

Adopted Minutes of the Environmental Justice Council

July 27, 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 or by calling 360-584-4398.

Council Members present:

- Council Member Maria Batayola, present
- Council Member Nichole Banegas, present
- Council Member Maria Blancas, present
- Council Member Running-Grass, present
- Council Member Rosalinda Guillen, present
- Council Member Aurora Martin, present
- Council Member David Mendoza, joined at 3:40pm
- Council Member Esther Min, present
- Council Member Todd Mitchell, present
- Council Member Nirae Petty, joined at 3:43pm
- Council Member Raeshawna Ware, present

Council Members absent:

- The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson
- Council Member Faaluaina Pritchard
- AJ Dotzauer on behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi

Agency Ex Officio Liaisons present:

- Laura Blackmore, 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

- 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:

- Stephanie Potts, Department of Ecology
- Carrie Sessions, Governor's Office

I. Welcome and Roll Call for Quorum

Rowena Pineda, Council Staff, facilitated roll call.

Nichole Banegas	present
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	joined at 3:40pm
Esther Min	present
Todd Mitchell	present
AJ Dotzauer on behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	absent
Nirae Petty	joined at 3:43pm
Faaluaina Pritchard	absent
Tribal Rep (vacant)	vacant
Raeshawna Ware	present

Carrie Sessions, Senior Policy Advisor for Environment and Water in the Governor's Office, shared that they plan to hire a HEAL Implementation Coordinator to oversee and coordinate HEAL Act implementation. They also plan to convene a Subcabinet of agency directors to provide executive level support and leadership on HEAL implementation.

II. Approval of Agenda by Council

Aurora Martin, Council Member, called for adoption of the agenda.

Motion: The Council adopts the agenda.

Motion/Second: Member Guillen/ Member Mendoza

The motion passed.

III. Approval of June 22, 2023 Meeting Notes by Council

Council Member Martin called for adoption of the meeting notes.

Motion: The Council adopts the June 22, 2023 meeting notes.

Motion/Second: Member Min/ Member Blancas

The motion passed.

IV. Overview and Discussion of Outline for Council Report and Update due to the Public, Legislature, and Governor

Christy Hoff, Council Staff, outlined the Council's legislative reporting requirements and the plan to combine both requirements into a single legislative report, which would be submitted by November 30, 2023. Christy Hoff and Amina Al-Tarouti, Council Staff, shared an outline of the contents for the report.

V. Public Comments

Faduma Fido, People's Economy Lab, provided information on the Just Futures Project and co-governance. She defined co-governance as the adoption of a deeper form of democracy, in which government and communities work together to make collective policy decisions and ensure they

are implemented effectively. Just Futures recommends funding for Community Assemblies. She invited the Council to attend a virtual meeting on August 7, 2023 at 10:00am to learn more.

Gerry Pollet, House Representative, asked the Council to support his budget proposal for Community Based Health Assessments for Health Equity Zones. He said the goal is to develop community prioritized proposals for health interventions.

John Worthington, said he did not support linkage with California or Quebec because they make poor environmental choices (provided an example of alfalfa growing). He asked the Council to consider shipping emissions before making a recommendation on linkage.

Jean Mendoza, Friends of Toppenish Creek, said in the Columbia Basin on the Hanford Reservation, there is a building leaking high levels of radioactive waste into the soil and groundwater. The area is very polluted, and the discharge is at risk of going into the Columbia River. This is a crisis needing to be addressed. Second, she shared that the residents of Mabton are low income, and are paying 10% of their income for safe drinking water due to pollution. Their drinking water is so polluted that they have purchased water rights to drill two new wells. She said there is evidence that this pollution is caused from nearby concentrated animal feeding operations. She said both the city of Mabton and the Yakima River are suffering because the river is recharged from ground water.

VI. Briefing and Discussion of HEAL Agency Budget and Funding Guidance

Sierra Rotakhina, Council Staff, said the Budget Committee has asked staff to gather a list from HEAL agencies of the areas where they would like guidance from the Council as they integrate environmental justice into their budgeting and funding decisions. Members discussed topics that the Council could provide guidance on to the HEAL agencies.

VII. Propose Climate Commitment Act & HEAL Act 2024 Budget Proposal

Sierra Rotakhina referred Council Members to the relevant budget documents in their meeting materials. Members discussed the need to adopt budget recommendations at the September

Council meeting so they could influence the Governor's budget. Members encouraged each other to submit proposals to reflect the needs they are hearing in the community.

VIII. Introduction: Department of Ecology's Decision Whether to Link Washington's Cap and Invest Program to California and Quebec Programs

Stephanie Potts, Department of Ecology, gave a presentation that covered the background on linkage, process and timeline, draft analysis of environmental justice impacts, and next steps. She said they would share a report on the preliminary analysis in September and a preliminary decision on whether to pursue linkage in October. If all jurisdictions decide to pursue linkage, they would explore whether statutory changes and rulemaking are needed. She said they expect the process to take several years with linkage (if approved) taking place in 2025 or later. She said there will be a number of opportunities for public comment before any linkage occurs. Council Members shared concerns. David Mendoza, Council Member, said the CCA Committee will bring a proposal for the Council to consider at the September meeting to prepare for a vote in October on whether the Council wants to recommend linkage or not.

IX. Discussion and Possible Adoption of Council Community Engagement Values and Guidance and Council Process for Responding to Public Comments

Rowena Pineda reviewed the values and guidance with members. She said the committee is still working on appendices and will bring those to the full Council in the future. She said the committee cross-walked the values and guidance to make sure they were reflecting the values in the guidance. Members thanked the Community Engagement Committee for their work. Members discussed the appendices and their complexity. They discussed adopting the values and guidance and continuing to work on the appendix as a living document.

Motion: The Council adopts the following motion pending legal review: The Environmental Justice Council adopts the Community Engagement Values and Guidance developed by its Community Engagement Committee with edits made at the July 27, 2023 Council meeting, with implementation by departments accordingly. The Council strongly suggests and urges:

To request this document in an alternate format or a different language, please contact Sierra Rotakhina in any language, at envjustice@doh.wa.gov or 360-584-4398.

- The Interagency Work Group to integrate the guidance and values in the Interagency community engagement guide.
- The HEAL agencies to integrate the guidance and values in their agency-specific community engagement plans.

The Council directs Council staff to:

- 1) Collect questions and comments from agencies on the Council’s Community Engagement Values and Guidance document for the Council.
- 2) Provide preliminary review of the agency community engagement plans in reference to the Council’s Community Engagement Values and Guidance document to synthesize and analyze for the Council.

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	E
Co-Chair Maria Batayola	A
Maria Blancas	A
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson	Absent
Running-Grass	B
Rosalinda Guillen	A
Aurora Martin	A
David Mendoza	A
Esther Min	A
Todd Mitchell	F
The Honorable Misty Napeahi	Absent
Nirae Petty	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	Absent
Raeshawna Ware	F

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The motion does not pass.

X. Executive Committee Updates

The Council did not get to this agenda item.

XI. Adopt Articles I, II, III, and VI of Bylaws and Discuss Articles IV and V of Bylaws

The Council did not get to this agenda item.

XII. Appreciation and Adjournment

Co-Chair Batayola adjourned the meeting at 6:33pm.