

Climate & Environment Council

April 25, 2025

9 –11 a.m.

MARC Board Room

600 Broadway, Ste. 200 Kansas City, Mo 64105

Agenda

Attendance

Members

Lemmart Holman, Spire
Carl Stafford, My Region Wins
Stacia Perron, Kansas City Zoo and Aquarium
Elizabeth Snell, Mid-America Arts Alliance
Kala Isch, City of Overland Park
Beth Sarver, Schlagel High School
Emily Randel, Climate Action KC
Dana Knapp, ArtsKC
Luz Ortiz, Wyandotte County Health Equity Task Force
Elizabeth Danforth, Evergy
Jensen Adams, City of Kansas City, Mo
Christina Hoxie, Hoxie Collective
Lisa Maione, Kansas City Art Institute
Leslie Scott, Re.Use.Ful
Jay Jones, MORE²
Xue Wood, City of North Kansas City
Josh Thede, Mission Sustainability Commission
Drew Arends, Metropolitan Energy Center
Antwan Daniels,

MARC Staff

Karen Clawson
Tom Jacobs
Martin Rivarola
Natalie Unruh
Joe Gauer
Ashley Sadowski
Emily Roundtree, NOAA
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1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Approval of March meeting minutes*

The Minutes for April was APPROVED.

3. CEC 2025 Workplan Summary of Comments

Karen Clawson provided an overview of workplan comments. She noted that a lot of the CCE workplan will revolve around the climate action plan development, including engagement, scenario planning, etc. There was also a big theme of amplifying the work that is already going on. There could be a resource we develop that maps what is already having in the region and how we can champion and pump up those projects. Amplifying can manifest in many ways, including storytelling, case studies, network building. There were also a lot of project ideas that were discussed. Some mentioned including resilience hubs, green infrastructure and emergency preparedness. There was also a conversation around policy with a suggestion about focusing on sustainable development code.

Carl Stafford mentioned sometimes people don't see themselves in these projects, but he can see himself and how he can contribute to the projects. Leslie Scott said that the more storytelling we can do the better. She said we also need to give people digestible bites of what they can do or what people are already doing. It feels insurmountable to an individual sometime, so providing information on where the resources are is important. Beth Sarver spoke about the importance of coordination. Christina Hoxie spoke about the opportunity to coordinate the coming together of policy committees at MARC. She said that the CCE is meant to be a policy committee. All the good work that was shared in the meeting should be shared a lot more broadly. As an example, we discussed how language impacts the work and who participates in the work. She posed this question: How do all the different policy committees come together to inform each other to make each other stronger, to have a bigger standing in the region? Carl Stafford spoke about the importance of validation and that projects should be integrated into the plans as part of the investment. Jay Jones and Leslie Scott spoke about neighborhood investment and how engagement and empowerment should be part of that.

Tom summarized the discussion and the themes he heard of amplification and validation. He said we will bring this back next month.

4. Connected KC 2050 – Final Draft for Public Review and Comment

Martin Rivarola provided a review of the final draft of the Connect KC metropolitan transportation plan that is currently open for final public comment and review. MARC is required to update this plan every five years so that we can spend transportation dollars in the region. The plan includes priorities and strategies that support our collective vision for the future of transportation in the region.

We identified in this plan areas of future work that will need to be done, including how we advance transit, and how to expand transportation funding, in general. Martin encouraged the committee to go online to review the plan and leave comments before May 30. He also asked members to share out this opportunity for public comment. MARC staff will summarize all of the feedback and present that to the Total Transportation Policy Committee and the MARC Board in June.

Leslie Scott asked about where we included marriage and birth rates in the plan. Martin said that we have done some initial analysis and what we've seen in the data is that areas where there are high marriage and births rates look very similar to areas with higher-than-average number of low-income and minority populations. Future versions of the plan will include this analysis.

5. Climate Action Plan Update – Scenario Planning

Karen Clawson presented the concept of scenario planning to the council and how it will benefit the climate action planning process. She said her objective for this conversation was to get feedback on how to frame up the scenarios. She said the scenarios will help refine the plan's strategies and set sector-based targets. Generally, scenario planning is an approach where we look at a slate of different plausible futures. The first step at developing scenarios involves thinking about possible drivers. Drivers typically fall into the following categories: economic, social, political, technological, environmental, and ethical. Karen Clawson showed examples of drivers that had come out of internal conversations so far and draft scenarios. The draft scenarios include business-as-usual and business-as-planned scenarios as well as low carbon scenarios that reflect a more gradual transition and a more aggressive transition. These scenarios

are in draft form and may change. Members' feedback was to simplify as much as possible so it is understandable for different people and create a more aggressive scenario where we are making sharp cuts in the short-term.

6. Language Review for Planning and Communications

Karen Clawson that MARC staff is reviewing language used in relation to the climate action plan, the climate newsletter, etc. to make the language more accessible and avoid using jargon. MARC may also want to change the name of the CEC and staff are looking for feedback on this. Carl Stafford suggested "Wealthy Neighborhoods Plan."

7. Other Business

- a. No other business.