



Agenda/Notes

Office of Governor Tina Kotek
RJC Environment Equity Committee
August 20, 2025 – Virtual
1:00-2:30pm

MEMBERS

E	Dr. Alai Reyes-Santos	X	Cheyenne Holliday	X	Jill Fuglister
X	Ana Molina	X	Clara Soh		
X	Dr. Bob Komoto	X	Janet Komoto		

OTHER ATTENDEES

	Andre Bealer	X	Javier Cervantes	X	Chandra Ferrari
	Amy Schlusser	X	Yasmin Solorio		Jonna Papaefthimiou
X	Anca Matica				

Topic/Lead	Notes/Main Points	Decisions/Action Items
Learning about Environmental Justice Council, scope, next steps and overlap with EEC and future - Anca Matica <ul style="list-style-type: none">Next steps	<p><i>Javier and Ana welcome members.</i></p> <p><i>Members respond to prompt "Name and why you enjoyed this summer so far".</i></p> <p>Anca: Environmental Justice Council (EJC), evolved from the Environmental Justice Taskforce (EJTF). Has been around for such a long time and has evolved from a taskforce to a more in statute body of work. It has expanded quite a lot. There's quite a disconnect between new and longer standing members. It should have 13 appointed members but has only 6 roles filled. We see, as a new phase for the EJC – we can take a look at the new charge council and opportunities to right side the foundational pieces for reset. We are working with DEQ to bring on Ben Duncan to help with facilitation of EJC for next four months. Ben Dunkin is a founding member of the EJTF and has a deep involvement of this work. He is a strong person to mediate that strong pathway for clear priorities of the EJC. Folks see some of the work of this committee, the Environmental Equity Committee (EEC), like your water equity work, and ask why can't they do similar work.</p> <p>I'm looking for interested parties who want to be part of this next phase to set EJC priorities for the future. They have more statutory obligations than this committee. There is a lot of opportunity there, a way to help alleviate stretched capacity amongst common groups. How do we help ensure the work of the two bodies uplifts things as a whole.</p> <p>I want to have that decision making process is led by the committee members. The type of work or questions or advice</p>	

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**Learning about
Environmental
Justice Council,
scope, next steps
and overlap with
EEC and future**

and time commitments for the next 3-6 months will look different than it will in the future.

Javier: Let's start off with questions. There is a lot of overlap and unique and mutually exclusive work.

Clara: I'm year 3 on EEC. Still not entirely certain how all the parts work together - EEC, RJC, EJC. I know there is a statute but I only know what we (EEC) do and less up to date on specifics and mandates for other groups. It would be helpful for me to have that basic understanding first.

Anca: I'll let Javier speak to EEC and RJC. EJC is separate from EEC. The acronym is similar; the bodies of work are different. The EEC aligns with the RJC function. The definition for EJC is vary vague.

Javier: There are six subcommittees under the RJC. Governor listens to the RJC and committees. We had a good conversation over the last session that we focused on and pushed them in front of legislators. We got some things in various areas but didn't get everything given current forecast conditions and federal landscape. We do have representation in forward facing connection with Ana and Tiffany bi-monthly.

Jill: Curious if EJC is going to have responsibilities related to the forthcoming community climate investment program that's coming out of the climate protection program.

Anca: Unsure, will look into it and get back to you.

Jill: It's actually going to create another environmental justice focused board or committee that's specific to that program. Just flagging, because if thats the case there will be a third arm that's not connected to DEQ and could be tricky to recruit folks.

Anca: Applying for EJC is a governor appointed position, can be done on a monthly basis and isn't senate confirmed. We are finalizing that scope agreement and want to get his thoughts on recruitment. We want to help get those foundational pieces going to make these decisions. No time crunch to join, can join anytime.

Javier: Are these public meetings?

Anca: I believe yes. It's currently set for October.

Janet: What does the ideal candidate for the EJC look like? Are you looking for someone in law background and is interested in environment or just someone that works in the

Anca will look into and report back on possible EJC responsibilities related to the forthcoming community climate investment program that's coming out of the climate protection program.

