



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE



PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

COUNCIL ON CLIMATE SOLUTIONS MEETING

Tues., August 26, 2025
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Great Lakes Conference Room, 6th Floor
Deborah A. Stabenow Building
525 W. Allegan Street
Lansing, Michigan
OR
Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Council Attendees

Phillip D. Roos
Mary-Elizabeth Estrada
Steve Bakkal
Kate Bell
Frank Beaver
Tim Boring, Ph.D
Kerry Duggan
Aaron Ferguson
Brandon Hofmeister

Marnese Jackson
Phyllis D. Meadows
Grace Michienzi
Jonathan (Peck) Overpeck, Ph.D.
Lana Pollack
Zach Rable
Jill Rusnak
Sam Stolper
Scott Whitcomb

Not Present: Treasurer Eubanks, Jim Harrison, Kevin Kolevar, Quentin Messer
Dan Scripps, Derrell Slaughter, Cynthia Williams

Meeting Notes

- **Welcome, Attendance, Business**

Led by council chair Phil Roos, Director, EGLE

- The meeting commenced at 1:02 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (ET). Director Roos welcomed council members to the 27th meeting of the council overall, and third meeting of 2025.
- Reappointments
 - Kerry Duggan, August 20, 2025 – April 2029
 - Peck, August 20, 2025 – April 2029
 - New Council appointee - Mary-Elizabeth Estrada, August 20, 2025 – February 3, 2029
- Attendance was taken
- Approval of 2/25/2025 agenda. A draft agenda was sent to council members on Tuesday, August 19.
 - Tim Boring moved a motion to approve the agenda. Kate Bell seconded the motion.
 - The agenda was approved unanimously.
- Approval of 2/25/2025 meeting notes. A draft of meeting notes was sent to council members on Tuesday, August 19.
 - Tim Boring moved a motion to approve the meeting notes. Kate Bell seconded the motion.
 - The meeting notes were approved unanimously.
- Meeting framing
 - MI Solar for All Announcement
 - Cancellation of SFA funding
 - EGLE is working with the Attorney General's office
 - This program would bring ~700 jobs to Michigan and would serve thousands of people across the state
 - Introductions
 - Ann Larson, Deputy Director, EGLE
 - Comes from Washington State
 - Joined in March 2025
 - Overseeing EGLE's public offices
 - Tom Zimnicki, Policy Advisory, EOG
 - Has a background in advocacy
 - Strong advocate for climate action
 - Alessandra Carreon, Chief Climate Officer for the Office of Climate and Energy
 - Background in sustainability, climate, transportation, and an equitable transition

- Coming to EGLE from the Michigan Public Service Commission
- **Office of Climate & Energy Updates & MI Healthy Climate Plan Progress**
 - Alessandra Carreon, Chief Climate Officer, EGLE*
 - Julia Field, Deputy Chief Climate Officer, EGLE*
 - 2026 MI Healthy Climate Conference, Tuesday, April 21 at Huntington Place, Detroit.
 - The fourth annual conference and the last one under the MI Healthy Climate Conference branding under the current administration
 - CCAP
 - Due December 2025 – Comprehensive Climate Action Plan
 - Worked with Accenture to develop this deliverable
 - The Office of Climate and Energy is currently working on a draft
 - Has been updated to include GHG-related targets
 - Now includes waste and natural/working lands
 - Grant supports community engagement:
 - Key stakeholder meetings
 - MHCC survey and poster activity
 - Regular meetings with Tribes, Grand Valley Metro Council, SEMCOG, among other partners
 - November 2026 – second Collaborate Planning Session for Equitable and Justic Climate Action, hosting in partnership with the Office of Environmental Justice Public Advocate, Date is TBD.
 - Renewables Ready Communities Program
 - Renewables Ready Communities Awards Pilot
 - \$30,000 budget allocation through Governor Whitmer’s Public Act 119
 - MI Justice40 Accelerator
 - Launched October 2024 with 25 community-based organizations across the state
 - Currently in the tenth month of the program
 - Provides \$25k participation stipend, 1:1 program support, technical assistance, regular workshops, and peer learning opportunities
 - Measuring Impact - Cohort Highlight: Nyeshia Clark-Young
 - MI Healthy Climate Challenge
 - Challenge overview/timeline
 - Challenge #2: Unlocking Elective Pay

