.

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.

Nichole Banegas	Absent
Maria Batayola (EJ Council Co-Chair)	Approve
Maria Blancas	Approve
Tribal Rep (vacant)	Vacant
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (EJ Council Co-Chair)	Absent
Running-Grass	Approve
Rosalinda Guillen	Approve
Aurora Martin	Approve
David Mendoza	Approve
Esther Min	Approve

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Todd Mitchell	Absent
AJ on behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	Approve
Nirae Petty	Approve
Faaluaina Pritchard	Absent
Tribal (vacant)	Vacant
Raeshawna Ware	Absent

V. Discussing Council Member Capacity and Improving Council Member Ability to Engage

Sierra Rotakhina, Council Staff, said last year some of the community representatives expressed that the time demands on the Council were high. She said the Governor’s Office clarified that the HEAL Act doesn’t allow for alternates for non-Tribal Council members to attend full Council meetings, but that does not prevent the Council from determining who can attend their committee meetings. Council members shared their own experiences, the ways they’ve felt the strain, and strategies they’ve used to balance their capacity. Members expressed support for a policy solution to address the problem while also exploring other solutions simultaneously. Co-Chair Batayola said next steps were for Members to look at the proposal and share feedback and they would consider potential adoption of the proposal in September.

VI. The Original Vision for the HEAL Act

Senator Saldaña shared the history of the creation of the HEAL Act and the original vision. She acknowledged some of the challenges with implementation and said her job was to listen carefully to what is and is not working. She thanked the Members for their service. Members expressed gratitude for Senator Saldaña’s commitment to environmental justice.

VIII. Lessons and Insights from the 2023 Legislative Session for the Council’s Engagement in the 2024 Legislative Session

Senator Nguyễn submitted a pre-recorded video message, in which he provided some information about the state budget development process and tips for the Council’s engagement. Sierra Rotakhina shared some additional lessons learned from working with legislators during the last

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session. Members shared their appreciation that legislators have been eager to receive the Council's recommendations.

IX. Council 2024 Legislative Process for Educating, Advocating, and Lobbying the Governor and Legislature on Council Priorities

Members discussed and reflected on the processes used last session and the need for a process to share Council position on specific bills and/or broader policy issues. Co-chair Batayola suggested forming a small group to continue discussion and to develop a plan.

X. Appreciation and Adjournment

Co-chair Batayola thanked everyone for a productive day.