

Climate Change, Energy, and Environment Commission (C2E2)

Summary of September 26,

2022

Hybrid Meeting

Members Present: Joan McIntyre (Chair), Carrie Thompson (Vice Chair), Timothy Effio, John Bloom, Stephen D'Alessio, Joshua Griset, Kevin Vincent, Majdi Shomali, Cindy Lewin, Mark Greenwood, Jonathan Morgenstein

Staff Present: Rebecca Moser (DES)

Members Participating Virtually: Mikaila Milton

Staff Participating Virtually: Demetra McBride (DES), Steve Burr (DES), Rich Dooley (DES Staff), Ryan Delaney

Members Absent: Shawn Norton, Gilbert Campbell, Emily Emery

Guests: Christie Amero (Cadmus), Mary Glass, Eric Gibbs, Caroline Haynes

1. Public Comment on General Topics

Mary Glass is the Chair of the Arlington County Civic Federations Environmental affairs Committee and member of the Arlington Tree Action Group. Glass provided public comment to urge Commissioners on C2E2 to participate in the Forestry and Natural Resources Virtual Open House scheduled for Thursday, September 29th at 7pm.

- Commissioners and Arlington County residents can provide important information and inform the public policy perspective.
- The plan has serious implications for C2E2. In Glass's opinion, the plan places too much emphasis on what other counties are doing rather than focusing on a comprehensive document with data on what Arlington's key natural resource conditions are and providing solution.
- Reframing of the plan is needed to provide a more vigorous plan for adopting green infrastructure options to provide public services like flood mitigation, air quality, energy savings, water quality, heat island and more.

2. Decarbonization Decision Support Tool Q&A

Steve Burr and Christie Amero presented on the Decarbonization Tool and how it will help AIRE staff make decisions about County building decarbonization. There are 12 selected facilities for a deep dive into the data analysis, and to populate this tool, staff, with the support of Cadmus developed an energy efficiency and decarbonization measure characterization list of potential applications for those facilities.

John Bloom – clarity on what it can do/its limitations as a tool. Concern that is limited to the status quo/current technologies. Other limitation: the value of the outputs is determined by the quality of what goes in, design decisions and assumptions we've made.

- Data is not evergreen with technologies and cost so that is why this was determined to work in PowerBI so that updating and adding new measures is easier, especially with emerging technologies and price changes.

How does this tool help the County meet Board expectations that buildings are electrified as they are retrofitted and renovated?

- This tool is to provide the County with options and different alternative scenarios. There will be facilities that are going to be more difficult to electrify and decarbonize, but this tool will help the County narrow in on the facilities where that additional cost or energy savings or GHG is going to be. This tool will help quantify those aspects and help communicate what that means for different facilities.

How has the County modeled fossil gas prices into the tool? Fossil gas prices are increasing by 25-50%.

- Over the next two years or so the County will have a locked rate at a per therm basis. Not sure what that looks like after two years. Three scenarios for cost, cost of utility, cost of utility rate and cost of equipment. Figuring out what that cost will be, but gets at forecasting/modeling.

Will there be later versions that expand to other environmental data? – Transportation would be easy to incorporate. Could be a component to include. As far as downstream impacts, this hasn't been explored yet.

3. Forestry & Natural Resources Master Plan – (7:25 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.)

Overall, fairly comprehensive plan that touches on several things. Would like some of the language to be more specific and set priorities to meet goals.

General comment: the letter is too long and should be tightened up for clarity.

The Commissioners reviewed the letter and approved it.

4. Environmental Assessment Update – Rich Dooley (7:40 p.m. – 7:55 p.m.)

Rich Dooley updated the Commission on the Environmental Assessment (EA) tool. It has taken several years to get to this point. The EA process is 25 years old and needed to be updated and modernized into a digital format.

The form is 17 pages online and will take Project Managers some time to get through it. This form starts at 30% design level. The form is designed to follow County policies and track them.

After project managers submit the form, an output document is generated and sent to a variety of contacts (depending on the project) who are technical experts. They have 7 days to review and comment on the form. The project manager has 7 days after that to incorporate comments. It goes back to the technical experts to ensure their comments have been incorporated. Then it is sent to C2E2 for review for up to 30 days.

Rich showed the process diagram.

Once final, C2E2 will be notified and then offer a letter to the County Board. This process is not to slow down projects but give an opportunity for Commissioners to comment.

Next step is to escalate to Demetra for approval, and then the DES Deputy Director Mike Moon and DES Director Greg Emmanuel. No expected pilot date. Internal notification to department heads that this is coming. Applies to County Government and APS.

5. Inflation Reduction Act Discussion (7:55 p.m. – 8:10 p.m.)

Postponed to next meeting.

6. Work Plan Updates & Comments (8:10 p.m. – 8:40 p.m.)

Rebecca plugged AIRE's Think BIG About the Future of Transportation event being held on Sunday October 2, 2022 from 1pm-5pm. Joan to send around a sign up sheet for commissioners to attend and booth a table, provided by AIRE.

The commission approved of new EC committee members.

Ashton Heights civic association is very much against missing middle. Big changes regarding canopy loss. Timing for drafting a new letter for missing middle does not work out.

SPRC Process – there has been a change in the process with the change to hybrid meetings. Rosters are expected for who is sitting on the SPRC, a name and an alternate.

Other updates:

Ballston's Macy's

Crystal Plaza 5 – not opting into the Green Building Incentive Policy

Joyce Motors

Boston Holiday Inn

Sunrise Senior Living > Accepting online comments.

Bingham Center Silver Diner > Tim Effio

Americana Hotel > Cindy Lewin & John Bloom

Joan to send out a full list and have Commissioners assigned to roles.

There is an effort to bring Virginia out of RGGI, please provide comments on this.

7. Minutes (8:50 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.)

Meeting minutes were not reviewed or approved because this meeting went over the allotted time.

Meeting ended: **9:13 p.m.**