- \$2 million
- Concept paper/application deadline reminder
- MI SFA
 - Transition to MMD
 - Solar for Savings Pilots
 - Round 1&2 awardees have been announced. Round 3 has been paused
 - Round 1 Pilots
 - 28 pilots/applications reviewed
 - Round 2 Pilots
 - 46 applications reviewed
 - Round 1&2 Residential Rooftop Solar Awardees
 - Hope Village
 - Southwest Housing Solutions Corporation
 - Superior Watershed Partnership
 - City of Ann Arbor
 - Round 1 Residential-Serving Community Solar Awards
 - City of Benton Harbor
 - Hillsdale Board of Public Utilities
 - Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan
 - Lowell Light & Power
 - North End Woodward Community Coalition
 - Round 2 Residential-Serving Community Solar Awards
 - City of Cadillac
 - City of Escanaba
 - First United Methodist Church of Holland
 - Wayne State University
 - All of this work is currently paused but we feel it is important to share
- MI Healthy Climate Fellows Update
 - The program launched in 2024
 - To date, 50 organizations have hosted 55 fellows across the state
 - In April 2025 the program received a stop work order and we've worked to find creative solutions to keep the program running
 - The third and final MI Healthy Climate Fellows cohort is planned for January – December 2026
 - 12 placements
 - Fellows will serve full-time
 - Introductory webinar on Wednesday, September 3

- Host site applications are now open!
 - MI Healthy Climate Fellows Program Impact – Presented by Halle
 - Climate Fellows member highlight - Jessica Austin
 - An inaugural member of Cohort 1
 - West Michigan Environmental Action Council
 - “Community is a cornerstone of change”
 - Climate Fellows member highlight - Krystle Baecker
 - Served as a member of cohort 1 and cohort 2
 - Climate Fellows member highlight - Charlotte Nana-Mayworm
 - Cohort 2
 - Michigan Green School Action Guide
- **Questions & Comments**
 - **Q (Mary-Liz):** When will Challenge 3 and 4 open?
 - **A:** We don’t know the exact date yet, but we are hoping for either fall or winter (of 2025)
 - **Q (Lana Pollock):** Place an emphasis on stories
 - **Q (Grace Michienzi):** State fleet electrification/fleet electrification funding – Is the Office of Climate of Energy looped into this with DTMB?
 - **A (Ann Larson):** EGLE is participating in work groups with other state agencies. This is being tracked closely

- **Regenerative Agriculture**

Erik Palm

- Regenerative agriculture is an active approach to land management driven by improving soil health
- Their mission is to champion a regenerative approach to agriculture
- Regenerative agriculture focuses on the whole system
 - Soil function/soil health
 - 90% of soil function is related to microbial activity
 - Farm Context
 - Every farm is unique
 - These regenerative agriculture principles can be applied to all farms
 - Maximizing Diversity
 - Diversity above the soil = diversity below the soil
 - Diversity increases productivity
 - This includes plants and animals

- Eliminate monoculture
- Maintaining Living Roots Year Round
 - Builds organic matter and improves
- Minimizing Soil Disturbance
 - Minimize tilling, chemical applications, and manure applications
- Keep Soil Covered
 - Protects and moderates temperature swings
 - As you increase temperature, soil bacteria die
- Integrating Livestock and Increasing Biodiversity
 - Nature thrives on diversity, not monoculture
- Water Cycle
 - As soil aggregates, the water infiltration rate improves and water holding capacity increases
 - Build resiliency in the environment
- Staffing
 - Within the last year, they have hired five staff members to support program efforts
 - Soil Health Assessments
- What to expect in FY2026
 - Demonstration of regenerative principles and practices at the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids
 - Members will receive hands-on training and support over 12 months while assisting with implementation of regenerative principles on the shite
 - Regenerative Farm Network Grants (RFNG) will be awarded to farmer groups with five or more members via partner nonprofit or local government entity
 - Seeks to improve soil and water healthy, support farmer collaboration and farmer support
- **Questions & Comments:**
 - Director Boring: This program changes the narrative. A lot of our work is payment based, which doesn't traditionally support a principled approach:
 - Affordability
 - Climate resiliency
 - Alternative means to how you grow a farm
 - This is a path to increasing the number of farms/farmers in Michigan

