

**Natural Resources Commission Minutes
February 28, 2022; 6:30 p.m.**

Commissioners Present: Michelle Byars, John Johnston, Richard McCann,
Tom Rost, Hannah Safford, Keara Tusso

Commissioner(s) Absent: Nayelie Quezada, Meg Slattery

Council Liaison(s): Lucas Frerichs absent

Staff Liaison Present: Kerry Daane Loux, Sustainability Coordinator, Community
Development & Sustainability

1. **Call to Order:** 6:31 pm, by Chair H Safford

2. **Approval of Agenda** – Approved unanimously (6-0)

3. **Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners and Liaisons**

H Safford said farewell to the Commission. She will be leaving the NRC to accept a job in Washington D.C. as Associate Director of Science Policy for the Federation of American Scientists. Staff and Commissioners thanked her for her service and noted that it was a pleasure to work with her.

Staff commented that the tours of local utility facilities have been set up; the first tour is of Recology in March; followed by the Wastewater Treatment Plant in April and the Water Treatment Facility in May. Commissioners will receive Outlook invitations for the scheduled dates.

4. **Public Comment**

No public comment.

5. **Consent Calendar**

The consent calendar was approved unanimously (McCann/Safford 6-0)

A. January 24, 2022 Minutes

6. **Regular Items**

A. Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Progress Update

The CAAP Project Manager Kerry Loux provided a verbal update on the progress of the 2020-2040 CAAP, along with the Staff Report to the NRC included in the packet. No action is requested at this time.

The Chair opened public comment. There was no public comment.

The Chair asked for comments from commissioners and CAAP commission liaisons. Krasen Kovachev introduced himself as the new liaison from the Bicycling, Transportation and Street Safety Commission. He had no comments. Stephen

Streeter (Planning), Trisha Ramadoss and Andrew Furillo (Unitrans Advisory Committee), and Andrew Cullen (Utilities) were in attendance.

R McCann asked if the NRC should appoint a subcommittee to provide input on the CAAP Cost Effectiveness Analysis, funding and finance memo (taxes and fees), implementation roadmaps, and/or CEQA review. He noted that the CAAP needs a narrative to fit the document together. K Loux noted that the NRC can review these components as a full commission when the elements are brought to them or can appoint short term subcommittee(s) for specific pieces as they choose. As for a 'connective' narrative, it's important to emphasize that the CAAP document has not been drafted, and there will definitely be a comprehensive flow and narrative in the document. As stated in the Staff Report, the Draft CAAP will be available for public review in July 2022. As of this time, only incremental components have been being presented ('showing the work' leading to the final CAAP), since the process incorporates a focus on community engagement throughout the process.

J Johnston asked for a summary of outreach to UC Davis and for a response on how we will know that the identified actions will accomplish carbon neutrality by 2040. K Loux replied that UC Davis faculty, staff and students have been included in all the outreach and have received all press releases to date. (This is also true for Davis High School and other DJUSD publications for students and parents.) There have been interviews with/ and articles published in the campus paper, the California Aggie; the equity and inclusion working group and the second workshop included a student from the UC Davis Sunrise Movement to provide the perspective of undergraduate students; and the Technical Advisory Committee is composed largely of UC Davis faculty, staff and researchers representing the sectors being addressed by the CAAP. Additionally, the project management team works regularly with regional partners, including UC Davis, Yolo County and other local cities implementing their Climate Action Plans. Related to the certainty of attaining carbon neutrality, the CAAP will identify the path to reduce carbon emissions, but the implementation will be dependent on both policy-makers and community members to be successful. Regular (bi-annual) GHG Inventories, CAAP updates (every five years) and the CAAP Dashboard will help track progress and point out where more concerted effort is needed in order to reach the goal.

R McCann noted that the Cost Effectiveness Analysis should include a 'gap analysis' to identify where we may need further action. K Loux said that this is a good idea and will be incorporated in the data analysis.

T Rost said that the regional efforts are very important, and the CAAP document should clearly state what has and will occur.

B. Chair/Vice Chair Election

M Slattery was not present at the meeting, however, she had submitted an email to the staff liaison and H Safford, current Chair, stating her interest in serving as either Chair or Vice Chair, if elected. On a unanimous motion by R McCann, seconded by J Johnston, M Slattery was elected Chair (6-0).

