

# AGENDA

## Orange County Commission for the Environment September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

7:00 p.m., Bonnie B. Davis Environment and Agriculture Center

---

---

<u>Time</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Title</u>
7:00	I.	<b>Call to Order</b>
7:01	II.	<b>Additions or Changes to Agenda</b>
7:03	III.	<b>Approval of DRAFT Meeting Summary – August 11, 2022</b> The CFE will consider approval of meeting summary from the last meeting. <u>Action needed</u> (Attachment 1)
7:05	IV.	<b>Community Climate Action Grant Review</b> The CFE will review the scoring sheet and applications for the current cycle of Community Climate Action Grant projects. CFE members will be expected to review applications over the next month, and prepared to provide individual ranking to be compiled and voted on at next meeting. (Attached under separate cover)
8:30	V.	<b>Sub-Committee Designation and Discussion</b> The CFE will discuss current sub-committee member assignment and chairs. Staff will provide description of sub-committee role and process. At next meeting, committees shall elect Chairs and begin creating meeting summaries to be presented to the group.
8:45	VI.	<b>Updates and Information Items</b> Staff and/or CFE members will provide updates on the following items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Climate Action Plan</li><li>• Attendance Policy</li></ul> Any other new information from CFE members and staff
9:00	VII.	<b>Adjournment</b>  <i>* Next Meeting Date: October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022; (Bonnie B Davis Environment and Agriculture Center</i>

**Orange County Commission for the Environment****DRAFT Meeting Summary****August 8, 2022; 7:00 pm***Hybrid Meeting*

---

**Present:** Kim Piracci, Kim Livingston, Bill Ward, Veronica Penn Beattie (via Zoom), Jessie Birkhead, Jaya Nair (via Zoom), Ian Morse, Reade Oakley (via Zoom), Jane Harris, Elizabeth McWhorter

**Absent:** Carrie Fletcher, Kristie Mather (excused)

**Staff:** Wesley Poole, Chris Hirni (via Zoom), Amy Eckberg (via Zoom), Kalani Allen

---

**I. Call to Order**

Kim Piracci called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

**II. Additions or Changes to Agenda**

None.

**III. Approval of DRAFT Meeting Summary – June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Motion by Bill Ward; seconded by Veronica Penn Beattie; all in favor; none opposed; motion passed.

**IV. Orange County Residential Solar – Action Item**

Jessie Birkhead presented a DRAFT letter to the BOCC from the CFE regarding Piedmont Electric Cooperative's solar credit distribution in Orange County. The letter was in response to an e-mail from resident David Rust to the BOCC on April 29, 2022, from which the BOCC requested the CFE to discuss the citizen concerns and provide feedback to them. At the June 13, 2022 CFE meeting, Amy Eckberg provided a presentation on Mr. Rust's two primary requests: 1. BOCC assistance for solar adoption by households and businesses, and 2. a modification to the PEMC net metering credit rate. The CFE reached out to PEMC to request information from their staff on their current policies and procedures and Susan Cashion in PEMC's Compliance and Administrative Office responded with a very helpful document titled "Benefits of Solar Generation for Piedmont Electric Cooperative Residential Members." The CFE came to the conclusion that they would encourage the BOCC to continue its support of solar in the County but it would not be appropriate for the BOCC to request changes to PEMC's current rate structure. Motion by Bill Ward to send the letter as drafted to the BOCC along with Susan Cashion's attachment; seconded by Kim Livingston; all in favor; none opposed; motion passed.

# Orange County Commission for the Environment

## DRAFT Meeting Summary

August 8, 2022; 7:00 pm

*Hybrid Meeting*

---

### V. Current CFE Vacancies and Applicants – Action Item

There are currently 3 vacancies within the CFE that need to be filled. Carrie Fletcher in Position #8 has also previously expressed an interest in resigning from the CFE and has not been at the last 3 consecutive meetings (August 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will make 4), but has not turned in resignation paperwork despite claiming to do so. Kim Piracci would like to make a recommendation to the BOCC to officially remove her and hold the position open in hopes of recruiting a more diverse candidate. The CFE went through the applicants one by one and decided which candidate would fit each open position the best. Mark Randall was chosen for Position #12 (Engineering), Geneva Gray for Position #2 (Air Quality), and Regina Baratta for Position #13 (At Large). Motion by Jessie Birckhead to make the applicant recommendations as such to the BOCC and hold Position #8 open in hopes of recruiting a more diverse candidate; seconded by Ian Morse; all in favor; none opposed; motion passed.

### VI. Community Climate Action Grant Review – Action Item

Amy Eckberg notified the CFE that the deadline for submitting applications for the Community Climate Action Grant doesn't close until August 19<sup>th</sup>. Veronica Penn Beattie followed up and informed the CFE that they have 3 options to go about reviewing / ranking the upcoming projects: 1. conduct during regular meetings, 2. conduct a special meeting, or 3. form a subcommittee. Jessie Birckhead offered to put together a Google Doc to assist with review of applications. Amy Eckberg will forward applications to CFE members as soon as she receives them and organizes for distribution. The expectation is for all members to understand the scoring sheet by the next CFE meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup>, conduct reviews on their own in the meantime, and be ready to discuss / rank at the following meeting on October 10<sup>th</sup>. If needed, a special meeting can be held on October 17<sup>th</sup> to complete. Motion by Jessie Birckhead to hold a special meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup> if needed; seconded by Veronica Penn Beattie; all in favor; none opposed; motion passed.

### VII. Committee Breakouts

Meeting was behind schedule so the CFE chose to not break out into committee assignments.

# Orange County Commission for the Environment

## DRAFT Meeting Summary

August 8, 2022; 7:00 pm

*Hybrid Meeting*

---

### VIII. Updates and Information Items

- Veronica Penn Beattie proposed that, moving forward, the CFE needed to keep minutes during Committee Breakouts and provide a summary to the group once they come back together so that everyone is aware of what is going on.
- Amy Eckberg updated the CFE on the status of the Solarize the Triangle campaign and noted there would be a kickoff celebration event on August 10<sup>th</sup> from 6-8PM at the Museum of Art in Raleigh. She then gave an update on the Orange County Climate Action Plan and its purpose.
- Ian Morse inquired about the new CFE applicant appointment process and Wesley Poole explained how it will go.
- Amy Eckberg informed the CFE that she would be getting a UNC intern soon by the name of Max Feldman and she hoped to bring him to some CFE meetings.

### IX. Adjournment

Kim Livingston motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 pm; seconded by Jane Harris; all in favor: none opposed; motion passed.