

Chelan County Climate Resiliency Round Table - Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 17th, 2022

2:00pm-4:00pm

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

Minutes

Joint Panels Presentations

- Forest Management/Snowpack Retention (USFS)
 - See PDF in Meeting Materials
- Smoke and Ag Worker Outreach Efforts (Café)
 - See PDF in Meeting Materials

Small Committee Breakout Sessions

- See Notes for each Breakout Session in Meeting Materials
 - Forest Health/Wildfire
 - Water Resources
 - Public Health/Vulnerable Communities
 - Education and Outreach

Round Table Discussion (Lisa)

- Updates/comments/feedback
 - Ramping up community engagement increased public engagement and participation and was beneficial
 - May need to restructure meeting format in 2023 to allow for more Small Committee breakout time, a lot of great discussion and dialogue spurred from the panel discussions, and not enough time to cover all the great ideas
 - May need to think about how to accommodate folks who want to participate in multiple small committees
 - Positive feedback on panel discussion content and connection to prioritization process
 - Small Committees may be touching base in December via email or Zoom to finalize prioritization for 2023
- Next steps (Lisa)
 - Small committees: submit top two priority actions to Lisa Dowling and Ben Floyd by 12/30/22
 - Lisa/Ben: compile action items into draft CCCRRT Work Plan to share with Executive team in January for feedback

- Lisa/Ben: Incorporate feedback in to final CCCRRT Work Plan and present during Feb.16th meeting
- Lisa: Work to plan a ‘Funding Strategy Summit’ for Feb. 16th – large group presentation and discussion

2023 Meeting Schedule

- February 16th ~ 2-4pm
- May 18th ~ 2-4pm
- August 17th ~ 2-4pm
- November 16th ~ 2-4pm

Meeting Access Information

- In-Person: Confluence Technology Center
[Google Map Link](#)

Address: 285 Technology Center Way #102

Wenatchee, WA 98801

- Virtual: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/87124256825?pwd=SQXrTXRiU2VTSolUQ1ZEU2daMDFsZz09>

Meeting ID: 871 2425 6825

Passcode: 290949

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Find your local number: <https://uso6web.zoom.us/j/kcZiaMQCFW>

**Chelan County Climate Resilience
Public Health and Vulnerable Communities Sub-Committee
November 17, 2022**

Meeting Participants:

Brian Patterson, Zackery Thill (UW), Laura Rivera (CAFE), Bryan Maloney (CCNRD), Steve Maher, Alma Chacon (CAFE), Kathryn Watson

Joint presentation with Education & Outreach committee: Clean Air I Care (Me Importa El Aire Limpio) - smoke and agricultural worker outreach study (Café)

Questions/ Comments on Clean Air I Care presentation:

- Indoor air quality applies to all drafty homes
- Are orchard workers paid by hour? NO, paid by pound harvested, so there is strong incentive to keep working
- Childcare assistance is hard to access for undocumented children
- Are there emergency notifications on air quality? Yes, they are limited (only from chelan county emergency management on facebook) and translated poorly. No staff available to translate and no budget to translate.
- CAFÉ is developing a translating service
- Are PPE required by state or federal regulation to protect workers from smoke? Employers would post information in English but not in Spanish. No n95 masks were provided, workers needed to obtain their own. Masks provided were surgical (i.e., for covid).
- Were construction workers included in the study? No
- Expired L&I labor during wildfire smoke: what is the progress for new rule? Emergency rule expired in September (2022). This ruling required plan or training once AQI exceeds 67. The rule also states that masks should have been provided, suggesting there is a gap in enforcement.
- Do labor rules apply to all workers equally? Rule should apply to employers, rather than employees, so could apply to documented and undocumented workers. Link to ruling: <https://lni.wa.gov/rulemaking-activity/AO22-21/2221CR103EAdoption.pdf>
- Café is having monthly meetings with L&I
- We need better outreach about general smoke health impacts
- CAFÉ suggestions after study:
 - o Need legislative rules to prevent working when AQI is bad
 - o Affordable childcare programs regardless of status
 - o Need to provide masks to workers
 - o Provide information about smoke health impacts (short and long term)
 - o Provide cost-share info for protecting homes and children from smoke exposure – e.g., DNR assessments for houses and then covers some costs

Discussion about stakeholder engagement needs and tools:

Stakeholder Engagement

- I. Identify vulnerable groups
 - a) DNR home assessments on structures and land for fire risk assessment. (existing program)
 - b) CDHD survey to determine who has:
 - i) appropriate indoor air filtration
 - ii) adequate A/C
 - c)
- II. Targeted outreach to vulnerable groups
 - a) workshop with farm workers – training and information
 - b) series of climate resilience workshops with general public to inform about climate resilience topics
 - c) town halls to disperse information, learn about risks, provide resources
 - d) NOAA-funded NCRC – small grants program in December '22 / January '23 to fund programs for community outreach of frontline communities – webinar in January - (Zack Thill will share when available)
 - e) Our Valley Our Future is working on outreach materials related to wildfire resilience.

