

Adopted Minutes of the Environmental Justice Council

November 21, 2024

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:

- Maria Batayola (Co-Chair)
- Tatiana Brown
- AJ Dotzauer on behalf of the Honorable Misty Napeahi
- The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Interim Co-Chair)
- Running-Grass
- Aurora Martin
- David Mendoza
- Esther Min
- Faaluaina Pritchard
- The Honorable Monica Tonasket
- Raeshawna Ware
- Maria Blancas

Council Members absent:

- Nichole Banegas
- Rosalinda Guillen
- Todd Mitchell
- The Honorable JJ Wilbur

Agency Ex Officio Liaisons present:

- Lea Anne Burke, Puget Sound Partnership
- Michael Furze, Department of Commerce

- Lauren Jenks, Department of Health
- Nicole Johnson, Department of Agriculture
- Eliseo (EJ) Juárez, Department of Natural Resources
- Ahmer Nizam, Department of Transportation
- Millie Piazza, Department of Ecology

Council staff:

- Jonathan Chen
- Christy Curwick Hoff
- Dana Myers
- Sierra Red Bow
- Sierra Rotakhina

Guests and other participants:

- Edwin Alberto Hernandez Reto, Duwamish Valley Sustainability Association

I. Welcome and Roll Call for Quorum

Maria Batayola, Council Co-Chair, called the meeting to order. An initial quorum was established.

16 Members / 0 Vacancies / 0 Leaves of Absence / Current Quorum = 9		
Nichole Banegas	Business Representative	Absent
Maria Batayola (Co-Chair)	Community Representative	Present
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	Present
Tatiana Brown	Youth Community Representative	Present
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Interim Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	Present
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	Present
Rosalinda Guillen	Community Representative	Absent
Aurora Martin	Community Representative	Present
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	Present
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	Present
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	Absent
AJ Dotzauer On behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	Tribal Representative	Present

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Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	Present
The Honorable Monica Tonasket	Tribal Representative	Absent
Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	Present
The Honorable JJ Wilbur	Tribal Representative	Absent

II. Moment of Silence Honoring Theo Cielos' Life and Work: Two Year Remembrance

Council Members and staff and those in attendance held a moment of silence in remembrance of former Council staff member, Theo Cielos. The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson, Interim Council Co-Chair, commented on the calming presence that Theo provided. Participants participated in creating a word cloud to uplift Theo's memory, which staff will share with Theo's family.

III. Approval of Agenda by Council

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

Motion: The Council adopts the agenda.

No objections noted. **The motion passed.**

IV. Environmental Justice Conversation with Governor Inslee

Co-Chair Batayola welcomed Governor Jay Inslee to the meeting. Governor Inslee said he was at the United Nations Climate Change Conference and said it was nice to brag about the efforts of the EJ Council. He thanked Members for their work. Running-Grass and Maria Blancas, Council Members, commented on how authentic, community-centered engagement is the goal of environmental justice and they provided an update on the Council's community engagement work. David Mendoza, Council Member, shared updates on the Council's Climate Commitment Act responsibilities.

Member Martin asked Governor Inslee to share his most important accomplishment in advancing HEAL and environmental justice. He said they have been successful in investing in overburdened communities, adding that funds are being distributed in reasonable and fair ways. He said he appreciates the utility credits that went out for energy vouchers. He said they are doing air quality

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work. He said that agencies are committed to HEAL. He commented on how voters rejected the Initiative to repeal the Climate Commitment Act, and said it needs to be protected moving forward. He commented on the tough budget outlook and said it's important not to use the CCA revenue to shore up the general fund. The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson, Interim Council Co-Chair, asked the Governor if he has had conversations with Governor-Elect Ferguson on how they want to move forward with the Climate Commitment Act. Governor Inslee said he has not had an opportunity to talk to Governor-Elect Ferguson about it, adding that he is confident he will keep the train on the tracks.

V. Approval of October 24, 2024 Meeting Notes by Council

Member Martin facilitated adoption of the [October 24, 2024 meeting notes](#) (see page 9).

Motion: The Council adopts the meeting notes for October 24, 2024.

No objections noted. **The motion passed.**

VI. EJ Council Community Connection

Sierra Red Bow, Council Staff, introduced Edwin Hernandez, Executive Director with Duwamish Valley Sustainability Association, who shared a [presentation](#) that focused on a partnership with the Friends of Seattle to create and pilot a participation methodology for community outreach. Member Running-Grass asked about the funding they have received for the work. Edwin said they started in 2017 and have received funds from King County, the Port of Seattle, and the City of Seattle. Member Martin thanked Edwin for coming and congratulated him on their work to bring the principles of the HEAL Act to the local level. Tatiana Brown, Council Member, asked if there were community requests that the EJ Council can elevate. Edwin said they hoped more communities would use the methodology and receive the impact of the work.

VII. Public Comment

Debolina Banerjee, Senior Climate Policy Manager at Puget Sound Sage, shared experience with Community Assemblies. Debolina said the Community Assemblies model gathers frontline

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communities to learn about concerns and solutions to build resilience. Puget Sound Sage convened Assemblies to talk about issues in a culturally relevant way and to create a democratic open space to discuss topics, like Sound Transit.

Luis Amado echoed the comments that Edwin Hernandez shared earlier in the meeting and thanked Members for the time and support they gave to the community.

