

# Adopted Minutes of the Environmental Justice Council

12/14/2023

## 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](mailto:envjustice@ejc.wa.gov) or by calling 360-584-4398.

### Council Members present:

- Co-Chair Member Maria Batayola
- Council Member Maria Blancas
- Interim Co-Chair, the Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson
- Council Member Running-Grass
- Council Member Rosalinda Guillen
- Council Member Aurora Martin
- Council Member David Mendoza
- Council Member Todd Mitchell
- AJ Dotzauer on behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi (joined at 3:44pm)
- Council Member Faaluaina Pritchard
- Council Member Raeshawna Ware

### Council Members absent:

- Council Member Nichole Banegas
- Council Member Esther Min

### Agency Ex Officio Members 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

- Courtney Cecale on behalf of Millie Piazza, Department of Ecology
- Lauren Jenks, Department of Health

Council staff:

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

I. Welcome and Roll Call for Quorum

Maria Batayola, Council Co-Chair, called the meeting to order. Rowena Pineda, Council Staff, facilitated roll call.

Nichole Banegas	Business Representative	Absent
Maria Batayola (EJ Council Co-Chair)	Community Representative	Present
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	Present
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (EJ Council Interim Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	Present
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	Present
Rosalinda Guillen	Community Representative	Present
Aurora Martin	Community Representative	Present
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	Present
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	Absent
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	Present
AJ Dotzauer On behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	Tribal Representative	Present
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	Present
Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	Present

II. Approval of Agenda by Council

Aurora Martin, Council Member, facilitated adoption of the [agenda](#).

Motion: The Council adopts the agenda.

Lua Pritchard (motion)/Raeshawna Ware (second). No objections noted. The motion passed.

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III. Approval of October 26, 2023 and November 16, 2023 Meeting Notes by Council Member Martin facilitated adoption of the [meeting notes](#) (see pages 6-18).

Motion: The Council adopts the October 26, 2023 and November 16, 2023 meeting notes.

Lua Pritchard (motion)/David Mendoza (second). No objections noted. The motion passed.

#### IV. Public Comments

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

John Worthington said a definition of overburdened communities relied on information that did not include data on shipping emissions. He shared his belief that funds for overburdened communities are reparations under the guise of climate change.

Arvia Morris said she hopes the Legislature will use CCA funds for the Cascade passenger service to improve travel. Passenger rail is helpful for folks who do not drive. If folks live near the rail corridor, they can get to needed medical visits. Some people cannot afford to own a car. WSDOT could apply for grants and receive federal matching funds to improve trip times and reliability. She hopes the EJ Council will urge WSDOT to use CCA funds to obtain federal match to improve passenger rail.

#### V. Consider Adoption of the Council's 2024 Meeting Schedule

Co-Chair Batayola said the Council is required to adopt an annual meeting schedule. She shared the proposed schedule and said they had some dates proposed for an in-person full day retreat in May. Members agreed that May 3 would be the best date in May. Members discussed the possibility of meeting in Eastern Washington.

**Motion:** The Council adopts the proposed [2024 Council Meeting Schedule](#) (see page 20) with any changes agreed upon by the Council members at the December 14, 2023 meeting.

**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.

Nichole Banegas	Business Representative	Absent
Maria Batayola (EJ Council Co-Chair)	Community Representative	A
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	A
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (EJ Council Interim Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	A, Motion
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	A
Rosalinda Guillen	Community Representative	A, Second
Aurora Martin	Community Representative	A
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	A
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	Absent
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	A
AJ Dotzauer On behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	Tribal Representative	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	Absent
Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	A

## VI. Continue Discussion and Consider Adoption of the Council’s Process for the 2024 Legislative Session

Co-Chair Batayola reminded members of their process to prepare for the upcoming legislative session. Staff reviewed the 2024 Legislative Session Policy Statement and Procedure document. Co-Chair Batayola asked members to share which sections they were ready to adopt and which they wanted to discuss further. The Council adopted the full document over three motions, allowing the Council to quickly adopt sections that already had consensus and then to discuss and amend as needed the remaining sections and subsections.

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**Motion:** The Environmental Justice Council adopts the following sections: Section 1 and Subsections 2.1, 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3 of the [2024 Legislative Session Policy Statement and Procedure](#) (see page 24) as presented on December 14, 2023 with the change agreed to by the full Council during the meeting.

**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	Business Representative	Absent
Maria Batayola (EJ Council Co-Chair)	Community Representative	A
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	A
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (EJ Council Interim Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	A
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	A
Rosalinda Guillen	Community Representative	A, Second
Aurora Martin	Community Representative	A
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	A, Motion
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	Absent
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	A
AJ Dotzauer On behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	Tribal Representative	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	Absent
Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	A

Members then discussed Section 2.2 of the document and Co-Chair Batayola asked for a vote. Interim Co-Chair Erickson expressed concern with the policy statement on linkage. The motion failed on the first vote. Following discussion, the motion passed through consensus on the second vote.

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First Vote:

**Motion:** The Environmental Justice Council adopts subsection 2.2 of the [2024 Legislative Session Policy Statement and Procedure](#) (see page 24) as presented on December 14, 2023 with any changes agreed to by the full Council at the meeting.

**Motion failed.**

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	Business Representative	Absent
Maria Batayola (EJ Council Co-Chair)	Community Representative	A
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	A
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (EJ Council Interim Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	E
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	A
Rosalinda Guillen	Community Representative	A
Aurora Martin	Community Representative	A, Second
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	A, Motion
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	Absent
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	A
AJ Dotzauer On behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	Tribal Representative	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	Absent
Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	A

Members continued to discuss the proposed policy statement regarding linkage. Co-Chair Erickson indicated he had concerns, but he didn't want to block the vote.

Second Vote:

**Motion:** The Environmental Justice Council adopts subsection 2.2 of the [2024 Legislative Session Policy Statement and Procedure](#) (see page 24) as presented on December 14, 2023 with any changes agreed to by the full Council at the meeting.

**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	Business Representative	Absent
Maria Batayola (EJ Council Co-Chair)	Community Representative	A
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	A
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (EJ Council Interim Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	D
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	A
Rosalinda Guillen	Community Representative	A
Aurora Martin	Community Representative	A, Second
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	A, Motion
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	Absent
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	A
AJ Dotzauer On behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	Tribal Representative	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	Absent
Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	A

Next the Council discussed the draft media policy and agreed to only focus on discussion and possible adoption of section I today.

**Proposed Motion for Media Policy:** The Environmental Justice Council adopts section I

(Responding to Media Inquiries) of the Environmental Justice Council [Media Engagement Policy](#)

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[and Process](#) (see page 30) as presented on December 14, 2023 with any changes agreed to by the full Council.

**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	Business Representative	Absent
Maria Batayola (EJ Council Co-Chair)	Community Representative	A
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	A
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (EJ Council Interim Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	A, Second
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	A
Rosalinda Guillen	Community Representative	A
Aurora Martin	Community Representative	Absent
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	A
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	Absent
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	A
AJ Dotzauer On behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	Tribal Representative	A, Motion
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	Absent
Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	A

## VII. Appreciations and Adjournment

Interim Co-Chair Erickson thanked everyone for their work and adjourned the meeting.