- IRS is responsive
- Restrictions in sourcing projects start in 2026
 - EV purchases: 9/20/2025
 - EV charges: 6/30/2026
 - Solar & Wind: 12/31/2027
 - Geothermal and energy storage are still fully available through 2032
- What is the Elective Pay Ambassador Program (EPAP)?
 - Created in partnership with EGLE and Michigan Infrastructure Council
 - A way to raise awareness about Elective Pay
 - A community-based program
 - Ensuring that all regions of Michigan have a local Elective pay expert
 - A capacity building effort
 - EPAP Eligible Applications
 - Entities that will apply to host an Elective Pay Ambassador
 - 1 host per Prosperity Region (10 total host organizations)
 - Host organizations will receive a grant of up to \$70,000 for the one-year program period (does not go directly to the Ambassador)
 - Host organizations and Ambassadors will receive training through the Michigan Infrastructure Office Technical Assistance Center (MIO TAC) and are required to attend training sessions
 - Host organizations/Ambassadors will engage with their communities and seek Elective Pay-eligible programs
 - Host Site applications close on 8/31.
 - Host organizations will be announced after selection
 - Host organizations will hire Ambassadors in Sept/Oct
- **Questions/Comments**
 - **Q (Mary-Liz):** How many ambassadors will you have?
 - **A:** Ten
 - **Maggie Knight:** There could be some overlap here with MDARD as a resource for farmers
- General question and comments
 - N/A
- Next council meeting will be Tuesday, November 18, 1:00 – 3:00pm
- Director Tim Boring motion to adjourn; Kate Bell second

- Adjourn at 2:52pm

Meeting open to the public. Public comments are not scheduled to occur at this meeting.

Individuals needing language assistance or accommodations for effective participation at the meeting should contact Haley Hill in advance of the meeting at 517-582-5656 or HillH7@Michigan.gov to request language, mobility, visual, hearing, translation, and/or other assistance.

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Name	Title/Role
Frank Beaver	Director, Natural Resources Department for the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Tim Boring, Ph.D.	Director, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development
M. Scott Bowen Possible Alternate: Scott Whitcomb	Director, Department of Natural Resources
Susan Corbin Possible Designee: Kate Bell	Director, Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity
Kerry Duggan	Founder and principal of SustainabiliD
Rachel Eubanks Possible Designee: Larry S.	Michigan State Treasurer
Jim Harrison	Director of Renewable Energy, Utility Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO
Elizabeth Hertel Possible Designee: Aaron Ferguson	Director, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

Name	Title/Role
Brandon Hofmeister	Senior Vice President of Governmental, Regulatory, and Public Affairs, Consumers Energy
Marnese Jackson	Co-Director of Fresh Energy – Midwest Building Decarbonization Coalition
Kevin Kolevar	Vice President, Global Public Policy & Government Affairs, Dow
Phyllis Meadows, Ph.D.	Senior Fellow in Health Programming, The Kresge Foundation
Quentin Messer Possible Alternate: Steve Bakkal	President and Chief Executive Officer, Michigan Economic Development Corporation
Grace Michienzi	Senior Director of Policy, Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council and Institute for Energy Innovation
Jonathan (Peck) Overpeck, Ph.D.	Samuel A. Graham Dean and Williams B. Stapp Collegiate Professor of Environmental Education at the University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability
Mary-Elizabeth Estrada	MI Healthy Climate Fellow
Lana Pollack	
Dan Scripps	Chair, Michigan Public Service Commission
Derrell Slaughter Secretary, Council on Climate Solutions	Michigan Clean Energy Advocate for the Natural Resource Defense Council; Ingham County Commissioner
Sam Stolper, Ph.D.	Assistant Professor, University of Michigan School for Environment and Sustainability
Brad Wieferich Designee: Zachary Rable	Director, Department of Transportation
Cynthia Williams	Global Director of Sustainability, Homologation, and Compliance, Ford Motor Company

Name	Title/Role
Possible Alternate: Cory Von Achen	