



## **SUMMARY**

Climate Protection Action Committee  
Monthly Appointee Meeting  
Friday, December 12, 2025 9:00 a.m.  
Hybrid meeting: In-person & Zoom

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

Appointees Excused Absence: Ben Marosites, Dave Voyles.

Guests and Staff: Robert Anderson, Mary Pat Baldauf, Jenna Gilbreath, Clint Shealy, Samantha Yager.

Chairman Bob Petrusis called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Clint Shealy opened the meeting with a Ready for 100 Update. Regarding the energy audit and contracting, the team met with Procurement and decided to conduct interviews of four companies. They are hoping to complete the interviews before Christmas, and once the company is selected, they plan to add CPAC members to the cohort. Cameron Corhan indicated an interest in serving in that group.

Clint said that there is good progress on the canal. Beginning with the New Year, they'll be starting work on the bridge across the canal and the structure for the new intake. Earlier this week, the canal head gate project was placed out for bid, the next step of getting the hydro plant operating. After the holidays, we'll be opening bids for that project. A month or two later, the embankment repair work will go out for public procurement. Just yesterday, we began receiving emails about the interconnection agreements for the proposed solar farm at the wastewater treatment plant. Clint said that a busy end of the year would make for a busy 2026 and that the dominoes are finally starting to fall in place.

Clint entertained a few questions and closed by saying that he is still looking for a biogas project. The difficulties with getting it in the pipeline are holding us back, but he's going to look under every stone until he finds something. He has a call the week of Christmas with a hydrogen fuel cell company who may be interested.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved, with a motion by Gretchen, seconded by Joyce Rose Harris.

Next on the agenda was an update on the approval of the updated by-laws. Mary Pat reported that Erika Hammond, the City Clerk, is now handling Boards and Commissions. Erika indicated that past by-law changes have been approved by the Health, Social and Environmental Affairs Committee and that should be the case now. She will get it on their agenda as soon as they get a new chairman.

Bob mentioned that officer elections are in January and that Dennis has expressed interested in remaining vice chair. Joyce said that she would be interested in serving as secretary. Bob asked if anyone was interested in being the new chair, and there were no volunteers. He encouraged folks to consider offering as chairman.

Mary Pat then gave an update on the Bloomberg Youth Climate Action Grant process. She said that the final report is due December 15, and that she and Samantha have been working to get every last one. She reminded everyone that the Youth Climate Action Showcase will be held at City Hall on January 20 and February 3 from 3 to 6 p.m. in the City Hall lobby. She also reported that they would be inviting some groups to update the Health, Social and Environmental Affairs Committee as we did earlier this year.

Mary Pat also updated the group on Speaking Sustainability. The December issue went out to 806 people, and had a 13% click rate. The most popular click was the top thrift store rejects. Bob reminded folks that information for the newsletter needs to be submitted by the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. He also announced that CPAC appointee Julie Seel has started a new Facebook group called Sustain Train SC where she interviews sustainability leaders and features information about sustainability in South Carolina.

Dave Voyles was unable to attend today's meeting, but he has a Bee City USA committee meeting scheduled for January 22.

Dennis Wiehl reported that the Smart Growth Committee looks to have a report to CPAC after the first of the year with a presentation to the HSEA Committee and eventually City Council. Dennis then showed the group the booklet on which the Smart Growth Committee is basing their work.

In staff updates, Samantha Yager reported that the reroute has occurred and there too many upset people. She also mentioned that we are in leaf season, and right now, they're on schedule. When asked which commodity was bringing in the most money these days, she said number 1 plastic.

Mary Pat reported that this year's Earth Day Climate Action Fair was so successful that there are plans for another one in 2026. The date is Saturday, April 19 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will be affiliated with Soda City in that the Washington Street intersection will be closed to make room for the festivities, which should boost participation from "Soda Citizens." Several people mentioned they'd like to help, including Bob, Julie, Joyce and Jenna Gilbreath. Mary Pat will reach out to them.

The meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m.

The next meeting and officer elections will be held on Friday, January 9.