	<p>environmental space?</p> <p>Anca: The statue goes into the criteria but is very vague. If you have background, perspective, lived experience, you don't have to necessarily be an attorney or degree. Just looking for folks who are engaged and passionate for environmental justice and want to make a difference.</p>	
<p>• Review Previous Priorities (Chandra) and Identify New Priorities (All) - Remaining Time</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update New Priorities Template 	<p>Javier: Engaging legislators during legislative Days in September. Review where things fell and provide insight for our committees work with agencies. Giving input and partnering on projects going forward. This may be an area where we create a working relationship with the EJC. That may be something we do, as an idea.</p> <p><i>Javier shares "EEC workplan"</i></p> <p>Chandra: The same pressures that Javier was mentioning were present this past session as well. Less general funds this go around, in addition high profile sticky topics on end of session bill. Those big ticket asks did not advance.</p> <p>Resiliency hub money did not advance. Even though that was advocated for in the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB). A lot of the work in these buckets have been leveraged with federal dollars. It was easier to move it with those dollars but since money is tied up, it's harder. We are anticipating a big piece of the short session is going to be around where and how or if we can backfill those federal dollar gaps. While we don't see a lot of money to expand these at present, we are engaging in some of these efforts in our office. Our team and state resiliency officer are engaging in efforts. We can have Jonna join us again for an update on her work and meeting with communities.</p> <p>Javier: Clean drinking water updates?</p> <p>Chandra: Environmental justice positions you noted here did not materialize. Disappointing. We did get a few things across the finish line. We did get the groundwater bill across the finish line to clean contamination. Rep Hartman's bill in those areas for groundwater contamination now. There were some funds that went forward including for the well abandonment repair replacement fund. I believe \$1M went into that fund which is great, then some funds into the water project grants and loans program.</p> <p>Javier: That's a partial win.</p> <p>Chandra: Pesticide certification did not move forward, was stuck in Ways and Means. Community Navigator program did</p>	<p>Javier/Chandra to invite Jonna P. to next meeting</p> <p>Chandra requests for ODOE to come back to give update on pesticide work</p> <p>Inviting Kelly Brooks after short session for update on transportation</p> <p>Javier to share final revised workplan to EEC members by end of next week.</p>

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**Review Previous
Priorities**

not move forward. DLCD Climate Resiliency and Natural Hazard Planning. There is a missing role now that was the connector.

Clara: Is this for short session or more broadly?

Javier: More broadly.

Clara: Is there any opportunity to put our thought behind transportation and how we can impact environmental equity relating to transportation? If we're so constrained, we could at least put our weight behind something already existing.

Chandara: Short session is little more constrained - focusing more on the staffing issue. Though that is an area we could look at but it may be harder to go through short session.

Jill: Would be interesting to hear from Rep Pham on her thoughts relating to transportation and what's emerging.

Javier: I don't think we've had much connection with ODOT, can be an opportunity to get information.

Clara: A minimal to no-cost priority could be renaming of "water master". It's a zero-cost change that could be done. Actions that we can take, that can pass the hurdle of Ways and Means, and budget. We as a group might have to look at things that might not have much of a cost to it. If people were being charged in the bill, making sure there was equity in outdoor recreation. Maybe we should look at priorities around resiliency and water to reconfigure them to make suggestions on actions that don't have a budgetary impact.

Ana: Thinking of non-budget type bills, what are ways we in Oregon can strengthen our current laws in place that do have environmental protections. Through water, air, etc.

Clara: A lot of our visioning we did was done before all the disarray at federal level. It is important to ask for things that are realistic in the current environment.

Bob: On pesticide education, maybe an idea could be OSU extension teaching the classes but having them teach it in Spanish. Some of the chemical companies that disbursed those chemicals, maybe the mandate should be to have materials printed in Spanish. Having them do it vs having it through the state.

