

CITY OF PENSACOLA  
CLIMATE MITIGATION & ADAPTATION TASK FORCE  
Thursday, September 6, 2018 ~ 3:30 p.m.  
**HAGLER/MASON Conference Room**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, City Hall**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Quorum
2. Approval of Minutes—August 2, 2018
3. Stakeholders Review Discussion
4. Presentation Discussion  
Presentation to City Council tentative date: October 11, 2018
5. Announcements
6. Public Forum
7. Adjourn

**The next meeting of the Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force:  
Thursday, October 4, 2018, 3:30 p.m.**

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## MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION TASK FORCE

August 2, 2018

3:30 p.m.

**Members Present:** Elaine Sargent, Chair, Laurie Murphy, Vice Chair, Dr. Haris Alabasic, Cynthia Cannon, Mark Gibson, Carrie Stevenson

**Members Absent:** Tim Haag, Christy Johnson

**Others Present:** See Attached sign in sheet

**Staff:** Don Kraher, Elaine Mager, Sonja Gaines

1. Call to Order/Welcome/Quorum: The meeting was called to order by Chair Sargent. A quorum was present.
2. Approval of Minutes—July 5, 2018: **Motion to approve minutes of the July 5, 2018 meeting was made by Vice Chair Laurie Murphy, seconded by Carrie Stevenson and was unanimously approved.**
3. Draft Report Discussion:

Chair Sargent opened discussion on the July 19, 2018 revisions to the draft report, starting on page 3 with the introduction and comments made by Member Alabasic. There is an in-text citation. If you are citing something, you need to show where it comes from. If you want to eliminate in-text citations, then the sentence needs to be re-written. Member Stevenson suggested using foot notes. Chair Sargent stated that she felt like the introduction should be a single voice of the Task Force, of how the Task Force speaks about their work. Member Alabasic will work on rewording the second paragraph. In the third paragraph, the Task Force discussed the addition of “should”. The Task Force suggested changing that language to read: **The City of Pensacola and its regional partners, including counties and other local governments should are pursuing an aggressive...**

On page four, and five changes proposed were approved. Discussion occurred on the bullet commit to meet 30% renewable energy target by 2030 ...with a goal of 100% renewable by 2050, the Task Force agreed to **change the date** from 2050 to **2040**.

On page six agreed to proposed changes. On page 7 agreed to proposed changes and to stay with language in the objective under Transportation, without being more specific.

# MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION TASK FORCE

August 2, 2018

Page 2

Member Alabasic provided rewording for the Introduction paragraph on Page 3 as follows: The sentence **to remove** is **Addressing climate change differs from city to city and region to region...** and replacing it with the following language: **Addressing climate change is imperative for communities to pursue and is based on unique characteristics of communities and local governments and threats they are facing.** This sentence would be the last sentence in the first paragraph. The Task Force agreed to this proposed language change.

On page 8, the two language changes proposed by Member Gibson were approved and **agreed to delete until traffic and infrastructure (roads, bridges, stormwater) studies and cost-benefit analysis of such designs have been completed based on traffic/runoff.**

On page 9, the last bullet dealing with: Develop permeable surface and green incentives... need to delete, the repeating of **for residents and businesses through the City of Pensacola.** Also, the next sentence: Encourage stormwater fee...agreed with changes proposed by Member Gibson, except **delete discounts** and replace with **fee reduction.**

Also on page 9, Member Alabasic questioned the language of the second bullet. Discussion occurred and Member Alabasic suggested language to read: **Incorporate solar panels on City Buildings or Install solar panels on City Buildings.** Consensus of the Task Force was to use **Install solar panels on City Buildings.**

Also, after further discussion, the fourth bullet on Page 9 was amended to read: **Incorporate building design specifications city wide for commercial and residential developments to increase resistance to impacts from more intense storm events.**

No changes on page 10, editorial changes on page 11 were approved, no changes on page 12, and additions proposed by Member Stevenson under the outreach section on page 13, the Task Force Findings and Recommendations section on page 15 and the other resources section on page 16 and 17 were approved.