Here is the link to the PDF of the OVOF Action Plan:
<http://www.ourvalleyourfuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/OVOF-Action-Plan-2022-26-single-pages.pdf>

The Regional Wildfire Prevention, Preparedness & Recovery initiative can be found on Page 19.
 - f)
- III. Provide resources to vulnerable groups
 - a) DNR cost-share program to fund fire risk improvements
 - b) PUD cost-share program to replace windows and replace roofing
 - c) CAFÉ and DNR working with one community to increase fire resilience
 - i) CAFÉ has been providing air quality kits (fans and filters)
 - ii) CAFÉ has provided evacuation kits during town halls
 - iii) CAFÉ will provide N95 masks
 - iv) town halls for (1-hour zoom mtg) to disperse information, learn about risks, provide resources
 - d)
- IV. Suggest intervention if necessary (e.g., influence policy)
- V. Help communities adapt to climate change
- VI.

Identify actions implementable in 2023:

Climate Resiliency Round Table 11/17/22

Forest Health and Wildfire Small Committee Session Notes

Participants: Patrick Haggerty (Cascadia CD), Ron Gibbs (Chelan PUD), Erin McKay (Chelan County), Sofia Bjorklund (Chelan County), Steve Maher (Our Valley Our Future), Tucker Furniss (USFS Research Station), Ryan Williams (Cascadia CD).

Presentation by Tucker Furniss from USFS Research Station on snowpack retention modeling in landscape evaluation and treatment priority assessments.

Small Committee Session Goal: Select one or two priorities for short-term action within the Climate Resiliency (updated from list of priorities developed at 8/18 meeting):

Priority: Central website/information hub for public to access resources for increasing fire resiliency within communities, with a social media component. All agencies/entities will need to contribute information/links/updates. This is a high priority for Our Valley Our Future Action Plan, and Cascadia Conservation District has applied for a grant and may be the appropriate lead.

Update from Our Valley Our Future: Our Valley Our Future Action Plan includes a Regional Wildfire Preparedness objective, including bilingual outreach and a plan to guide fire recovery efforts. So this priority is already underway through OVOF and Cascadia will be assisting with that effort and has also applied for grant funding to further the effort.

Consensus: This will remain a priority for short term implementation, with the understanding that it is already underway and the role of the Small Committee will be to continue to check in on the effort and see how different groups can support the effort and contribute to getting messaging spread broadly.

Priority: Continue ongoing efforts to improve forest health and wildfire resiliency through thinning, Rx burning, managed wildfire, but increase emphasis on science-driven prescriptions that create more resilient landscapes in terms of climate change and increased moisture deficit/decreased snowpack.

- Utilize tools like Snow2Flow to prioritize treatments on a landscape to increase snowpack retention (aspect, forest type, treatment type, etc). Including clumps and gaps in treatment prescription is typically most beneficial for snowpack retention.
- Emphasize ICO (Individual Clumps and Openings) treatment approach to mimic natural conditions and increase resiliency to drought and insect.
- Focus on restoration of burned areas
- Utilize moisture deficit modeling to apply treatments to shift forest structure in areas most vulnerable to drought (favor drought tolerant species in prescriptions)

Consensus: This will remain a priority for short term implementation, with the following actions identified as possible pathways toward implementation

- Work with DNR to develop a fact sheet for practitioners that can help guide the integration of snowpack retention priorities into landscape unit selection and prescriptions
- Hold workshop for foresters and practitioners to increase understanding of applications
- Work to develop courses for loggers to help increase contractor understanding of prescriptions that promote snowpack retention goals (potentially through WSU extension)
- Have a representative at NCWFHC to keep messaging about the importance of incorporating unit prioritization and prescriptions for snowpack retention at the forefront
- Work with DNR (Derek Churchill, Chuck Hersey) to increase understanding about how this fits into the Forest Restoration Strategy update

Priority: Address contractor shortage before it becomes a bottleneck in getting treatments done. Collaborate with agencies to provide educational courses for contractors on things like federal contracting and grant programs/agency agendas to give contractors the confidence to scale up at the appropriate times. Strategize amongst agencies on how to provide consistent funding to contractors to enable the scale-up.

