

Natural Resources Commission Minutes
May 23, 2022; 6:30 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Michelle Byars, Jacob Byrne (Alt), John Johnston, Richard McCann, Nayelie Quezada, Tom Rost, Meg Slattery (Chair), Keara Tuso

Commissioner(s) Absent: None

Council Liaison(s): Lucas Frerichs absent

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

1. **Call to Order:** 6:32 pm, by Chair M Slattery

2. **Approval of Agenda** – Moved by K Tuso, seconded by M Slattery. Approved (7-0)

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

J Johnston noted that there is a City of Sacramento webinar on pathways to residential building electrification available on June 8, for those that are interested.

Yolo County Climate Action Commission meetings are the 4th Monday at 4 p.m. They are currently discussing early actions for Yolo County, and will be developing a Request for Proposals for the Yolo County Climate Action Plan development next.

4. **Public Comment**

Chris Granger, Cool Davis Executive Director, said that Cool Davis is preparing a three-year annual report, including information on funding from City of Davis over that time period (\$50,000 per year). They will request to come back to the NRC later this year.

5. **Consent Calendar**

Items 5C, May 9, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes and 5D. PWUO Memo: Implementing Shortage Level 2 of the City's Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) were approved as amended.

On 5C, J Johnston noted corrections to his comments on page 4: *J Johnston commented that his recommendations for how to prioritize actions are as follows: 1) ~~cost-effectiveness items that 'pay back' or cost nothing~~, in other words, save money; 2) City control; 3) actions addressing new construction; 4) long-term actions (get started on these early); and 5) quick wins/gain momentum.* These changes will be incorporated. On Item 5D, he asked how close are we to water shortage level 3? Staff replied that right now we are at Level 2, but there is no direction or need to do this at this time.

The items were approved unanimously (7-0) on a motion from J Johnston, seconded by M Slattery

6. Regular Items

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

Following up on the May 9 Special Meeting for the CAAP, J Johnston asked if the City is providing a deep technical review of the CAAP data provided by AECOM. There were a number of questions about the data. T Rost asked if this is the role of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). K Loux responded that City staff is reviewing the CAAP data and documents, not the TAC.

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

B. Integrated Pest Management 2020 and 2021 Annual Reports

John McNerney, Wildlife Resources Specialist in Public Works, Utilities and Operations, provided the IPM annual reports.

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

M Byars commented that the presentation said certain pesticides are used 'when needed.' What does that entail? The response was that cultural, mechanical and biological approaches are used first. The goal is to bring pests/weeds to 'below challenge point', such as creating a fire hazard or damaging utilities. Pesticides may be used if that point is not met. M Byars asked where do these situations occur? Response was only in certain situations and areas: open space, stormwater, utilities, water treatment facility, streetscapes. Parks and greenbelts are very limited to no usage. M Byars asked are treatments recorded in GIS maps? J McNerney responded that the City uses a program called Lucity, an asset inventory, to map sites and monitor usage. M Byars asked about equity and environmental justice issues. Does this factor in to discussions about where to apply so that overburdened populations are not impacted? No, treatment is location-based, not people-based. M Byars recommended that a recognition program should be developed to post signs in residential areas to show sites where people do not use pesticides and/or use beneficial plants, low water or other good practices.

T Rost asked what is the City's process for weed control? J McNerney responded that field crews monitor locations to identify pests/weeds present and impacts they are creating. These areas are then addressed by staff to determine appropriate response. There are currently issues with staff and parks maintenance contractors having limited capacity to respond to pest populations.

J Johnston noted that the graph in the staff report shows a dramatic drop in pesticide usage in 2015-16, then since 2018, it has doubled. J McNerney responded that the drop was in response to policy change eliminating use of glyphosates. Staff struggled to find an appropriate replacement to handle issues, and pests/weeds got out of hand due to deferred maintenance. Glyphosate ammonium began to be used sparingly in 2019-20, such as to clear storm drains to minimize flooding.

R McCann asked about trends in labor vs. pesticide use. J McNerney responded that this was not well tracked prior to 2016, but is now tracked.

J Byrne asked how probation crews are used for weeding labor. This is an interesting opportunity for work force development and providing training.

K Tusso and N Quezada thanked J McNerney for the report and had no further comments.

M Slattery asked about restrictions on pesticide application such as during weather or wind events. J McNerney responded that there are standards such as winds must be less than 3 mi/hr; not within a 48-hour period of rain, and other limitations based on humidity and temperatures. Both City policy and product use labeling provide safeguards to reduce drift to humans and non-target species. M Slattery commented on the use of goats for weed control by UC Davis. Not only are they effective, but they create an event when they are in the field. It is an opportunity for outreach and education. Finally, she echoes M Byars' comments about environmental justice.

J Johnston appreciated the thorough report. He wants to comment that historically the NRC has had strong subcommittees working on this issue and was influential in setting current policy. He is concerned that the Technical Advisory Committee formation is on hold, and that this is a step backwards.

T Rost asked if the City consults with UC Davis specialists at UNAR and J McNerney responded yes.

C. Urban Forest Management Plan Project

The informational memo provided status of the 40-year Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP) project. The NRC discussed appointment of a member of the NRC to attend the Tree Commission (TC) meetings when the Urban Forest Management Plan is on the agenda for discussion. J Byrne was appointed liaison, with T Rost as alternate liaison to the Tree Commission on a unanimous motion by J Johnston, seconded by M Slattery (7-0)

D. NRC/City Council Joint Meeting Follow-up and Subcommittee Discussion

Following the NRC/City Council joint meeting, subcommittees were discussed and reestablished with the following membership:

Task-specific Subcommittees:

Cool Parking/2x2: Johnston, McCann, Byars (alt)

Environmental Justice: Byars, Quezada, Tusso

Leaf Blowers: COMPLETE Tusso will continue to monitor

Transportation Demand Management: Byrne, Slattery

Monitoring Subcommittees:

Air Quality: Byars, Quezada

Energy: McCann, Slattery

Toxics and Waste: Byrne, Rost

Water: Johnston, Tusso

Commission Liaisons and Appointments**

UFMP Liaison to Tree Comm: Byrne, Rost (alt)

Unitrans Advisory Committee: Johnston

**Planning Commission: Byars volunteered, but position is not official

E. Subcommittee Reports

J Johnston reported that the 2x2 subcommittee still needs to finish up recommendations and will start again later in the summer. At the recent Unitrans Advisory Committee meeting, they addressed the charter rewrite to more fully address all transit issues (not just Unitrans). No report from Environmental Justice.

For the monitoring subcommittees: Water—J Johnston said the State AB 1668 is moving forward. Energy—R McCann said the AB32 2022 Scoping Plan has been released. J Byrne noted that the plan includes recommended local actions to meet state targets. No reports from Toxics and Waste, Air Quality. A request was made to invite a Commissioner from the Yolo County Climate Action Commission to meet with the NRC to discuss regional connections and collaboration.

7. Commission and Staff Communications

A. Long-range Calendar.

On a unanimous motion by M Byars, seconded by R McCann, move the September meeting to September 19, due to Rosh Hashana.

B. Communications and Upcoming Meeting Items / Events

None

8. Adjourn: 9:18 p.m.