

## Monroe County Climate Action Plan Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

via Zoom

August 4, 2022 (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.)

Drafted: August 5, 2022

Approved: October 6, 2022

**Members:** John Botelho, Matthew O'Connor, Sue Hughes-Smith, Kathryn Walker, Mike Garland

**Absent:** Sean Delehanty, Richard Milne, Mike Yudelson, Leah Wirley, Lola D'Ascentiis, Helen Frank

**Staff:** Clement Chung, Tina Stevens, Joe VanKerkhove, Yasmin Guevara, Pat Gooch, Piper VanKerkhove

**Guests:** John Steinmetz, Molly Gaudio, Loretta Morrell

### **Welcome, Introduction and Announcements (Co-Chair O'Connor):**

Meeting called to order at 3:32 P.M. by Co-Chair O'Connor.

### **Approval of Minutes (Co-Chair Yudelson):**

Minutes from the July 14, 2022 meeting unanimously approved. Motion by Matt O'Connor; seconded by Kate Walker.

### **Legislative Update (Legislator Hughes-Smith):**

1. Draft Phase 1 CAP has been distributed to the Legislature, and no comments or questions have been received. There are four attachments: County level, Appendix, the Plan and an Executive Summary.
2. Clem Chung added that the referral letter had been sent to the signatory legislators. Mike Garland added that the stamped referral is expected to be released on Tuesday afternoon, August 9.
3. Phase 1 of the plan is expected to be introduced at the Tuesday, August 9 Legislature meeting. The legislation is expected to be assigned to the Environment and Public Works Committee for review. That committee will meet on Monday, August 22 at 5:15 PM in Legislative Chambers. Meeting will be accessible via the Legislature's YouTube page, but that option is listen only with no opportunity for comment. After making its way through committee, the Legislation is expected to be called for a vote at the Tuesday, September 13 meeting.

### **Climate Action Plan Phase 2 (All):**

- Both Mike Garland and Clem Chung expressed the sentiments to keep the forward momentum that the committee has built and apply the learnings of the Phase 1 process to Phase 2.
- To complete Phase 2 by December 2023 is an aggressive time frame.
- It was stressed that public engagement that incorporates the concerns of the Monroe County constituents will be essential. Pat Gooch discussed the methods and strategies used during the construction of the County's Comprehensive Plan, as well as some of the lessons learned during that process.
- Clem stated that the DES team will be working with Bergmann to develop a draft scope for the project and expect to have that completed by mid-August. Mike Garland said that there would be another Legislative process involved, to amend the current contract with Bergmann for the Phase 2 work. This is expected to be completed in the fourth quarter of 2022 and will not impede the current work of this committee in any way.
- Kate Walker asked to see the scope of work to become familiar with what Bergmann will be responsible for and how they plan to engage with the public.
- Clem stated there will be many opportunities for partnerships and would like to leverage the interest among committee members, asking members to provide lists of organizations and partners that could be of assistance with Phase 2.
- Kate Walker stated that the Rochester Area Foundation had just provided funding to the Rochester Ecology Partners to establish a list of all of the environmental groups that exist in the area. Estimated completion time is 4-6 months. She also asked how the Committee could help with the development of the scope and asked that those responsible reach back to the Committee for input. Clem stated that one thing members could do to help is identify what groups do not actively engage in conversations and outreach.
- Matt O'Connor cited diversity of areas as a key component – including both rural and urban and to make sure marginalized communities were included.
- Clem mentioned strategic partnerships with companies and non-profit organizations such as Goodwill.
- Sue Hughes-Smith asked for pre-packaged information to bring Legislators up to speed and aid in reaching out to constituents.
- Bergmann suggested piggybacking on Planning Department events, using a multi-faceted communication strategy to facilitate communication and awareness. Partners are important to the process.
- Another method suggested was to try and find ways to communicate to youth, including using apps like TikTok. Students can be ambassadors to help facilitate content.
- Clem stated that same modeling will be used as was incorporated into Phase 1, but will be broader and include buildings, transportation, agriculture and solid waste, and will incorporate solutions and best practices.

- Environmental impacts, such as flooding, will be a key component, and a Climate Vulnerability Assessment is also being undertaken.
- John Botelho talked about the impacts of electrification and investing in the grid to meet demand.
- Clem talked about the fact that the plan will present local level solutions. The County cannot control what happens at the NYS level but can make sure that the infrastructure can support the decisions made at the local level.
- Bergmann stated that the County has no jurisdiction over statewide GHG emissions but could partner with others to create opportunities. A large component of this is the CSC program, where NYS can “plug into” municipalities to understand. Communities throughout the County are developing their own plans and are raising awareness, which promote regional understanding.
- Pat Gooch suggested that the Committee think about what is going on throughout Monroe County and identify partners. The visions of citizens should be paramount. The process is messy but will be beneficial to the County as a whole.
- Learnings: ARPA – public survey – 2500 responses. Sent out in both English and Spanish; multiple platforms.
- Need to be adaptable and flexible and seek diversity of opinions and be intentional about representation. “Bring the table to them.” Events need to target communities and be flexible and adaptable to strategies.
- Clem asked that for the next meeting, Committee members provide a list of who to reach out to ascertain interest, including key stakeholders.
- Bergmann will provide a Community Outreach plan, which will be used to determine methods and strategy to engage constituents.

**Public Forum:**

No comments or requests to speak were received.

Next meeting is Thursday, September 1, 2022, at 3:30 **in-person** at the Monroe County Fleet Center Building 1 Conference Room. Changes or updates to the meeting venue will be communicated to the committee via email.

Motion to adjourn by Matt O’Connor; second by Kate Walker. Meeting adjourned at 4:30 PM.