

Advisory Committee on Sustainability and Innovation (ACSI)



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 4/14/21, 9am-11am

Remote Access Only

Next Meeting

Wednesday, 7/14/21, 9am-11am

Remote Access Only

ACSI MEMBERS PRESENT / PHONE

Lukas Angus, Mara Gross, Tori Heroux, Rick Hodges, Tammy Lee, Sasha Pollack, James Wooten, Amanda Zuniga, Melissa Powers, Jennifer Light

MULTNOMAH COUNTY LEADERSHIP / STAFF / PUBLIC MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Lynch, Sara Mihm, Knowledge Murphy, Silvia Tanner, John Wasiutynski (Office of Sustainability), Andrea Hamberg (Environmental Health), Hayden Miller (Office of Commissioner Vega Pederson)

ACTION ITEMS

- **Office of Sustainability:**
 - **John Wasiutynski** will:
 - Send the charter document with new updates for review.
 - Work with **Lukas Angus** and **Tammy Lee** to schedule the first Food & Water Subcommittee Meeting.
 - Ask the County attorney to review the Voting section within the charter to ensure that we are in compliance with the public meeting law.
 - **Knowledge Murphy** will email ACSI Members with the [Annual Letter to the Board](#) and the [Tear Gas letter](#) as it relates for context for ideas to update the new charter.
 - **Silvia Tanner** and **Tim Lynch** will connect with **Amanda Zuniga** to develop a poll on behalf of the Energy & Climate Subcommittee to provide direction to the subcommittee.
- **ACSI members**
 - All members are invited to reply with any amendments to the updated charter sent by **John Wasiutynski**.
 - Current **energy/climate subcommittee members** will think about how they want to move forward, with consideration to how their work aligns with the charter. The group will refocus and share an update at the next quarterly ACSI meeting.
 - **Tori Heroux** and **John Wasiutynski** will use Air Toxics subcommittee meetings to try and develop an EJ framework for ACSI.

DECISIONS MADE

- **Amanda Zuniga** offered to be ACSI's vice chair for the remainder of 2021.

- ACSI 2021 Subcommittee's will include Climate/Energy, Air Toxics, Transportation, and Water and Food.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

- **ACSI members** and staff present shared their name, pronoun, and what mundane thing they are looking forward to in a post-pandemic world.
- **Mara Gross** shared that her organization, Coalition of Community Health Clinics, produced [a documentary](#) on the healthcare response to COVID.
- **Amanda Zuniga** shared that her employer, Energy Trust of Oregon, is hiring for several positions.
- **Andrea Hamberg** shared that Multnomah County Environmental Health has a position open for a [Program Communications Specialist](#) that closes April 22.

UPDATES FROM THE OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

- **Green Building Update**
 - In 2010, ACSI helped to create the LEED Gold high performance building standards, which have guided County construction projects since then. This also included Architecture 2030 standards. Recently a voter-approved bond allowed us to move forward on a new Library in Gresham, a new distribution center in the mid-County area, as well as a rebuild of several libraries. A campaign from Climate Solutions asked the Board to exclude fossil fuels from the libraries; on April 15, the Board will consider a resolution to update the Green Building Standards to exclude the use of fossil fuels.
- **Wood Smoke Workgroup**
 - Wood Smoke is Pollution PDX is a local advocacy group with a focus on pollution caused by home heating with wood, backyard fires, etc. They have asked the County to form a workgroup to look at solutions to reduce wood smoke. **John Wasiutynski** has partnered with **Hayden Miller** and **Multnomah County Commissioner Jayapal's Office** to establish a workgroup that will hold six meetings, and ultimately produce a policy matrix for addressing wood smoke, that will be presented to the **Multnomah County Board of Commissioners**.
- **Earth Month**
 - April is Earth Month, and the **Office of Sustainability** has organized a series of five webinars to present to Multnomah County staff. Topics include technology, waste reduction, electricity and energy, the Climate Justice Initiative, and trees.
- **Legislative**
 - The **Office of Sustainability** is focusing on bills covering the following: environmental justice, air quality, and energy. Multnomah County has joined the Oregon Clean Energy Opportunities organization.

ACSI CHARTER REVISIONS

- The group discussed the following revisions:
 - Treaty Obligation

- First sentence: What we now call Portland, OR and Multnomah County were the traditional lands... Replace “were” with “are”.
 - Second paragraph: Needs more wordsmithing revolving around the term, “federally recognized”.
 - Vision
 - First section: Conversation surrounding language about rights of ecosystems, rivers, etc., led to the consideration of whether **ACSI members** would or could support legal ramifications, similar to what exists in the Public Trust Doctrine. An example of how Multnomah County has supported legal action in this context was the Chernaik vs. Brown climate case in Oregon.
 - Second section: This charter does not call out the state committing acts of violence against citizens, and the group discussed whether it is worth including language that is more direct. **John Wasiutynski** will revise this section, including a definition of “institutional,” and include it when sharing the updated charter, as well as past ACSI letters, for **ACSI member** review.
 - Additional areas to consider highlighting (or connecting with state-sanctioned violence) in this section include:
 - Immigration
 - Health conditions of farm workers
 - Roles:
 - Third bullet point: Instead of saying “Serve as the voice of...” replace it with “serve as a voice of/from,” as the community did not elect **ACSI members**, and they can only speak using personal experience.

SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION

- The group discussed current and potential new subcommittee groups, as well as their focus areas.
- Subcommittee topic ideas to enhance connections and to help de-silo topic areas:
 - Food and Justice
 - Water and Air
 - Water and Food
 - Environmental Justice
 - Natural Resources
- The following subcommittee considerations were discussed:
 - The potential to create a framework for climate and environmental justice to help shape the recommendations from each subcommittee. **John Wasiutynski** said this will be a topic covered at the next Air Quality Subcommittee meeting.
 - Connecting on values as much as areas of policy making.
 - Holistically connecting topics without overwhelming members with too much.
 - How much do **ACSI members** work on things that are currently in the moment and how much is focusing on what we need to do in the future?

- Current **energy/climate subcommittee members** will think about how they want to move forward, with consideration to how their work aligns with the charter. The group will refocus and share an update at the next quarterly ACSI meeting.
- The Transportation Subcommittee will stay relatively the same.
- The Air Quality Subcommittee will stay relatively the same.
- Water and Food will be considered as a new subcommittee, and **John Wasiutynski** offered to staff it.
 - Some recent relevant work to this subcommittee includes Mudbone Grown becoming an official partner and taking over the former CROPS site, where they'll bring in additional farmers from Beyond Black and Black Futures Farm, to utilize the space.
 - There is also work happening around local waterways restoration, and potential to connect with Roy Iwai, the County's Water Quality Program Manager. Additional folks who could potentially be invited to this subcommittee include colleagues from Environmental Health.

ACSI VICE CHAIR

- Amanda Zuniga offered to serve as Vice Chair.

ADJOURN