

# MEETING NOTES

## Orange County Commission for the Environment February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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Southern Human Services Center, 2501 Homestead Road, Chapel Hill

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### **Item   Title**

**In Attendance:** CFE Members: Bradley Saul, Alan Parry, Bill Ward, Kim Piracci, Lynne Gronback, Jody Eimers, Laura Doherty, Will Stanley, Jim Eichel, and Carrie Fletcher

Staff: Brennan Bouma, Kim Livingston   Interested Citizen: Brigitte Vaughn

- I.      Call to Order** – Saul called the meeting to order at 7:30pm
- II.     Additions or Changes to Agenda** – Bouma suggested adding a discussion on the Eco-tips for the weekly Orange County newsletter or tweets drafted by Piracci. Saul added this item to the agenda before committee meetings.
- III.    Approval of Draft Minutes – January 14<sup>th</sup> 2019**  
The CFE considered approval of minutes from the last meeting. Saul added an edit to the draft minutes to received regular updates from designated CFE liaisons on other boards and commissioners. A motion to approve as amended was made by Ward, seconded by Stanley, and approved unanimously.
- IV.    Chair Update**  
Saul recounted discussions from the Our Climate Resolution event in Chapel Hill. The CFE was mentioned many times throughout the night, which indicates the leadership is listening to the CFE and that the CFE is in a position to influence policy. The meeting discussions demonstrated that the leaders want to hear from groups such as the CFE and be as proactive as possible.
- Saul said that in December, the BOCC passed the Wildflower Resolution. Livingston mentioned that she had received positive comments from other people working in environmental fields around the Country about the passing of the resolution.
- Saul discussed the Green New Deal resolution passed by the BOCC on January 22, 2019. The BOCC endorsed the resolution and wants to form a committee to study climate change as well as request David Price endorse Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez’s resolution.
- Saul discussed the reformatting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> page of CFE agenda which now lists current activities, CFE member responsible for the action, next steps, and recent achievements.
- Saul reminded the CFE that in April, the BOCC will need the 2019 CFE actions.
- V.      CFE Activities and Concerns for 2019**  
Saul led a discussion to identify activities the CFE would like to pursue in 2019, in addition to concerns and emerging issues the group may consider in 2019. See updated *Activities* on March 2019 agenda.
- VI.    BOCC Agenda Abstract Environmental Impact**  
Bouma led a discussion concerning options to recommend to the BOCC for consideration of environmental impacts on agenda abstracts. CFE decided to add back into the draft the impacts to natural resources category as well as

adding example metrics. Eichel motioned to approve the template as amended and send it to Dave Stancil for him to present to the Board of County Commissioners in March. This was seconded by Fletcher, and approved unanimously.

**VII. Idle Reduction Campaign Update**

Bouma updated the CFE on the status of this petition item. The petition is closed, yet Commissioner Marcoplos remains interested. Bouma discussed the draft letter to parents and signs for schools. Gronback encouraged a more direct focus on a campaign for kids to ride the school bus. Suggestions were made to add a section of suggested alternatives to driving children to school. CFE would like to explore ways to measure the effectiveness of the campaign. Parry suggested that the kids could encourage their parents through incentives. Parry suggested turning over ownership to the schools and having Bouma give teachers a set of resources to encourage idle reduction. Eimers suggested having the schools report back their successes if they choose to participate. **Bouma requested that CFE members send any edits to the letter to him.**

**Addition Eco-tips-**

Piracci led a discussion on Eco-tips to be sent out via Orange County emails or tweets. Todd McGee sends out weekly emails and tweets and an eco-tip (fact, suggestion for action, and further information) sponsored by the CFE could be added. Piracci suggested calling the section "Climate Corner." This was countered by others saying that the eco-tip could have a broader focus. The structure should be that of a tweet. CFE should create a list of "evergreen tweets" that Todd McGee pick from and post as needed. **Bouma will send out Piracci's suggested eco-tips. Saul suggested that CFE will review by email.** Piracci suggested making the tips actionable and to follow a consistent format.

**VIII. Committee Meetings**

CFE Committees met to discuss issues and indicators for the 2019 State of the Environment report and made plans to finish a first draft by the March CFE meeting.

**IX. Updates and Information Items**

None were discussed.

**X. Adjournment- Fletcher 1<sup>st</sup>, Parry 2<sup>nd</sup>**

Fletcher motioned to adjourn and this was seconded by Parry. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15pm.

- ***Next Meeting: March 11th, West Campus Office Building, Room 302, 131 West Margaret Lane, Hillsborough***