



GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY  
LANSING



LIESL EICHLER CLARK  
DIRECTOR

**MICHIGAN COUNCIL ON CLIMATE SOLUTIONS MEETING**  
**Draft Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, December 14– 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams  
Find meeting information at [Michigan.gov/Climate](https://Michigan.gov/Climate)

**Attendees**

Paul Ajegba	Marnese Jackson
Niles Annelin	Phyllis Meadows
Steve Bakkal	Quentin Messer
Frank Beaver	Jonathan Overpeck
Liesl Clark	Tanya Paslawski
Susan Corbin	Cynthia Render-Williams
Mary Draves	Joseph Rivet
Kerry Duggan	Phillip Roos
Dan Eichinger	Dan Scripps
Rachael Eubanks	Derrell Slaughter
Meghan Groen	Larry Steckelberg
James Harrison	Samuel Stolper
Judd Herzer	Ron Voglewede
Brandon Hofmeister	

**MEETING GOALS**

- Presentation on current state programs working toward climate solutions.
- Review draft outline of Michigan Healthy Climate Plan.
- Review process plan and next steps.

**Meeting Notes**

- **Welcome, Attendance (Liesl Clark, Director, EGLE)**
  - The meeting commenced at 3:00 p.m.
  - Attendance was taken.
- **Council Business (Liesl Clark, EGLE)**
  - Derrell Slaughter moved and Jonathan Overpeck seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously by voice vote.

- Derrell Slaughter moved and Ron Voglewede seconded a motion to approve minutes from the December 3 council meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.
- Draft 2022 Council meeting schedule was sent out on 12/10/21. Will work on monthly meetings, then quarterly during implementation. Will add other special meetings as necessary over the course of 2022. There may also be implementation teams to assist with the implementation phase.
  - Phyllis Meadows moved, and Brandon Hofmeister seconded a motion to approve the 2022 meeting schedule. The schedule was approved unanimously by voice vote.
  - EGLE will send out calendar holds for the 2022 meetings.
- EGLE has been receiving a lot of feedback/comments.
  - Got a lot of good feedback at the listening sessions
  - And additional comments received from groups interested in this work
- **Summary of Current State programs Working Toward Climate Solutions**
  - Department of Natural Resources (DNR) (Dan Eichinger):
    - States largest landowner – 4.5 million acres of state-owned land. Much of their climate work has been focused on what they can do with the land they manage.
      - Develop markets around climate friendly building materials, e.g., mass timber.
        - Working with forest and building industry
        - Got funding for first mass timber governmental building in the state – being built in the UP
        - Encourage using timber from Michigan
    - Looking at how to be responsible demonstrators of renewable technology
      - Converting state facilities to renewable energy
      - Large renewable energy project in southwest Michigan
    - Working to convert marginal productive state land to utility scale solar
    - Figuring out ways to unlock carbon storage potential for forest systems
      - Well managed state forest system creates opportunities to generate revenue that can be put back into conservation efforts
    - Work in the applied space: places threatened most by climate change.
    - Looking at cold water river systems – steward these systems during a transitional phase

- House and welcome EV charging stations—make Michigan a destination, visitors able to hop from park to park
- Michigan Public Services Commission (MPSC) (Dan Scripps):
  - The Commission understands there is a transition taking place and they want to make sure the regulatory framework is ready for the task.
  - IRP framework gives MPSC a chance to look at the resource mix going forward
    - Including a model run that plans to meet the state’s targets
    - The framework is a key driver to adding renewable energy to the system.
  - Energy waste reduction: minimum requirements for energy waste reduction with incentives to overperform
  - Role in EVs, making sure the grid is ready to take this on.
    - EV planning and rates
  - Understanding climate impacts of infrastructure proposals: in the NEPA review, greenhouse gases (GHGs) must be considered in pipeline proposals
  - Much work that has been done is driven by customer demand
  - The Commission is also looking at distributed energy resources, engagement in regional transmission organizations, and transmission and market-based issues
- Treasury (Rachel Eubanks & Larry Steckelberg):
  - How are we supporting these communities during the transition?
    - Energy Transition Impact Project
    - Bringing in resources to help support communities that have or will be seeing a decline in community tax base
    - Engage communities on a locally driven level and create plans
      - Identify ideas/best practices that can be lifted to other communities
    - Bring in federal, state, and private investment
      - Put in an EDA application which came through June 2021
      - 1.3 million dollars and a planning grant to create a transitional plan for southwest Michigan
- Transportation (Director Ajegba & Niles Annelin)
  - How do we generate revenue? Nationwide conversation needs to happen.
  - Long-range plan (20-year) was recently finalized.
    - Multimodal plan
    - Includes a chapter in resiliency
    - Comprehensive vulnerability assessments

- Rightsizing the transportation network (freeing up roads for less-carbon intensive transportation)
- Transportation Asset Management Plan (10-year) updating this, due in 2022
  - Risk based strategy document
  - Identifies disturbed events and risks and calculates the cost of solutions
- Planning for extreme weather events have been incorporated into both of these planning documents
- Five-year plan that is updated every year
  - Studying water levels of the Great Lakes and how to protect investments in those areas
  - Developing an electrification strategic plan.
    - Staying at the forefront of the electric vehicle future
    - Preparing for funding from federal infrastructure plan
  - Already designating roadways as “alternative fuel ready” – aligning that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) “alternative fuel corridors”
- Economic Development (Quentin Messer and Steve Bakkal)
  - Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) closer partnership with EGLE to bring the right projects to Michigan
  - Aggressively working with utility partners for leading direction in this work
  - Leverage the land and terrain to attract people
  - Supporting the Governor’s goal through their strategic plan:
    - One focus area in the plan is around attracting businesses
    - Working with businesses and employees who are impacted by the transition
    - Meeting the renewable energy goals of companies
    - Promoting energy efficiency programs from utilities
    - Making connections across supply chains
    - More companies having pretty aggressive carbon reduction goals. Companies are asking the state if Michigan can help them reach climate goals. Opens the door for some companies. Can the state meet their demand?
  - 80-90% of resources go to existing companies.
    - Understanding their challenges and needs. They also may not be aware of what’s out there.
  - Michigan materials marketplace—are there opportunities to reuse these materials. Matching buyers with supplies
  - Advocating for dollars for tier 2 and 3 suppliers