**Motion made by Member Cannon, seconded by Vice Chair Murphy to approve the amendments reviewed by the Task Force to the July 19, 2018 draft report and final changes made to the draft report. There were no public comments on the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.**

## MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION TASK FORCE

August 2, 2018

Page 3

Chair Sargent stated that she would compile a Final Draft Report to incorporate all of the changes approved by the Task Force so that the Final Draft Report can be distributed to the stakeholders for their review.

4. Stakeholders Review Discussion and
5. Presentation Discussion

Chair Sargent reviewed the revised stakeholders list handed out at the meeting. She suggested that all representative members of the Task Force be responsible for sending the draft report out to members of their organizations. Several members of the Task Force also serve on other boards. Member Cannon volunteered to forward to the West Florida Regional Planning Council, the Bay Area Resource Council (BARC) and the BARC Technical Advisory Committee. Member Stevenson suggested sending the report to the members of the Hospitality Roundtable, since that includes representatives of Innisfree Hotels and she will be responsible for that. Council Executive will be responsible for sending to CEO and Keith Hoskins of Gulf Power, as well as the neighborhood associations. Chair Sargent will work with Don Kraher on contact information for other organizations listed on the stakeholders list.

Member Cannon brought up the 30 day timeframe for review and suggested reducing the amount of time for the stakeholders to review and submit comments. Council Executive cautioned the Task Force that individuals serving on the boards could make individual comments; however they could not do so as the Board. The Board would have to take action on the report, sitting as the Board. Member Alabasic also cautioned the Task Force on soliciting input on the report and then how to incorporate or not incorporate the comments received into the document. Further discussion occurred on comment period and presentation of document to City Council. Member Alabasic stated that the Task Force has to present the report as a Task Force recommendation to the City Council even before all of the input is received. You will receive more input once the report is out there. The input could be included as additional information to the report. This information is provided by these stakeholders. Send the report out and present the report. Member Cannon suggested going to the City Council with the report in October. The report would be sent out to the stakeholders early August for their review and comment. It provides a public forum to receive additional comments on the report. Also, any input received prior to presentation at the City Council Meeting could be added as an appendix to the report. Member Cannon suggested creating a summary of findings, consolidating comments for the report. Member Cannon also suggested having the same verbiage

## MINUTES OF THE CLIMATE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION TASK FORCE

August 2, 2018

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utilized by everyone sending out to stakeholders, so that it is consistent with how it is framed for input. Member Gibson suggested using **On behalf of...**

Chair Sargent indicated she would create something, along with the final report and get it back out to the Task Force for final comment and submittal to the stakeholders. The September meeting will focus on the actual presentation to City Council.

The City Council meeting for October is October 11. The Council Executive will need the final document by September 28, to be included on the agenda for the October meeting.

Chair Sargent also brought forward concerns about the Task Force Goals and Objectives listed on Page 3 of the report, the paragraph dealing with suggestions to obtain federal and state grants. She felt like that was an area the Task Force did not fully address. Grants vary from year to year, different federal and state guidelines and application for various opportunities and programs and it would be difficult to compile a list of grants that are currently available, since they frequently change. Some have grant writing departments and some don't. Member Cannon indicated that Santa Rosa County has a grants writing department, that establishes a team grant writing effort to apply for various grants. Vice Chair Murphy suggested language **to encourage departments that regularly work on grants to seek additional grants.** Member Cannon suggested language **to continue to monitor grant opportunities.** There are new ones coming out now and will be as political times change.

Chair Sargent thanked members of the Task Force for all their hard work on finalizing the draft report.

### 6. Announcements:

Member Stevenson reported on a series of Tidal Town Halls. There is one in Pensacola on August 14 at 5 p.m. for local candidates to come and speak on sea level rises and other climate issues. It is at the main downtown library. Member Murphy also indicated that ReThink Energy, Gulf Coastkeeper and Gulf Restoration Network are the ones sponsoring the event. There are 13 confirmed candidates participating in the event.

