

Orange County Commission for the Environment

Meeting Summary September 14, 2020; 7:30 pm *Virtual GoTo Meeting*

Present: Bradley Saul (Chair), Kim Piracci, Jaya Nair, Elizabeth McWhorter, Frank Binkowski, Kim Livingston, Bill Ward, James Eichel, Jody Eimers, Laura Doherty, Alan Parry, Jeremy Marzuola

Absent: Lynne Gronback, Carrie Fletcher

Staff: Brennan Bouma, Chris Hirni, David Stancil

I. Call to Order

Saul called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. New members introduced (4).

II. Additions or Changes to Agenda

None

III. Approval of Draft Minutes from February 10th & March 9th, 2020

Motion by Eichel; seconded by Eimers; none opposed; motion passed.

IV. CFE Activities – 2020

CFE discussed current activities with a brief status update for each item.

V. Lands Legacy Action Plan 2021-2024

C. Hirni presented memo requesting input from CFE for priority recommendations for the next three years of LLAP. CFE discussion focused on several priorities emphasizing connectivity, Natural Heritage Areas, wildlife corridors, climate resiliency projects, and cultural preservation in regards to farmland. Hirni will draft list of recommendations for initial review by Land Resources Committee to be presented at next meeting for CFE approval.

VI. Climate Action Tax & Climate Action Fund

B. Bouma provided a background of the Climate Action Tax and the past years efforts to distribute the Action Fund. The BOCC has passed new guidance for a more formal grant program and scoring system for this FY and future year's allocations. Timelines and application processes were shared and the CFE will be reviewing applications in the fall to early winter to submit ranking and then on for BOCC approval. Applicants will be held to guidelines set by the BOCC. Ranking Criteria has been updated with a new point scale. CFE discussed with Bouma the process of CFE review, ranking, applicant confidentiality, and mitigation specifics.

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VII. Updates and Information Items

- K. Piracci and C. Hirni provided information regarding the Research Triangle Logistics Park development proposal. Piracci is on the planning board and provided background to the board's decision. Hirni provided information regarding a DEAPR submitted memo which outlined stream protections and a NHA within the tract.
- Hirni notified the CfE of Duke Forests recently released Recreational Impact Statement.

VIII. Adjournment

Piracci motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 pm; seconded by Marzuola; none opposed; motion passed.