Chandra: These are great. Targeted asks and shifting budget of impact away from the state. I'll note there was legislation during first Trump administration, if you move backwards from EPA, we will keep a certain level of protection. Something

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Review Previous Priorities

similar might be helpful with other statutes and rules as we see more roll back. We might want to think about those.

Cheyenne: My brain went to looking at environmental rights act in 2019 for Oregon. It might be time to update that.

Javier: One of the other committees is working to make recommendations to update an executive order. Those things can be symbolic in nature, and it means something when we say we want to see. Doesn't cost us money, a symbolic gesture – this is just an example on some other committees work.

Ana: “An Environmental Rights Amendment to our Constitution”.

Anca:

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Measures/Overview/SJR28>

Ana: Deep dive webinar Aug 27th that other states are doing for environmental work. https://climate-exchange.org/event/environmental-rights-amendments-a-constitutional-approach-to-state-climate-policy/?utm_source=event-blast&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=8-25-eras-one-week&emci=6a45db54-4b7c-f011-b481-6045bdf8e9c&emdi=a4788d2f-0d7d-f011-b481-6045bda9d23e&ceid=25456109

Jill: Another issue to put on our radar for learning and potential longer-term action is the Climate Change Superfund Act effort that didn't move forward last session, but the idea is that it would allow individuals harmed by climate disasters to bring action against emitters to recover damages. A few states have these laws. Would be interested to learn about it with the group.

Chandra: Was a legislative effort this past session. It definitely got attention but don't remember exactly but know it got killed. Was intriguing to a lot of folks.

Anca: Oregon Environmental Restoration Funds for restoration fund is currently being pulled together. Appointments are being made and they're going to start to determine the investment policy and the distribution-like schema for the various funds that came out of the Monsanto settlement agreement we had. The State of Oregon got one of the largest awards in the IT, was something close to \$700 million. That's going to be a large body of work that I think will require a lot of perspective, guidance, and advice from the committee.

(Continued) Review Previous Priorities	Javier: Are we comfortable with what we've come up with? <i>Committee members give approval.</i> Javier: Will try to have this priority document cleaned up and out to folks by end of next week. <i>Next Committee meeting is October 15, 2025, at 1:00pm.</i> <i>Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm.</i>	
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Materials	 EEC Workplan.pdf	
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Zoom Chat

13:03:17 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:

EEC-Agenda: Wednesday, August 20, 1 PM

- Learning about Environmental Justice Council, scope, next steps and overlap with EEC and future o (Anca Matica) 15 minutes and 10 minutes for Q&A.
- Review Previous Priorities and Identify New Priorities (Remaining Time)-Chandra/All o Update Template (All)

13:03:18 From Clara to Hosts and panelists:

Hi everyone! I'm in Norway on vacation and am eating dinner so am going to keep my camera off until I finish chewing. 😊

13:03:49 From Clara to Hosts and panelists:

10 pm but it doesn't get dark until 11 so I forgot to eat

13:04:40 From Clara to Hosts and panelists:

Not yet! But I want to see them also! The weather is very much like portland, raining every day!

13:04:57 From Chandra Ferrari, Governor's Office to Hosts and panelists:

I'm also off camera for a bit while I finish lunch

13:09:38 From jillfuglister to Hosts and panelists:

Going off camera to go find my charger.

13:12:19 From jillfuglister to Hosts and panelists:

Happy Birthday!

13:12:20 From Clara to Hosts and panelists:

Happy birthday!

13:13:17 From Anca Matica (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

beautiful

13:13:26 From Ana Molina to Hosts and panelists:

We have Cheyenne, Anca, and Chandra left

13:38:27 From Anca Matica (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

Anca.Matica@Oregon.Gov / 971-398-5853

13:40:28 From Anca Matica (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

<https://www.oregon.gov/gov/policies/pages/environmental-justice-council.aspx>

13:46:09 From Ana Molina to Hosts and panelists:

Can you zoom in on it Javier?

13:46:26 From Ana Molina to Hosts and panelists:

Thank you!