Consensus: This does not need to be a priority for implementation at this time, because there are other issues that need to be addressed first and this does not seem to be an issue currently. This issue may resolve itself as other issues are addressed.

Priority: Increase air quality outreach and education – this may fit better into the outreach and education small committee.

Consensus: This should not be a priority for the Forest Health/Wildfire Small Committee because it is being addressed through other Small Committees

CCCCRT meeting 11/17/22

Education and Outreach Subcommittee:

1. Clean Air I Care presentation by Savannah D'Evelyn of UW School of Public Health and Laura Rivera of Café, in collaboration with PNASH= PNW Ag Safety and Health Center of UW

10 Focus groups in Chelan and Okanogan County with farmworker parents concerned about smoke exposure for their children. In 2021, Okanogan County had 41% of days/year with AQI of moderate or worse. Two Town Hall meetings organized around meeting results at Pybus and OK Fairgrounds with three key areas of health effects of smoke exposure, related childcare issues, and mental well-being living and working in poor air quality.

Town Halls were appreciated because not just written material in Spanish but actually conducted in Spanish so those with lower Spanish literacy could have a forum to discuss these issues.

Outcomes:

- Need more resources to prepare farmworkers and their homes for smoke events—eg. Filters and Cost-Share programs
- Need more resources to prepare worksites for smoke events—N95 masks, Spanish evacuation communications
- Worksite response to smoke/high AQI is unpredictable
- Need more accessible childcare in summer, including for undocumented and immigrants
- Need ways for families to cope with stress of smoke and evacuations
- Need more smoke safety related information for farmworker parents—oral platforms are better

2. ED & Outreach subcommittee reviewed the survey results. Takeaways include the need for broad public education and engagement about climate resiliency and what we can do to increase it. Target audiences are Chelan County residents, business owners, planners/policy makers, municipalities, and landowners near streams.

Discussion:

- Stakeholder engagement—press release for events, use Chamber of Commerce, partner with Public Health group initiatives
- Chelan County Good Neighbor Handbook needs updating to include emergency response to disasters/climate resiliency and translating into Spanish. Find funding for this.
- Spanish radio station have a weekly segment “minute” about emergency disaster response to address the need for verbal not just written communications
- Work with Café to access a network of Spanish language translators
- Since conversations about climate resiliency don't seem to be widespread, we need to build trust relationships to increase communications—Café, firefighters, OVOF
- Shaun Seamans offered to work with Mia at City of Wenatchee to find out what municipal governments need and what they could do to help.

CCCRRT – Nov. 17th, 2022

Water Resources Small Committee Breakout Session Notes

Attendance: Mark Wigmosta, Mary Jo Sanborn, Amanda Barg, Carmen Andonegui, Bob Bugert, Sonia Hall, Jeanie Poirier, David Child, Tyler Roberts, Mike Anderson, Guillaume Mauger and Ben Floyd

We discussed the draft water resources prioritization matrix that Mary Jo had developed, and received the following comments

- Snowpack & Streamflow
 - o Develop and implement forest management actions to improve snowpack – make this more detailed/specific on actions and projects to support
 - o Obtain more info on the Central WA Initiative and projects – Chumstick to LP
 - o Add in support of Icicle Creek SnoTel site (being installed fall 2023)
- Stream habitat restoration – drill down into this work to better understand what is happening and identify potential gaps for benefitting climate resiliency in work that we could help fill
 - o PUD mitigation actions, Upper Columbia and YN projects
 - o Flood risk reduction/spreading water across floodplain and recharging alluvial aquifers
 - o Fish passage/culverts
 - o Habitat restoration and land acquisition
 - o Summarize findings and provide overlay of project opportunity categories in 2023
 - o Ensure water/snowpack are being considered and prioritized in habitat actions; evaluate with climate resiliency needs and priorities.
- Water Supply
 - o Find out what is happening under VSP and get an ag interest (Irrigation District?) to join small committee
 - o Look at what is happening related to municipal supply – Chelan, Entiat and Wenatchee basins
- Flooding
 - o Reach out to Chelan Co PW (Jason Detamore), and encourage their participation
 - o Education/outreach and public health
 - o Emergency actions/mitigating effects
 - o More functional treatments

We discussed making 2023 our year of developing our understanding of all the various efforts going on within WR and identifying gaps and opportunities to fill from climate resiliency perspective, that we can turn into actions later in 2023 and beyond.