

Community Advisory Workgroup

Meeting Summary

Tuesday, July 15, 2025, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

CAW Members Present: Alec Anderson, Stephen Bernath, Courtney Cecale, Tom Crawford, Juan Haeckerman, Ashley Houston, Matthew Landers, Lorenzo Larios, Lauren Tamboer.

CAW Members Absent: Tierra Bonds, Amita Devarajan, Rachel Hastings (excused), McKenzie McCall, Kim Piper (excused), and Shannon Sipher.

Staff Members Present: Pamela Braff (City of Olympia), Linsey Fields (City of Lacey), Julia Downing (Thurston County).

Facilitators: Eleanor Garrett (EXP) and Ben Clark (EXP)

Agenda Item	Notes
1. Welcome and Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 4:04 pm.
2. Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The City of Lacey Comprehensive Plan is open for public comments and can be found here.
a. Staff Announcements	
b. CAW Member Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tom Crawford shared that the Thurston Climate Action Team (TCAT) is working on signing a contract with the City of Tumwater to conduct community assemblies with vulnerable populations on climate issues.
3. Upcoming Agendas	<p>The CAW reviewed the planned agenda items for upcoming CAW meetings, and were informed that the Annual Retreat will be scheduled for late September.</p> <p>Matthew Landers requested a future agenda item to discuss active transportation and transportation priorities in regional policy. The CAW and Staff Team discussed this request and determined that first the Staff Team will provide a briefing on the 2026 Regional Initiative at an upcoming meeting. The CAW will determine at that time whether they would like to schedule an additional agenda item related to transportation. No vote was held.</p> <p>Tom Crawford requested a future Executive Committee agenda item on budget funding strategies. The CAW and Staff Team discussed this request and determined that a more specific request would need to be made of the EC in order to bring this forward.</p>
4. Business Items	
a. Workforce Development and the Thurston Climate Mitigation Plan	Tom Crawford gave a presentation outlining the workforce increases that will be required to successfully enact all actions in the TCMP, reviewing the specific strategies that will require new skilled workers. He asked the CAW whether the EC should receive a more comprehensive version of this presentation, leading to a discussion amongst CAW members on a potential EC presentation.

	The CAW determined that at this time they do not want to move forward with bringing this to the EC.
b. Review of Climate Legislation	Prior to this meeting, the CAW received a packet summarizing the 2025 legislative session, specifically the actions that relate to climate action and the actions outlined in the TCMP. During tonight's meeting, the CAW engaged in a discussion of the legislative session, noting the bills they considered climate wins and the missed opportunities. The CAW also discussed having a representative from the Washington Association of Counties give a presentation on the 2025 legislative session to provide more details so that the CAW would be better informed ahead of the 2026 legislative session.
5. Adjourn	The meeting adjourned at 5:28 pm.