13:46:38 From Javier Cervantes, Gov. Office (El, He, Him, His) to Hosts and panelists:

Sure thing!

14:09:22 From Yasmin Solorio, She her, Gov Office to Hosts and panelists:

Our next meeting as a committee will be on October 15th

14:09:54 From Ana Molina to Hosts and panelists:

Would be after Legislative Days

14:19:13 From Anca Matica (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Measures/Overview/SJR28>

14:19:43 From Cheyenne Holliday (she/her), Verde to Hosts and panelists:

That is who I was thinking about

14:20:12 From Ana Molina to Hosts and panelists:

https://climate-xchange.org/event/environmental-rights-amendments-a-constitutional-approach-to-state-climate-policy/?utm_source=event-blast&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=8-25-eras-one-week&emci=6a45db54-4b7c-f011-b481-6045bdf8e9c&emdi=a4788d2f-0d7d-f011-b481-6045bda9d23e&ceid=25456109

14:21:49 From Jill Fuglister (she/her) to Hosts and panelists:

Another issue to put on our radar for learning and potential longer term action is the climate change superfund act effort that didn't move forward last session, but the idea is that it would allow individuals harmed by climate disasters to bring action against emitters to recover damages. A few states have these laws.

14:29:05 From Yasmin Solorio, She her, Gov Office to Hosts and panelists:

Confirming RJC meets Sept 18th (virtual)

Environmental Equity Committee Workplan

Priority	Goal/Objective/Timeline	What actions need to be taken to achieve/advocate for the goal/objective?	Responsibilities (Lead)
1. Community Resilience Hubs with the Office of Emergency Management	<p>Note: What hubs exist now? Before we can move on a recommendation we need to know more (Chandra/Karin). Have OEM/Jonna come in and share what these are.</p> <p>Grants that were awarded and projects that were not funded, what hubs now? What are the needs are? Prioritizations on applications the state received? Is Oregon trying to get \$ from the feds?</p>	<p>Jonna will be presenting on this in February.</p> <p>Jonna presented (2.19.25) possible advocacy on HB 3170 Resiliency Hub</p>	Support letter being drafted (Ana, Tiffany, and Alai) 4-8-25. Karin reviewing the letter 4-11-25.
<p>2. Water Equity/Clean Drinking Water for Underserved Communities with the Oregon Water Resources Department</p> <p>a. Support for hiring two communication staff</p> <p>b. Environmental Justice Position</p>	<p>Get a list of new LC's (Chandra) Once we get those LC's: Prioritize (Group).</p> <p>Learn more about the language for Gov. Recomm. Budget (GRB):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resiliency and funds for Response Program • Drinking Water Source • Well Abandonment Repair and Replacement Fund (WARRF) • Communications Improvements for Accessibility 	<p>Status (2.19.25) Chandra will share the slides from presentation. Committee will study slides and identify which water items to advocate (letter or testimony)</p> <p>Next step is to make sure members see the slides from Chandra and select which water safety issue to prioritize.</p>	Support letter being drafted (Ana, Tiffany, and Alai) 4-8-25. Karin reviewing the letter 4-11-25.

