

Meeting Minutes

Kansas City Climate Protection Steering Committee

Monday, March 18, 2024

Online Meeting via Microsoft Teams

CPSC Members Present: Robin Ganahl, Angela Crawford, Bill Griffith, Bo Moreno, Kristin Riott

Quorum present

Absent CPSC Members: Thomas Grever, Michael Kelley, Bridget Sanderson

OEQ Staff: Sarah Benal, Ansley Hamid, Stephanie Dresen, Regan Tokos, Andrew Savastino, Kacey Eis, Kristin Riott

Other Attendees: John Santer, Delia Heffernan, James Schlaman, Cynthia Rolli, Jerry Shechter, Eric Vaughan, Kevin White, Carol Adams, Brian Mick, Logan Heley, Jeff Martin, Scott Klamm, Kelly Gilbert, Kevin Lewis, Zac Sweets, Billy Davies, Rachel O’Neal, Theresa Garza

Meeting Minutes

1. Roll Call
2. KC Water Sustainability – Delia Heffernan and Cynthia Rolli from KC Water, and James Schlaman from Black & Veatch presented information about KC Water’s Climate Action Plan Project, their current initiatives, and the next steps.
 - a. In 2022 KC Water management decided to align operations with the Climate Protection Plan to help achieve the plan’s goals. The water sector is estimated to be responsible for 10% of global GHG emissions.
 - b. US Water Alliance Utility GHG Reduction Cohort - engage in transatlantic, cross-cultural learning on climate mitigation strategies across water management operations.
 - c. Smart Sewer Stormwater Compliance – KC Water is working with more than 160 private industrial sites, 60 municipal sites, and 6 states to improve outdoor practices and reduce stormwater impact.
 - d. Green Infrastructure – In 2021, KC Water entered an agreement with the EPA to install an additional 480 green acres by 2040. 131 acres of green infrastructure has been constructed between 2022-2024.
 - e. Most common green infrastructure construction in Kansas City area:
 - i. Bioretention/detention basins
 - ii. Bioswales
 - iii. Infiltration trenches
 - iv. Permeable pavers/pervious concrete
 - v. Rain gardens
 - vi. wetlands
 - f. KC Water Climate Action Plan update
 - i. Compliments the Kansas City Climate Protection and Resiliency Plan

- ii. Provides a clear path for KC Water to meet our climate action plan goals, focusing on greenhouse gas emission reductions.
- iii. Project designed to be interactive with KC Water to develop climate resilience goals, vulnerabilities, and adaptation strategies.
- iv. Wanted to identify the biggest risks that would keep KC Water from achieving their goals.
- v. Goals that were defined by KC Water through the workshops:
 - 1. Optimize facility energy and water use.
 - 2. Mitigate climate risks to operations.
 - 3. Mitigate environmental impacts.
 - 4. Reduce GHG emissions in support of the CPRP's net-zero goal for the city's operation by 2030.
- vi. There is a need for KC Water to conduct a detailed energy audit on all major operations to create a system to track energy usage and costs on system equipment.
- vii. KC Water is currently evaluating the plan.
- g. KC Water recommended to the City to account for the carbon sink that the green infrastructure provides. There is a current focus on how to elevate greenhouse gas emission reduction strategies as well as infrastructure adaptation.
- h. Questions:
 - i. Kristin Riott - There is understaffing at the Water Department and so we're aging out of the talent we need to do this work. The motors used to pump the water are expensive and to replace them is one of the key things that would need to happen to help reduce the greenhouse gas contributions, and I wonder if there is political support to replace those pumps. And the third thing is that I want to convey that we see Water bills that are unaffordable for everyday people. So, I wanted to bring those up and see what kind of comments you all would have.
 - 1. Jeff Martin – The rate question and the pump replacement question go hand in hand. It is a concern for many of our customers and the City Council. We try to balance our rate increases to what needs to be done in order to continually meet our regulatory requirements as well as our maintenance requirements.
 - ii. Stephanie Dresen - Are the economics of carbon being taken into account? I know the business and financial end is important for the ratepayer, but just curious how you are accounting for the value of carbon sequestration?
 - 1. James Schlaman - if we were to invest in source water protection with natural systems, you know vegetated buffer strips and other things like that and we also got to account for the carbon benefit and we were investing in like a carbon credit program, we'd absolutely do that. But we question the validity of that pound of or that ton of carbon that you buy, and we wouldn't necessarily want to buy our way to 0 now.
 - iii. Jerry Schecter - How do you convince homeowners to stop blowing their yard waste into the waters and inlet drains?

