



**Item 1**

**JOINT SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING  
July 25, 2018**

The Joint Sustainability Committee convened in a regular meeting on July 25, 2018 at City Hall in Austin, Texas.

**Chair Jim Walker called the Board Meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.**

**Board Members in Attendance:**

Chair Jim Walker, Vice Chair Kaiba White, Holt Lackey, Françoise Luca, Nhat Ho, Adrienne Haschke, Michael Osborne, Fisayo Fadelu, Kelly Davis, Patricia Seeger

**Board Members Absent:**

Blythe Christopher de Orive, Sabrina Santos Joplin, Joep Meijer, Katie Coyne

**City Staff in Attendance:**

Zach Baumer, Marc Coudert, Teresa Lutes, Marisa Flores-Gonzalez, Mark Jordan

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Committee Member Kelly Davis moved approval of the May 23 minutes, Committee Member Osborne seconded.

**2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL**

None.

**4a. Water Forward update from Austin Water Utility staff (Discussion and/or possible action)**

(First) Jennifer Walker, Vice Chair, Water Forward Taskforce provided background on the impetus of the Water Forward Plan. Background on water policy: 2011 drought encouraged council to create a taskforce to look at the creation of an integrated water resource plan (IWRP) - a one hundred year plan that looks at water comprehensively across Austin. Teresa Lutes, Managing Engineer at Austin Water (AW), stated that key drivers for Water Forward are drought, population growth, and community value. Current water supply comes from the Colorado River and Highland Lakes. Climate change indicates higher temperatures and an increase in heavy precipitation. This has impacted inflows into the Highland Lakes over the last 12 years. Public process includes over 80 community group meetings with feedback focusing on clean and reliable drinking water. Plan recommendations include demand management (AMI, irrigation efficiency, dual plumbing, etc.), water supply (water storage and recovery) and decentralized water sources (rainwater, stormwater capture, greywater, etc.). Staff anticipate updating the plan on a 5 year cycle to gauge a changing climate. Short term deliverables: August 8<sup>th</sup>, release of version 4 of the Water Forward plan followed by presentations to the Water and Wastewater commission and city council in late November. In the meantime, staff will look at updating codes and ordinances. Topics to update include dual plumbing codes, alternative water use and revamping existing rebates and incentives. Austin Water is still looking for opportunities to do site specific innovative water technologies to education and move the needle on water use.

Citizen communication: David Foster, Clean Water actions. Acknowledge staff for the work, the inclusion of climate change and the need to diversify water sources. Concern that large infrastructure projects and the timeline for the actions. David feels that the plan is projected out too far into the future and that we should start the recommended actions must sooner. We need to rethink our efforts and timing. This plan also needs to synch with CodeNEXT. We need to get water focused in new developments.

Question (Francoise Luca): How do you address what the consumer benefits are? A: consumer benefits connect to social equity and job creation. Q: Where can consumer provide feedback? A: community engagement to identify community value to imbed into the plan through surveys and 80+ community meetings.

Question: (Kelly Davis): What is the task force biggest concerns now that we are few years in? A (Jennifer Walker): The timing – brought up by the citizen communication – is an issue. Would love to start actions as soon as possible but it's just not possible. Need to work with community on implementation and that takes time.

Question (Kelly) Aquifer Storage and Recovery – Everyone from San Antonio to Bastrop tap into aquifer – considering the infrastructure cost, why is it prioritized? A: The aquifer provides the ability to treat and store water on site. Austin Water completed some feasibility study in other aquifer but location and structure meant that many aquifers in the area had limitations. Q: Consider taking water from Barton Springs? A: yes, plans to use and/or water inflows to Ladybird Lake

Question: (Patricia Seeger) How does Atlas 14 play into this: A: yes, the idea is to capture the increase intensity for use during drought. There are some limitations but something AW is working on.

Question: (Fisayo Fadelu) besides online, are there other ways to capture community input? A: We have several open houses and other upcoming stakeholder meetings coming up in addition to taskforce and boards/commission meetings.

Comment: (Michael Osborne) I would like to see gallons per person, compared to other cities, cost structure, population projections, cost of dual plumbing. Question: Is anyone talking about transferring water from the East to the West in Texas? A: We are focused on local water but there are occasional talks about moving water regionally and statewide.

Question (Walker) have you looked at the energy needed or savings when the Water Forward plan is implemented? A: n/a

Question: (Lackey) what state and local resources are available for dual plumbing. A: there are some buildings in Austin that have dual plumbing. It's not a big number. For new construction, dual plumbing is not resource intensive. There is a lot of precedence, especially in San Francisco and other cities.

Comment: (Ho) approve. Encourage looking at water, energy and carbon nexus.

Action: Put Water Forward on the November meeting

### **3. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **3a. Update on the Austin Community Climate Plan from the Climate Program Manager (Discussion and/or possible action)**

(second) Zach Baumer: The Office of Sustainability is applying to the Bloomberg American Cities Climate Challenge. Direction of grant is to move beyond best practices and advance specific actions. Focusing on

buildings and transportation. Selected cities will receive assistance, funding, tools, and education. Worked with departments and Cap Metro to write proposal. Action: Will share proposal with committee.

**3b. Annual Internal Review (Discussion and/or possible action)**

(third) Review mission statement and progress. Looking for feedback on progress over the last year. Michael Osborne moves to approve the document. Ho seconds the motion to approve. All in favor.

**4b. Discussion regarding the emissions from residential natural gas and electric heating equipment, in relation to the City of Austin Energy Code (Discussion and/or possible action)**

Staff is still working through the report and getting feedback from Texas Gas and other stakeholder. Plan to bring it back to the committee when it's complete. Committee asked to see the cost comparison of having a completely electric house versus part electric and part natural gas home. Kaiba White asked if staff could include a cost scenario where the homeowner has solar PV on their home. More discussion is needed.

**4c. Discussion on Committee priorities related to the City of Austin Fiscal Year 2019 Budget and potential 2018 General Obligation Bond (Discussion and/or possible action)**

Heard from several departments. Budgets will not be finalized till August 6<sup>th</sup> so this will be a major item for August meeting. There is interest in looking into funding for affordable housing and the nexus with this group. Also, Development Service Department (DSD) made a request for additional staff to help with permitting and enforce the energy code. Similar to letter written by committee last year.

Motion: Take language from last year for DSD funding, incorporate the resolution and recent activity from the Resource Management Commission, and draft a memo supporting the funding of new FTEs.

Kaiba makes motion, Osborne seconds. Passed with all voting to approve with Kelly Davis off the dais.

**4d. Working group updates and potential creation of new working groups: three standing working groups on the Phase 1 Actions of the Austin Community Climate Plan (Electricity and Natural Gas, Transportation and Land Use, Materials and Waste Management), brownfield redevelopment, budget working group, carbon impact statement, and tourism. (Discussion and/or possible action)**

No updates. Action: Remove the brownfield redevelopment working group

**4e. Commission members report back on any relevant discussions from their respective boards and commissions (Discussion and/or possible action)**

Alternates have been appointed for Osborne, Lackey, and Luca.

Food and Climate plan has been put of the health and human services council committee agenda for August 8th.

Walker volunteered to participate in advocacy for the plan.

**5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- Budget recommendations - August
- Public outreach and engagement - August
- Capital Metro and Strategic Mobility Plan
- Water Forward in October
- Public announcement on Atlas 14
- Equity report

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Walker adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m. without objection (Osborne first, Ho second).

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For more information on the Joint Sustainability Committee, please contact Zach Baumer ([Zach.Baumer@austintexas.gov](mailto:Zach.Baumer@austintexas.gov) or 512-974-2836).