J Johnston noted that he is willing to continue as Vice Chair in order to provide the continuity of his past roles as both Chair and Vice Chair, however, he is very willing to let another Commissioner step up. With no ‘volunteers’, on a unanimous motion by M Byars, seconded by K Tusso, J Johnston was elected Vice Chair.

There was no public comment.

C. NRC Goals and Work Plan

The 2021 Goals and Work Plan was included in the packet for the Commission discussion.

The Chair opened public comment. There was no public comment.

Commissioners discussed updates to the goals and work plan, and the Chair made notations in the document on the shared screen, copied at the end of the minutes, below.

M Byars agrees with the priorities identified in 2021, although she thinks Item 8, *‘Limit/prohibit waste storage on civic property (e.g., in alleyways)’* can be de-prioritized, considering recent legislation.

K Tusso wants to make sure Environmental Justice remains a priority. She would like to have the subcommittee focus on EJ Guidelines, and is willing to lead the effort with support by M Byars. She will continue to serve on the Leaf Blower subcommittee.

T Rost commented that the priorities are fine, and will just need specific assignments and target dates.

R McCann expressed interest in working on specific priorities in the list: (9) *Develop strategies for retrofitting/upgrading existing infrastructure and building stock (in alignment with CAAP objectives)*. This one would be initiated following CAAP adoption. (7) *Develop/inform a broad set of “Sustainable Development Guidelines”*. Also after CAAP. (4) *See the Cool Parking Lot guidelines through*. Still interested in working on this.

J Johnston said he agrees with priorities with the following comments: (4) On the Cool Parking Lot Guidelines, tree maintenance is one of the key issues. Also, there needs to be photovoltaic (PV) guidelines for new construction projects; update the planting guidelines; incorporate stormwater. (6) *Further advance water conservation throughout Davis (at the municipal and/or residential levels), especially in light of forthcoming AB 1668*. There is an opportunity here to address issues in model ordinances about water conservation that are available, beyond just greywater. A new priority that he supports is creating an ad-hoc subcommittee to address Transportation Demand Management (TDM), which might include the BTSSC, Unitrans Advisory Committee and UC Davis experts. There is a need for education around this topic.

J Johnston suggested that the Long Range Calendar should have a mid-point review of the goals and work plan. K Loux said she would add this in July 2022.

Commissioners agreed that the NRC Goals and Workplan document should be included again on the March 2022 agenda when the new Chair M Slattery will be in attendance.

D. Principles of Civility for City Council, City Commissions, and Other Legislative Bodies Authorized and Governed by the City Council.

The Commission reviewed the Principles of Civility. M Byars supports the principles and is pleased to see them. Other Commissioners agreed and said they had no further comment beyond support of the document, and did not feel the need to make a motion related to the principles.

E. Subcommittee Reports

Task-specific and Monitoring subcommittees gave updates, as warranted. There were no comments from the Parking Lot Shade 2x2 (Johnston, McCann, Byars (alt)); Leaf Blowers (Safford, Tusó); Environmental Justice (Byars, Tusó); Environmental Recognition Awards or monitoring subcommittees (water, energy, toxics and waste, air quality)

The short term subcommittee for ‘City Organizational Structure—Sustainability’ presented recommendations in a draft document. H Safford summarized the document and shared it on the screen. With one amendment provided by J Johnston in advance, the Commission commented that they were in support of sending the document to City Council. On a unanimous motion by J Johnston, seconded by K Tusó,

“The Natural Resources Commission approves this memo as reflective of the NRC thoughts, and asks staff to send it to City Council for consideration. Two emails in response to this item were received in advance of the meeting (Granger, Stewart), and are attached.” (6-0)

7. Commission and Staff Communications

A. Long-range Calendar

B. Communications and Upcoming Meeting Items / Events

8. Adjourn: 9:07 p.m.

Attached working document on goals and workplan with annotations from February meeting:

DRAFT FEBRUARY 2022

City of Davis Natural Resources Commission (NRC): Structure, Workplan, and Goals

STRUCTURE

The NRC will operate through two types of subcommittees. “Monitoring” subcommittees will stay abreast of—and report back to the NRC on—salient developments related to four key topics: (1) water, (2) energy, (3) air quality, and (4) toxics and waste. “Task-specific” subcommittees will be established as needed to accomplish specific and clearly defined objectives.