- Significant amount of resources for community involvement for things such as technical assistance or brownfield redevelopment
- Emerging technologies to meet long-term carbon reduction goals.
  - A lot of great work happening at the universities
    - Responsible recycling of ion batteries
    - Michigan Technological University looking at circular economy
    - Funding through the entrepreneurship program
  - Technical assistance is needed to bring ideas to the market
- Dept. of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO), Director Susan Corbin and Judd Herzer
  - Employment and training focus on workforce development:
    - Building talent pipelines, addressing skill gaps, and creating career pathways for workers
      - MiREV
      - Michigan Energy Workforce Development Consortium
      - Going PRO Talent Fund
      - Michigan Learning & Education Advancement Program (MiLEAP)
      - Registered apprenticeships
    - Work-Based Learning – meeting current and future workforce needs, reducing turnover, and enhancing bottom lines
  - Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) – focus on green, energy efficient, affordable housing:
    - MI New Economy Proposal
    - 2022-2023 Qualified Allocation Plan
    - Property Improvement Program
    - Statewide House Plan
    - Neighborhood Enhancement Program
    - MSHDA MOD (modular home/modified technology products)
  - Office of Future Mobility and Electrification (OFME):
    - MI Council on Future Mobility & Electrification
    - Lake Michigan EV Circuit
    - REV-Midwest
    - American’s First wireless charging deployment
    - P3s to Deploy charging networks
    - EV Ready Communities Toolkit
    - National Park Service Mobility Partnership
    - Community focused electric robot delivery service
- Joseph Rivet, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) and Megan Groen, Department of Health and Human Services

(DHHS) will circulate their slides as there wasn't enough time to discuss their programs

- **Review Draft Outline of MI Healthy Climate Plan**
  - Introduction: lays out the context and impacts from climate change
  - Next three areas (energy production, transportation, and energy waste reduction in buildings), if there isn't action, the state will not meet its goals
  - Innovation was a topic in multiple workgroups, particularly around industrial sector
  - Ways to get involved and where people can plug in today
  - Roadmap of how the state can meet GHG reduction goals
  - Laying out current initiatives
  - Where federal money, matched with state money can meet goals
  - Topics for legislative discussion
  - Workgroup Recommendations
    - Highlight where there is an effort underway
    - Which recommendations need to happen first
    - Identify areas where an implementation plan is needed
  - Conclusion: this is a living document – it should be an ongoing dialogue
- **Council Member Discussion on Outline:**
  - Option for one-on-one meetings if council members would like to meet with EGLE over the next couple of weeks as the MI Healthy Climate Plan comes together.
  - Don't see the themes of resiliency and flexibility, particularly in the energy production and innovation section – thinking through the impacts of climate change on resiliency
  - Chat comment: This is a good first draft outline of the report. I recommend retitling the EE recommendation title to something like “Decarbonize our Homes and Businesses” or something along these lines. This makes the focus broader. While it is vitally important to focus on EE, I think we need to address electrification as well, and we can concentrate on EE and electrification at the same time.
  - Capture the weight of the actionable items for climate solutions, all interventions are not equal. Highlight the low-hanging fruit but also capture what items will have the most profound impact.
  - Reads like it's making the case for what we've done and what we think we need to do. Trying to find the balance between the rationale vs. the interventions and what it's going to mean for people (the audience reading the climate plan). The “so what” is very important to lift up.
  - Suggestion to add a visual representation of the intersectionality.
  - Highlight the workforce development opportunities – need to see “people” in the document

- Chat comment: The workforce component should be intertwined across our goals. Perhaps a section that discusses current initiatives and future needs so that folks working in this space deliberately can begin to look forward.
  - Workforce development piece could be framed around the future of the state. It's going to require a new set of players, including young people.
  - What are the economics of it all? It would be wise to indicate how we're going to leverage federal and private funds. We have to be transparent and honest on this.
  - Concern that the equity piece isn't reflected in the outline. It is a miss if we don't address this. We're missing people.
  - Want the final product to pop so coastal folks see us as leaders and not flyover territory. To Quentin and Steve's points, we should be #1 in site selection for new talent and climate solution providers while growing our home team. Maybe that will be the exec summary. Why Michigan: because of this plan.
    - Want to see a Michigan centric aspect to come through
    - Chat comment: Perhaps make a list of what sets Michigan's leadership apart and highlight these attributes. Mobility, manufacturing, use of natural systems, cold-climate energy transition leadership, justice, innovative partnerships. etc. What are we doing and leading on NOW. It's really all about what we do between now and 2030.
- **Next Steps (Liesl Clark, EGLE)**
  - The next meeting is January 11 from 1:00p.m.-3:00 p.m. Council members will receive a copy of the draft MI Healthy Climate Plan report prior to this.
  - There will also be a public comment period, and tribal consultation
  - Meeting materials and recordings are available at [Michigan.gov/climate](https://Michigan.gov/climate).
  - Comments can be sent to [EGLE-ClimateSolutions@Michigan.gov](mailto:EGLE-ClimateSolutions@Michigan.gov).
- **Adjournment**
  - The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

**\*Approved at January 11, 2022, Council on Climate Solutions meeting.\***