

Minutes of the November 24, 2020, ECOS Board Meeting

President Ralph Propper called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: ECOS Board Members: Ralph Propper, Robert Meagher, Janet Koster, Jon Ellison, Chris Brown, Susan Herre, Earl Withycombe, John Deeter, Chelsea Kelly-Reif, Sean Wirth, Nancy Hughett, Michael O'Sullivan, Gabriel Balensiefer, Laurie Litman, Betsy Weiland, Marko Pavlović, Andy Sawyer.

Guests: Anne Stausboll, Todd Smith, Muriel Strand, Lita Brydie, Peggy Kennedy, Oscar Balaguer, Angela Herring, Rory Pilling, Sandra Hall, Sue Teranishi, William Burg, Yesi Lopez-Ambriz, Kristin Michelle George Bagdanov, Quincy Stivers, Kari Bauer, Rick Codina, Dan Allison, Kent Lacin, Margaret Loehr, Tom Suchanek, Kathy Dodson, Melinda Kelley, Jerry Tardaguila

ECOS Staff: Alexandra Reagan.

I. Agenda and Minutes

Motion (Meagher, seconded by O'Sullivan): that the minutes of the September 22, 2020, ECOS board meeting, as amended, and the agenda of the November 24, 2020, ECOS board meeting be approved. Approved unanimously.

II. Climate Action Plans

Anne Stausboll, Chair of the Mayors' Commission on Climate Change, summarized the work and recommendations of the commission. The commission was launched in November 2018, and completed its work in June 2020. The commission does not have a continuing role. The commission's recommendations were primarily to the cities for their climate actions plan. With half of greenhouse gas emissions from transportation sources, a primary recommendation is to shift from car-centric mobility to emphasis of walking and bicycling, public transit and electric vehicle. For the built environment, the recommendations included electrification of buildings and land use reforms. City of Sacramento staff have prepared a crosswalk comparing the City's draft climate action plan to the commission's recommendations. In August 2020, the City committed to measures in furtherance of the commission's recommendations, with work on implementing those measures in progress. Opportunities for environmental advocates to engage before the Sacramento City Council include presentations at the December 1 and December 8 council meetings.

Todd Smith, Principal Planner, Sacramento County, reported that the county is moving ahead on preparation of its climate action plan, after putting the effort on hold pending the outcome of litigation over the San Diego plan. The county plans to adopt the plan in July 2020. An administrative draft climate action plan should be available for public review in January 2021. The county needs to find a way to encourage alternative transportation modes, including additional bicycle, pedestrian and transit use, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and benefit disadvantaged community. On December 16, the Board of Supervisors will consider adopting a climate emergency resolution.

III. Environmentalist of the Year Nominations

Michael O'Sullivan reported that the Environmentalist of the Year organizing committee will be putting out a call for nominations for award recipients.

IV. Board Elections

The nominating committee recommended the following officers for 2021:

- Ralph Propper—President
- Susan Herre—President Elect
- Brandon Rose—Immediate Past President
- Earl Withycombe—Treasurer
- Andy Sawyer—Secretary
- Nancy Hewett—Organizational Development Committee Chair
- Robert Meagher & Jon Ellison—Land Use Committee Chair
- John Deeter and Lynne Goldsmith—Transportation, Air Quality and Climate Change Committee Co-Chairs
- Sean Wirth and Rob Burness—Habitat 2020 Co-Chairs

Motion (Sawyer, seconded by Withycombe) that the ECOS board approve the recommended officers. Approved unanimously.

Jon Ellison reported that the nominating committee recommends for at large board members: Chelsey Kelley-Reif, Ron Maertz, Nailah Pope-Hardin, Chris Brown, Rory Pilling, Quincy Stivers, Lita Brydie, and Gabriel Balensiefer. Motion (Wirth, seconded by Balensiefer): that the ECOS Board approve the nominees as 2021 ECOS board members. Approved unanimously.

V. Reports

A. Organizational Development

Nancy Hughett reported that the Organizational Development Committee has been involved in fundraising. In connection with the end of the year fundraising letter, the committee is putting together a list of accomplishments. The committee requests that committee chairs and other ECOS activists send the committee information about accomplishments.

The committee is also considering whether next year would be an appropriate time to update ECOS's strategic plan.

B. Land Use

Robert Meagher reported that at recent meetings the Land Use Committee discussed the housing elements for Sacramento, Elk Grove and Rancho Cordova. At the November meeting, the committee reviewed a project in Rancho Cordova, a portion of which is in the American River floodplain. At its December and January meetings the committee will examine new state laws to encourage accessory dwelling units.

C. Transportation, Air Quality and Climate Change

John Deeter reported that at its November meeting the Transportation, Air Quality and Climate Committee discussed the Causeway Connection, which provides bus service between U.C. Davis and the U.C. Davis Medical Center and has received additional funding for electrification and to expand service to the public. A major focus of the committee is climate action plans. At its December 3 meeting the committee will hear speakers on light duty electric vehicles.

D. Habitat 2020

Sean Wirth reported that the Habitat 2020 water subcommittee is working on groundwater sustainability planning and the Water Forum. The habitat subcommittee is working on data. The full committee is working with Sierra Club California on frontloading money for habitat acquisition. The committee continues to work on the Delta Conveyance Project, the California Northstate University Medical Center project near the Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge and the Upper West Side project.

E. Treasurer

Earl Withycombe distributed by email a Treasurer's report for January through October 2020. ECOS has received a \$50,000 extension, for a third year of activity, under its grant from the California Endowment. In addition to its earlier Payroll Protection Program grant ECOS has received a \$5000 grant from the City of Sacramento. The City grant is subject to requirements to develop a business plan and not layoff our employees.

F. President

Ralph Propper reported on meetings with U.C. Davis and Wexford on Aggie Square. ECOS has commented on the environmental impact report for the project, but our comments have been largely ignored.

IV. Announcements

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) will discuss electronic scooters at its December 3 transportation meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.