1. Jeff Martin - the department's been doing education outreach for years. They really focus on keeping that runoff water clean and keeping those areas open to properly function.
 - iv. Robin Ganahl - The next phases where you've got the greenhouse gas study system wide is, will that be where you have you develop some targets and strategies, or have you looked at targets yet for emission reductions?
 1. James Schlaman - It's really within water services purview to take the recommendations from this phase one and decide how they want to approach that in collaboration with you all.
3. Approve January 2024 Minutes
 - a. The Committee voted to approve the minutes.
4. Bike Share Program Updates – Eric Vaughan discussed the impact of riding bikes in the city.
 - a. The model allows multiple entities such as the Transit Authority, local municipalities, private communities and sponsors to participate in helping bring bikes to Kansas City and make sure we have a green multimodal system available to the public.
 - b. Following a month-by-month analysis since 2012, there's been a 10-30% growth in trips every year. Ridership took off in 2019 with the introduction of electric bikes.
 - c. Bike share has been able to fill in the public transit gaps. As the bus line service was reduced, we partnered with KCATA to add extra bikes to help alleviate problems. 64% of the trips are within a block of the bus or streetcar stop.
 - d. We partner with social service organizations to distribute memberships. About 16% of the bikes are in life X zones in Kansas City.
 - e. We use ride data to Public Works to identify which corridors bike share, as well as which neighborhoods have the potential to upgrade infrastructure and boost ridership.
 - f. Future plans include getting more bikes and getting more municipalities to get on board to support greater service.
 - g. Northeast Johnson County won a grant to start bike shares in Mission and Roeland Park, as well as North Kansas City.
 - h. Questions:
 - i. Robin Ganahl – Is there anything our committee can do to help your mission?
 1. Eric Vaughn – If you would like to see more bikes, we need public support. Kansas City, MO has been difficult to get leadership support for bike share. Let your electees know, but also let leadership of city staff know this is something you would like to see.
5. OEQ Update
 - a. Budget – the new budget was sent to the Council. OEQ was fully funded, including eleven positions in the office. Compost was not included in the budget, but we will be able to cover the additional expenses.

- b. Staffing – the Environmental Review Coordinator position will no longer be in Housing and is moving to OEQ. The new staff person will begin soon and be responsible for managing the NEPA grant.
- c. Benchmarking – Regan Tokos has completed the 2023 report with 2022 data. Regan is now moving on to the Greenhouse Gas Inventory. We hope to have the report completed in late April at the latest.
- d. Put out a Request for Proposals for a feasibility study on Round Grove Creek landfill for solar and we’re in the process of evaluating those bids.
- e. Still in negotiations with the City and Evergy for solar at the airport
- f. Currently working on a dashboard to be available on our website for the community to see how well the City and the community are doing in implementing the Climate Plan
- g. Engagement platform to engage with the community on climate actions, hope to have it available at the beginning of the fiscal year.
- h. Nuisance code – worked on updating to be more accommodating to native plants. It is currently with Neighborhoods and their legal staff. We will receive feedback and take it to the council within the next month or two.
- i. Grants
 - i. Bloomberg – Kansas City is one of 25 cities to receive three new staff members as part of an “Innovation Team” for the Bloomberg Sustainable Cities program, focusing on projects related to the intersection of climate action and Black wealth building. Two positions are currently being advertised.
 - ii. Zero Building Energy Codes Grant – We submitted a concept paper to the Department of Energy. We were encouraged by the DOE to continue with our concept related to building performance standards.
 - iii. Community Change Grant – we are still having internal conversations about what this will look like. Details are to come.
 - iv. The MARC Solid Waste Management Grant is open for projects related to waste minimization activities. OEQ will be submitting an application for that.
 - v. CFI Grant – Last year we proposed an application to publicly charging EV infrastructure but were not selected. We think we know how to make a stronger application and we will be reaching out for additional feedback.

6. Public Comments

- a. There were no public comments.

7. New Business

- a. There was no new business.

8. Adjourn – adjourned at 4:55pm

Next Meeting: May 20, 2024,

Location: Online Via Microsoft Teams

The Climate Protection Steering Committee (CPSC) was established to guide the process of developing and implementing a Climate Protection Plan for Kansas City. It is comprised of not

more than eleven members, balanced amongst stakeholder interests, and appointed by the mayor.

Members:

Robin Ganahl, Chair	Michael Kelley, Vice Chair/EMC Liaison, BikeWalk KC
Kristin Riott, Bridging the Gap	Bridget Sanderson, Environment Missouri
Bill Griffith, Cromwell Solar	Bo Moreno, IBEW Local 124
Thomas Grever, Shook, Hardy & Bacon	Angela Crawford, The Builders, a chapter of the AGC.