VIII. Discussion and Possible Adoption: Additional Budget Recommendations

Council Co-Chair Erickson said the Council had already adopted a set of budget recommendations and endorsed a number of agency decision packages. He said the Council would have an opportunity to discuss and possibly adopt two additional [budget recommendations](#) at today's meeting. Christy Hoff, Council Staff, reviewed the first budget recommendation about Community Assemblies. She said Council Members participated in four drop-in sessions to be briefed and ask questions.

Motion: The Environmental Justice Council adopts the Community Assemblies budget recommendation as presented on November 21, 2024 with any edits agreed to be the full Council. The Council directs staff to submit the budget recommendations to the appropriate committees of the Legislature, the Governor, and the Office of Financial Management to inform the development of the 2025-2027 biennial budget. The Council directs staff to work with Council Members, the Governor's Office, the Office of Financial Management, relevant agencies, and others as needed to continue to refine the budget estimates and other details while centering the intent of the recommendations adopted today.

Motion/Second: Lua Pritchard/Maria Blancas

The Motion Passed

A: Yes, I approve.

B: Yes, with reservations.

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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.

16 Members / 0 Vacancies / 0 Leaves of Absence / Current Quorum = 9		
The Honorable JJ Wilbur	Tribal Representative	Absent
Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	B
The Honorable Monica Tonasket	Tribal Representative	A
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	A
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	Absent
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	F
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	B
Aurora Martin	Community Representative	F
Rosalinda Guillen	Community Representative	Absent
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Interim Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	A
AJ Dotzauer On behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	Tribal Representative	A
Tatiana Brown	Youth Community Representative	F
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	A
Maria Batayola (Co-Chair)	Community Representative	A
Nichole Banegas	Business Representative	Absent

Staff then briefed the Council on the EJ Fund proposal. Members discussed whether it was actually a policy proposal, rather than a budget recommendation. Members and Ex Officio Liaisons discussed the barriers to funding that currently exist in the system and how the solution requires a long-term systems change. Co-Chair Batayola said that collectively, we have identified a problem, but we do not know the solution. She said the next step is to convene a group of people to continue discussion with engagement from community.

IX. Discussion and Possible Adoption: Legislative Session Procedure and 2025 Legislative Session Policy Statement

Co-Chair Batayola introduced the agenda item and Council staff provided a briefing on the proposed [legislative session procedure](#) (see page 23). Members discussed how the procedure would not need to be adopted each year but that they'd like to review it annually.

Motion: The Council adopts the Environmental Justice Council Legislative Session Procedure as its regular procedure as presented on November 21, 2024 with any changes agreed to by the full Council, to be reviewed annually in the fall.

Motion/Second: Aurora Martin/ Jarred-Michael Erickson

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.

16 Members / 0 Vacancies / 0 Leaves of Absence / Current Quorum = 9		
The Honorable JJ Wilbur	Tribal Representative	Absent
Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	A
The Honorable Monica Tonasket	Tribal Representative	A
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	A
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	Absent
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	A
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	Absent
Aurora Martin	Community Representative	A
Rosalinda Guillen	Community Representative	Absent

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The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Interim Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	A
AJ Dotzauer On behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	Tribal Representative	A
Tatiana Brown	Youth Community Representative	Absent
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	A
Maria Batayola (Co-Chair)	Community Representative	A
Nichole Banegas	Business Representative	Absent

Co-Chair Batayola then asked staff to review the [2025 Legislative Session Policy Statement](#) (see page 27). Members and Ex Officio Liaisons discussed policy statement 2.6, related to adding Tribal representative seats to the Clean Energy Siting Council.

Motion: The Council adopts the Environmental Justice Council 2025 Legislative Session Policy Statement as presented on November 21, 2024 with any changes agreed to be the full Council.

Motion/Second: Jarred-Michael Erickson/Lua Pritchard

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.

16 Members / 0 Vacancies / 0 Leaves of Absence / Current Quorum = 9		
The Honorable JJ Wilbur	Tribal Representative	Absent
Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	A
The Honorable Monica Tonasket	Tribal Representative	A
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	A

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

X. Discussion and Possible Adoption: Council Letter to Governor Elect

Co-Chair Erickson introduced the agenda item, stating that this agenda item provided an opportunity for the Council to discuss whether they wanted to send a [letter](#) (see page 31) to the incoming Governor. Council Staff reviewed the draft letter.

Motion: The Council adopts the letter to Governor-Elect Ferguson as presented on November 21, 2024 with any changes agreed to by the full Council.

Motion/Second: Esther Min/Monica Tonasket

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.

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E: I block, have serious concerns.

F: I stand aside, recuse myself.

16 Members / 0 Vacancies / 0 Leaves of Absence / Current Quorum = 9		
The Honorable JJ Wilbur	Tribal Representative	Absent
Raeshawna Ware	Community Representative	A
The Honorable Monica Tonasket	Tribal Representative	A
Running-Grass	EJ Practitioner	A
Faaluaina Pritchard	Community Representative	Absent
Todd Mitchell	Union Representative	Absent
Esther Min	EJ Practitioner	A
David Mendoza	Representative At Large	A
Aurora Martin	Community Representative	A
Rosalinda Guillen	Community Representative	Absent
The Honorable Jarred-Michael Erickson (Interim Co-Chair)	Tribal Representative	A
AJ Dotzauer On behalf of The Honorable Misty Napeahi	Tribal Representative	A
Tatiana Brown	Youth Community Representative	Absent
Maria Blancas	Community Representative	A
Maria Batayola (Co-Chair)	Community Representative	Absent
Nichole Banegas	Business Representative	Absent

XI. Public Comment

No additional public comments were provided.

XII. Appreciations and Adjournment

Co-Chair Erickson adjourned the meeting.