As of February 2021, the full list of established NRC subcommittees (and their membership) is as follows:

Monitoring subcommittees

- Water (John Johnston, Keara Tusso)
- Energy (Meg Slattery, Richard McCann)
- Toxics and waste (Thomas Rost, Nayelie/TBD)
- Air quality (Michelle Byars, Nayelie/TBD)

Task-specific subcommittees

- Cool Parking Lots (John, Richard, Michelle)
 - *Objectives: Revise, improve, and expand on existing “Parking Lot Shade Guidelines”, in coordination with the Tree Commission*
- Environmental justice (Michelle, Keara)
 - *Objectives: Draft a set of best practices and principles for EJ in Davis*
- Environmental Recognition Awards (ERAs) (Tom, Keara, Nayelie)
 - *Objectives: Evaluate the nominees and make recommendations for ERA recipients*
- Transportation Demand Management (TDM)
 - *Objectives: Improve internal NRC knowledge/awareness of TDM best practices.*
- CAAP cost-effectiveness
 - *Objectives: Review information provided on the CAAP cost-effectiveness analysis to inform full NRC discussion.*

GOALS/OBJECTIVES

The following is a list of the goals and objectives that the NRC plans to focus on in the next 1–2 years. Items may be added to or removed from this list as appropriate. A rough timeframe for completion of each item is written in red.

- (1) TDM ad hoc subcommittee (Meg +)
 - Inform NRC about what's involved in TDM to support more informed NRC engagement on, e.g., CAAP, DISC + other major development projects
 - i. Brian Abbanat
 - ii. Unitrans
 - iii. Giovanni Circella
 - Involvement of BTSSC at some point
- (2) Improve integration of environmental justice / equity concerns into City planning and decision-making surrounding natural resources.
 - Task-specific subcommittee to develop objectives/priorities by early spring 2021. Work to continue thereafter.
 - Develop EJ guidelines
 - i. Keara lead w/Michelle support
- (3) See the leaf blower ordinance through.
 - Keara would support as needed moving forward
- (4) See the Cool Parking Lot guidelines through
 - Richard available to support post-April
 - Interim product delivered (on retrofits)
 - Not completed:
 - i. Maintenance
 - ii. New construction
- (5) Support a strong, actionable, ambitious, and inclusive CAAP.
 - Target completion: end of 2022
 - Richard focus
 - Possible SCs
 - i. Review & address cost-effectiveness analysis (Richard)
 - ii. TBD based on CAAP evolution
- (6) Further advance water conservation throughout Davis (at the municipal and/or residential levels), especially in light of forthcoming AB 1668.
Particular opportunity for NRC to engage on greywater
 - Evaluate potential & propose strategy for greywater reuse in Davis.
 - i. Too much greywater reuse can cause problems related to low flow / high concentration
 - ii. Forthcoming expert reports part of public record on AB 1668 (expected Spring)
 - Evaluate model ordinances & applicability to Davis

- i. Agendize→bring Brian Fenty & Dawn Calciano in for overview
 - 1. Identify appropriate staff for ongoing collaboration/liaison
 - ii. Deliverable→NRC memo/report
- 2x2 with utilities commission (and/or designate bilateral liaisons) on AB 1668 implementation?
- (7) Develop/inform a broad set of “Sustainable Development Guidelines”.
- 2023, post-CAAP
 - Opportunities to make progress on parts that aren’t directly related to GHGs; then align with CAAP as it comes out
- (8) Limit/prohibit waste storage on civic property (e.g., in alleyways).
- No date/timeline.
- (9) Develop strategies for retrofitting/upgrading existing infrastructure and building stock (in alignment with CAAP objectives).
- 2023, post-CAAP

Outstanding items for follow-up

In 2020, the NRC transmitted two letters to City Council with proposals for further enhancing sustainability of City operations and decision-making. These proposals were:

- (1) Add a “sustainability impacts” section to City staff reports.
- (2) Implement sustainable food guidelines for City-sponsored events.

These proposals are ripe for follow-up in 2021.