

Advisory Committee on Sustainability and Innovation (ACSI)



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, 10/13/21, 9am-11am

Remote Access Only

Next Meeting

12/13/21, 3pm

Remote Access Only

ACSI MEMBERS PRESENT / PHONE

Lukas Angus, Mara Gross, Tori Heroux, Rick Hodges, Sasha Pollack, Kari Schlosshauer, James Wooten, Amanda Zuniga

MULTNOMAH COUNTY LEADERSHIP / STAFF / PUBLIC MEMBERS PRESENT

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

ACTION ITEMS

- **Office of Sustainability:**
 - **John Wasiutynski** and **Knowledge Murphy** will reschedule Air Toxics meetings.
 - **Knowledge Murphy** will invite all **ACSI members** to all subcommittee meetings, using the “optional” feature.
 - **Knowledge Murphy** will email ACSI members the current roster with organizational affiliations.
 - **Knowledge Murphy** will send recruitment information to ACSI that can be shared with others.
 - **Sara Mihm** will post the ACSI application on the Office of Sustainability website.
 - **John Wasiutynski** will ask **ACSI members** who would like to review new member applications.
 - **John Wasiutynski** will connect **Lukas Angus** and **Sasha Pollack** with Multnomah County’s Healthy Food Procurement group.
- **ACSI members:**
 - **Mara Gross** will set up a time when all subcommittee chairs and vice chairs can have a discussion about overlapping topics that may be included in the annual ACSI letter.
 - **Subcommittees** will develop their group’s recommendations and share them one week following their next meeting.
 - Recommend others to apply for ACSI.

DECISIONS MADE

- The meeting minutes from the July 14, 2021 meeting were approved.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

REVIEW AND APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- The meeting minutes from the July 14, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved, with the exception of **Kari Schlosshauer** abstaining due to not being in attendance at that meeting.

REVIEW AND Q&A FROM OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY UPDATES

- **John Wasiuntynski** shared that:
 - Multnomah County has received funding to help school districts procure electric school buses. And, the County has received funding to implement wood stove replacements in Multnomah County.
- **Hayden Miller** shared that Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson's office is hoping to take action on leaf blowers, but an email update will come in the future with more information.
- **Sasha Pollack** acknowledged **Silvia Tanner** for her work on the utility disconnections moratorium during the pandemic.
- Healthy homes bill (HB 2184) passed last session, which directs Oregon Health Authority to coordinate a statewide, cross agency healthy homes workgroup. Also establishes a grant fund for healthy housing that could be combined with County's weatherization work to address indoor air quality on weatherization projects that has sometimes been difficult to fund. The **Office of Sustainability** will be tracking the grant and workgroup processes that are expected to begin soon.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

- **Transportation**
 - **Kari Schlosshauer** shared that the transportation subcommittee has followed what's happening at the Federal level. They have met with Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson to learn about her Office's priorities, including the Burnside Bridge. The subcommittee has also discussed the report about the intersections of traffic, safety, health, and justice, produced by Multnomah County's REACH program, and hopes to find ways to institutionalize the report's findings.
 - **Tim Lynch** shared that he recently met with staff from Multnomah County's transportation team. Their work on incorporating an equity strategy when thinking about the built environment is an area in which ACSI can help to reinforce with the **Board of Commissioners**.
- **Water and Food**
 - **Lukas Angus** shared that the subcommittee has met twice.
 - **Roy Iwai**, Multnomah County's Water Program Manager, presented on failing and underfunded culverts that are impacting waterways and fish habitat. **ACSI members** can help bring the budget concerns to the attention of the **Board of Commissioners**. **Tim Lynch** echoed **Lukas Angus'** sentiment that failing roads and culverts are considered an emergency, and ensuring healthy waterways to protect the crisis on failing salmon populations is not.

- Food security, equity, the footprint of our food, immigration status of farmworkers, and access to agricultural land to grow one's own food within our communities were discussed as concerns. Notable Multnomah County connections on these topics include the SNAP and WIC programs, support for farmworkers, Multnomah County's REACH Program and Department of County Human Services, and County staff Jerry Hunter and Roy Iwai.
- **Lukas Angus** has connected with Metro's Indigenous liaison regarding wildfires and how foods can thrive with care from the people who originally lived here.
- **John Wasiutynski** expressed disappointment about the name of the bridge that connects Sauvie to the mainland, and that continuing to honor the name Sauvie doesn't make sense given the history of that land.
- **Sasha Pollack** inquired about the subcommittee exploring food waste. **ACSI members** and **staff** shared local organizations and resources that have touched on this topic. **John Wasiutynski** said there is an opportunity to connect with those who work on farms. He also shared that Multnomah County's Government Relations office is in the process of hiring a Tribal Relations staff member.
- **Climate and Energy**
 - **Amanda Zuniga** shared that:
 - The subcommittee has been discussing the direction they would like to provide, as well as what is their advisory role. They have largely discussed climate resilience, including its definition, mapping out resources, strategies, impacts, and next steps.
 - The subcommittee has discussed climate reparations. While there is an equity lens and climate justice work, they are discussing what it means for **ACSI members** to shape something further.
 - The subcommittee wants to meet with other subcommittees about resilience, and find overlapping areas where holistic and innovative solutions can be developed, while still acknowledging traditional practices, where relationship to the land and climate are foundational.
 - **Knowledge Murphy** thanked **Sasha Pollack** for her contributions to the subcommittee for sharing insights on what it could be vs. what it currently is.
 - **Tim Lynch** thanked **Amanda Zuniga** for her thought leadership and helping to navigate this work during difficult times.
 - **Lukas Angus** said that he liked the words 'reparations' and 'sovereignty', in addition to 'restoration', and said they should apply not only to people but for the land, plants, animals, and water. There is a connection with this wording to the ACSI charter which has recently been revised.
- **Air Toxics**
 - **Tori Heroux** shared that she has transitioned working for Neighbors for Clean Air to the Department of Environmental Quality, and will continue to serve on ACSI. She is working with **John Wasiutynski** and the wood smoke task force.

- **John Wasiutynski** shared that **ACSI members** have had substantial influence over time, as the Office of Sustainability's work in air quality is substantive, including work in diesel, the Clean Air Collaborative, in construction projects, wood smoke, and Cleaner Air Oregon.
- **Hayden Miller** expressed gratitude for the work of the wood smoke task force, which resulted in a policy matrix of options to address wood smoke. The **Office of Jessica Vega Pederson** is currently thinking about short-, medium-, and long-term timeframes for programmatic standards that prioritizes education and equity, and sets clear emissions reductions. They are exploring how to make fundamental and systemic changes that would be binary or a year-round system.
- **Sare Mihm** shared that Multnomah County is advertising the wood smoke curtailment program this October with Trimet, with advertisements on 40 bus tails and 10 benches.

ANNUAL LETTER DISCUSSION

- **ACSI** should aim to complete the annual letter by mid-November, though it's not required to submit a letter. The **Board of Commissioners** have previously shared that the most impactful letters include short and focused recommendations of what the County can do.
- The **Office of Sustainability** can raise awareness of **ACSI** and what the group does.
- The importance of highlighting consistency of interest and efforts from multiple groups at Multnomah County was discussed.

ACSI MEMBER RECRUITMENT

- **ACSI** will have four openings next year.
- Recruitment for new members will take place between now and January.
- **ACSI members** who are resigning from the committee include **Kari Schlosshauer** and **Melissa Powers**.

ADJOURN