	Next step Chandra will share language about each of the previous four GRB asks.		
3. Department of Agriculture: Pesticide Certification-Education/Curriculum in Multiple Languages (Spanish)	<p>Monitor and receive status reports on where LC's (there is a bill number HB 3010 sponsored by Rep. Helms, Ownes and Neron) are related to Pesticide Certification.</p> <p>Chandra will share GRB language to the committee.</p>	<p>Committee wants to support this HB 3010. Will wait on guidance from GO on how to advocate.</p> <p>Status 2.19.25: It appears that committee is ready to support advocacy on pesticide training in Spanish.</p>	<p>Tiffany and Ana to help with organizations of advocacy "leg work."</p> <p>Status 3.19.25: Ana to draft letter (with Alai) for committee review. Letter will be for Ways and Means, overall support for EEC items (given session timeline).</p> <p>Support letter being drafted (Ana, Tiffany, and Alai) 4-8-25. Karin reviewing the letter 4-11-25.</p>
<p>4. Support Oregon Department of Energy incentive program dollars and the community navigator program</p> <p>a. Make sure they target most vulnerable people and populations</p>	<p>ODOE Community Navigator we want to make that current levels are maintained (maintenance of effort). Make sure vulnerable communities are priorities (renters receive equal or first notice of priority as well as home/property owners).</p> <p>Federal dollars are available (existing programs can be augmented with these funds).</p>	<p>Find out baseline information, who have navigators been interacting with (ie, distribution of outreach, who knows about this? Who has access to this?).</p> <p>Invite ODOE to give a status update.</p> <p>Status (2.19.25): Heard back from ODOE. Will provide slides to study if there is an area for advocacy.</p>	<p>Karin will do outreach to invite to February. ODOE presented 2.19.25.</p>
<p>5. Department of Land Conservation and Development Budget Climate Resiliency and Natural Hazard Planning</p> <p>a. Ex. Wildfires</p>	<p>What is "case management software?" (need more clarity on that).</p> <p>How is outreach happening for emergency resilience and can we have a back-up communications for immigrant communities, people with disabilities? Can</p>	<p>Get a report back on what "case management software."</p> <p>Fact-finding. What happens in the rest of the state. Are there best practices (ICS/FEMA structure—these agency structures not very flexible).</p>	<p>Support letter being drafted (Ana, Tiffany, and Alai) 4-8-25 Karin reviewing the letter 4-11-25.</p>

	<p>we use radio as a way to distribute the message.</p> <p>Outreach also done beyond government agencies/officials to reach the most people (localized credible messengers). Create relationships now. Create chain of emergency communication.</p> <p>Land Use: Is there a focus on equity consideration related to the budget? What resources are being allocated? How do they do this? Is it sufficiently resourced?</p>	<p>*Understanding the various agencies that are working on Emergency Management as a priority bucket for the committee.</p> <p>Find opportunities to collaborate with HEHS Committee.</p> <p>Was there a report back on the Equity Audits? If this happened, where did this land? Share REIS/Diversity Action Plan results. Engage agencies for updates on REIS/Diversity Action Plan.</p>	
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Previous notes from Priority 2. Identify and map wells that need to be prioritized (and who is our underserved communities)?

*Look at Malheur County/Umatilla County examples. Answer: No. no authority of domestic wells.

Well repairs; is there a way to pay contractors directly that is not reimbursement based (Fish and Wildlife have a new model to distribute grants to be or accessible, look at that model). Answer: no. Not with current rules.

Priority 3

Short Session will be budget focused and backfilling.

Priorities for agencies. Reaffirm over-arching priorities to agencies and invite them to connect. August creating list of agencies to reconnect with those priorities. Invite Jonna P. for August to hear from her again.

LC's, Policy, Implementation

Communication list from Anca to help guide discussion.

Clean water LUBGWMA connected to Priority 2.

Priorities: What is the status of previous priorities?	Can the previous priorities be advocated for further?	New priorities: is there policy or agency implementation that should be prioritized? If yes, what are they, and who are the agencies the committee can collaborate with? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Framing: Preservation of existing efforts
#1 Did not advance	Possible partnering with Jonna and hearing how EEC can engage and provide feedback on grant dollar	Theme: Realistic and Pragmatic in the Current Environment: What things can we do that are cost neutral. Ways to engage that don't have a financial impact. Strengthen current laws for protections
#2 Some areas did get funding Ground water. Well water abandonment; water testing did advance	How can the EEC engage on implementation?	Priority: Resiliency ODOE Jonna OEM DLCD: Natural Hazzard
#3 Did not advance past W/M committee		
#4 Nothing went forward here		Priority: Possible effort to engage with EJC
#5 Did not get funded		Priority: Oregon Environmental Restoration Funds (Monsanto \$) Rule Develop feedback how dollars go out