



Climate Protection Action Committee  
Monthly Appointee Meeting  
Friday, July 12, 2024 @ 9:00 a.m.  
Hybrid meeting: In-person & Zoom

Appointees Present: Gretchen Lambert, Benjamin Marosites, Bob Petrulis, Dennis Wiehl,

Appointees Absent (Excused): Josey Kline, Joyce Rose-Harris, Julie Seel, David Voyles

Others Present: Robert Anderson, Mary Pat Baldauf, Laura Anne Hunt (Lexington County), Jessica Thompson (Richland County), Samantha Yager

Bob Petrulis called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Seeing we had some new people, Bob called for introductions around the table. The group then reviewed the minutes from the June 7 meeting. Gretchen Lambert made a motion that the minutes be accepted as submitted; Dennis Wiehl seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

Clint was on annual leave, so there was no review of the Ready for 100 v2.0.

Mary Pat Baldauf then gave an update on the Bloomberg Youth Climate Action Grants. More than 20 applications were received, but several were disqualified for not meeting the guidelines. The total amount of requests was over \$70,000. By distributing \$50,000, we will receive another \$100k for 2025. A committee consisting of Mary Pat, Dennis, Bob, Dave Voyles and two student interns, including one from the Mayor's Office, is currently scoring the applications and will meet by the end of July to finalize the recipients.

Bob then called on Gretchen to discuss the creation of CPAC subcommittees to involve more people in CPAC's mission. Gretchen will be sending out an email to all

appointees, asking them what type of committee they would like to manage. Responses will be vetted and a list created for formation of committees later this year. Dennis is taking the lead with a Smart Growth committee, which came to fruition at the June meeting.

Mary Pat reported that the July issue of *Speaking Sustainability* was distributed to 828 people. The open rate was 45%, and the click rate was 12.9 % with the most popular story being “*Five Easy Steps to Avoid Single Use Plastic.*” The distribution continues to grow, with the subscription goal being 1000.

Mary Pat reported on the regional EPA planning grant; the Council of Governments is now reviewing proposals for consultants for technical assistance and community engagement for the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan due in 2025.

In staff updates, Samantha Yager noted that the City has received their annual DHEC recycling education grants and will be using it to create new literature with the new City logo. Some of the literature will be translated into Spanish for several neighborhoods. Solid Waste has been piloting a new garbage truck routing software, Rubicon, which helps with special handling and communications with the office. It has been a successful pilot, but is expensive. Recycling is the best it’s been in a year.

Mary Pat reported that in addition to working with Bloomberg, she has been assisting with the Beat the Heat – Plant a tree grant, which has their first public workshop Saturday morning.

In New Business, Bob said that the Columbia Choral Society would like to do a concert for the Earth and wanted to know if CPAC wanted to help. The concert contact was hoping to speak at this meeting, but is down with Covid. Gretchen proposed doing a concert in the dark for Earth Hour.

Bob called on Jessica Thompson, the new sustainability planner for Richland County, who is hoping to become involved with CPAC. Mary Pat asked Laura Anne if she had any updates for Lexington County. She has gotten approval to expand the office by hiring a new employee. Mary Pat noted that now there is a sustainability person in each of the counties, they hope to hold networking meetings on a regular basis.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.