



## **SUMMARY**

Climate Protection Action Committee  
Monthly Appointee Meeting  
Friday, September 5, 2025  
9:00 a.m.  
Hybrid meeting: In-person & Teams

Appointees Present: Josey Cline, Cameron Cohran, Joyce Rose-Harris, Gretchen Lambert, Benjamin Marosites, Caroline Nagel, Bob Petrusis, Julie Seel, David Voyles, Dennis Wiehl.

Guests and Staff: Robert Anderson, Mary Pat Baldauf, Jory Fleming, Brenda Krebs, Priscilla Preston, Clint Shealy, Samantha Yager.

Chairman Bob Petrusis called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Minutes from the August meeting were reviewed. Dave Voyles name was mistakenly omitted. Mary Pat will make that correction; the minutes were approved with said changes.

Clint Shealy gave an update. He said that the ten year anniversary of Hurricane Joaquin is coming up soon, and there has been a lot of interest in what has happened in that time. Clint updated the group as follows:

- The alternate water supply work is well underway; we're eight months into about a 30 month construction project. They're working on the cofferdam on the river. They're driving piles for the bridge that will go along the canal. This is an extremely important project that will secure our water supply for generations to come. This project is partially funded by a FEMA grant.
- Our canal repair embankment and head gate replacement project are moving to the procurement phase. It looks like we're going to have \$150 million worth of construction in 2026. It will restore our hydroelectric generating station and give us five megawatts of green power a day.
- Jory can give you a great update on what's happening with the solar farm at the wastewater treatment plant. We're starting to see some progress and look forward to continuing our work with the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant to get this project done.

- The biogas at Metro was canceled due to Dominion's posture of gas into the pipeline. Over lunch today, he is meeting with a group to repackage that solicitation and send it back out to look at some alternatives are out there to use the biogas we're creating instead of flaring it off.
- Today Clint will be getting an update on where we stand with the energy audit process. He said it's at the shortlist phase, but he doesn't know exactly what steps are next.

Clint paused to answer any questions the appointees had about his presentation.

Next up were other CPAC priorities. Dave Voyles mentioned that he sent something out this week that the City was officially a Bee City USA. He thanked the City for getting the project over the line and said that the committee is prepared to take the project from here. Julie Seels mentioned that the Cottontown Art Crawl may be a good avenue to educate youth and other citizens about the new designation. Robert said he was fine with that from the staff perspective, but that the City had also planned on doing some education and outreach during the Beat the Heat: The Sequel tree project. Caroline announced that she and Jory are meeting with the University to explore them becoming a Bee City USA campus.

Ben Marosites reported on the heat mapping project that occurred last week. He said that the campaign had close to 25 volunteers and was quite a success. They have some initial results and were able to find funds to offset gas costs. They hope to do more heat mapping done toward the end of September.

Mary Pat updated the group on the Bloomberg Youth Climate Action grant. All groups have now checked in and are underway with their projects; three groups are nearly finished two months ahead of the October 31 deadline. She and Samantha have some phone calls scheduled with groups in the next few weeks, and they are monitoring the group spending so if there looks like someone will have leftover funds, they can be directed to another group and/or used to pay staff time.

Mary Pat reported that Speaking Sustainability went out on September 2 to 800 subscribers. So far, the open rate is 51.3 percent; the industry average is 41%. The click rate was 14%, a full 12 percent better than the industry average, and the most popular link was the Cola Town Bike Collective. (The most popular Sustainability Short link was the one about the possible danger of drinking out of plastic bottles left in vehicles.)

Jory updated the group that there was a site meeting at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and that the sub award is sitting in the City's Legal Office. It should be going out this fall. Jory is finishing up the climate action planning part of the CPRG grant, and would like to get some input from CPAC. Bob said that would be a good thing to cover at the November working meeting.

Bob opened the floor for other subcommittees to give an update. Gretchen asked about the status of the by-laws. Mary Pat had not received an update from Ashely, but will try again before the next meeting. Gretchen also noted that we need to check in about the openings we'll have coming up at the end of the year.

Dennis presented an update on the Smart Growth Committee. They are closing in on setting some goals to present to the full group for consideration.

In staff updates, Samantha reported that recycling markets areas till largely the same. When asked what markets were making money, she mentioned metals and number two plastics. Leaf season is on the way, and they'll be busy separating the leaves from the yard trash to be composted. The reroute is still in progress; council should be approving that soon. There was some talk about messaging for recycling, and Robert suggested that we add a "note from Solid Waste" blurb in each issue of *Speaking Sustainability*. Julie Seel suggested that it may be interesting to add recycling statistics so readers will know how we're doing.

In Robert's update, he talked a little solid waste history and addressed a street lighting question.

In closing, Bob reminded the group that there will be a working meeting on Friday, September 19 with SustainSC. Bob also reminded the group that Parking Day will be held on Friday, September 19 and encouraged members to take to Main Street to see the parklets.

The next regular meeting will be held on Friday, October 10 at 9 a.m. so the Public Works employees can cook for the October 3 Mayor's Breast Cancer Breakfast. Robert and Bob both invited members to attend the breakfast, which will be held at Boyd Plaza from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. Tickets are \$15 and available at the door.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.