

Charleston County
Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee (RSAC)
Meeting Minutes
March 28th, 2023

ATTENDEES

RSAC: Joe Boykin, Scott Runyon, Jen Jones, James, Stewart Weinberg, Scott Curtis, Kyle James, Doug James, Sally Brooks

County Staff: Walt Smalls, Karen Burney-Green, Arielle Gerstein, Megan Steen

Members of the public: Diamond Curry

Fernleaf staff: Aashka Patel, Matt Hutchins

SSG Staff: Naomi Devine

CALL TO ORDER

Arielle called the Charleston County RSAC meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT & INTRODUCTIONS

Arielle announced to the committee members that correspondence related to the RSAC was subject to compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and stated the purpose of the RSAC. The meeting has also been advertised.

TOPICS DISCUSSED

- Presentation by Fernleaf regarding All Hazards Vulnerability and Risk Assessment. They are a consultant group specializing in Climate Resilience Planning. Worked with the City of Charleston in 2019. There are two main phases to the assessment: vulnerability assessment and strategy development. They look at types of threats such as flooding, sea level rise, extreme heat, wildfires, and earthquakes. This will be around a 14–15-month process. Final report will be available in May of 2024. Strategy development involves developing resilience objectives, identifying options covering broad strategic areas, multicriteria evaluation of feasibility and effectiveness to aid in prioritization. Fernleaf will largely play a facilitator in this phase.
 - Key Outputs – Shared understanding of key climate related vulnerabilities across the county, preliminary set of strategies and actions for further evaluation, refinement and prioritization, foundational information analyses and decision aids to enable County staff to make informed decisions beyond the course of this project.
 - RSAC Role – Assist in interpreting the assessment results and help refine the framing of major vulnerabilities. Committee will be a part of the collaboration effort with other stakeholders. Provide comment on the draft project report.
 - They will provide quarterly updates during regular committee meetings. They encourage one-on-one engagements for specific feedback.

- County Staff Team – Help tailor analysis to local factors and context, co-develop insights from assessment outputs, collaborate within and across departments to identify opportunities for action.
 - Questions: Stewart asked if they have been able to look at the brand-new sea-level rise report from the City of Charleston. They said that they will be looking into it and will be in touch with Dale Morris.
 - Kyle asked what the planned approach for community engagement is. They are still discussing, and they have some shared thoughts on how it might work in the County to create a foundation for trustful and effective relationships.
- SSG started their presentation on Climate Action Plan at 10:02 a.m. Naomi delivered the presentation and stated they have 20+ years’ experience redefining climate action planning and they use a holistic approach. They have done over 100 climate action plan processes within those 20 years.
 - Project Overview – Projected project end date of April 2024. It will include 1 BAU (business as usual), 1 BAP (business as planned), 1 low carbon scenario, and RSAC.
 - They will provide many workshops throughout the process.
 - They gave some examples of what scalable low carbon actions look like. These include reducing energy consumption in new and old buildings, significantly improving transit options and bike/walk infrastructure, switching to electric vehicles, and producing significantly more local renewable electricity.
 - Next Steps – Define our role together, finish pre-engagement and analyze results, recommendations from the pre-engagement process, continued context review, first formal RSAC meeting review roles and get feedback on webinar.
 - No questions for Naomi. Presentation ended at 10:15.

RECOMMENDATIONS MADE

Voting was completed to choose a Chair and Vice Chair. Stewart volunteered for Chair with all voting members in agreeance. Kyle volunteered for Vice Chair with all voting members in agreeance.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS’ REMARKS

- Approved meeting minutes at 10:18 a.m. from the January 25th, 2023 meeting.

CHAIR’S REMARKS

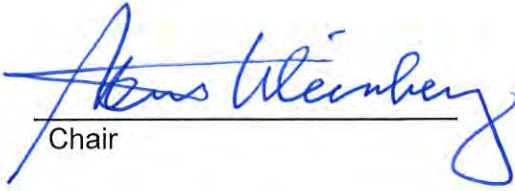
Chair suggested meeting via Zoom for meetings where there is no voting scheduled. Arielle said that she would see if that is an option.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:21 a.m.

Megan Steen

Ratified by the Charleston County
Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee
this 28th day of March 2023.


Chair

Attest.

Administrative Officer - Resilience


Administrative Officer - Sustainability