Member Stevenson also reported on August 9 there will be an Invasives Workshop and Air Potato Vine Beetle distribution day from 9 – 12 at the Escambia County Central Office Complex. There will also be a solar power guest speaker that night for Science Hour from 6 – 7 p.m.

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August 2, 2018

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### 7. Public Forum:

Bev Perry thanked the Task Force for all their hard work. She suggested putting the final draft report on the City's website as well as publicizing the September meeting so that public comments can be received.

Chair Sargent suggested putting a link on 350's and Emerald Coastkeeper's social media pages as well.

Christian Wagley also thanked the Task Force for their work. The formed based CRA areas are going to be considered by City Council at their August meeting. 350 Pensacola events: on September 8, an international event called Rise for Climate Jobs and Justice will take place at Plaza DeLuna at 5 p.m. with different speakers related to fossil fuels and transitioning to clean energy, including Amendment 9 that will be on the November ballot. On Wednesday, September 12 at 6 p.m. at the downtown library will be a movie, "The Burden" which looks at the Military and the burden it has to get the energy to the troops in order to fight battles. There is also a living shorelines workshop at the University of West Florida on Friday, August 3, that is part of BARC. The August speaker for CivicCon is Gena Wirth, one of the principals of SCAPE.

### 8. Adjourn: There being no further business to come before the Task Force, the meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

# City of Pensacola Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force Meeting

Thursday, August 2, 2018

Hagler/Mason Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

City Hall, 222 West Main Street

3:30 P.M.

Aug 2.

## PLEASE SIGN IN

| NAME (Please Print) | Agenda Item | Telephone Number | Address                   |
|---------------------|-------------|------------------|---------------------------|
| Christina Wagner    |             |                  |                           |
| Nancy Richards      |             |                  |                           |
| Beverly Perry       |             |                  | 622 W. Belmont, Pensacola |
| Ryan Bowman         |             |                  | 1642 Eagle St             |
|                     |             |                  |                           |
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## Elaine Mager

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**From:** Don Kraher  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 16, 2018 10:47 AM  
**To:** Elaine Mager; Sonja Gaines  
**Subject:** FW: FW: Invitation to Review and Comment on the City of Pensacola Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Draft Report  
**Attachments:** DRAFT-Report-August-2-2018.pdf

FYI

**From:** Barbara Albrecht [mailto:panhandlewatershed@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 16, 2018 10:12 AM  
**To:** CynthiaC@santarosa.fl.gov  
**Cc:** Don Kraher <DKraher@cityofpensacola.com>; Wade Jeffrey <wjjeffrey@uwf.edu>  
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: Invitation to Review and Comment on the City of Pensacola Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Draft Report

Dear Cynthia,

As requested, I am providing feedback on the City of Pensacola's Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force Draft Report. Thank you for your role in this effort and I hope you will take the suggestions you consider worthy forward to your Panel.

Overall, the report looks good, but the timeline is too long. I would liken it to a patient who is diagnosed with stage 3 lung cancer and is told that if they cut back their smoking 30% in the next 12 years you have a chance of surviving. Not!

Since our area is in a growth spurt (economically speaking) why not utilize the momentum and develop incentives (likely monetary or tax relief) for those investors who adopt this approach within the next 2-5 years. Ideally the city government would lead by example (such as having solar panels on all their buildings, etc.) which they are for already using natural gas for many fleet vehicles such as garbage trucks.

While the focus of this report is on community and coastal (physical) resilience, I cannot in good conscience shut off my part of the discussion regarding stormwater impacts on our ecological system. 30% by 2030 & 100% by 2040 = is just not realistic, set some real goal 25% by 2022, 50% by 2028 and 100% by 2035. That's only a few election cycles.

On page 5, under adaptation:

- Utilize local authority to protect open space, wetlands, and riparian buffers to increase resilience to extreme weather events.

As you know, our local authority means nothing. The reality is we must retreat from low lying areas and it will have to be incentivized, monetarily. The current administration (federal, state, and local) cannot seem to connect the dots that how & where we develop is directly correlated to the impacts observed in adjacent surface waters. <https://www.ecowatch.com/floridas-algae-crisis-2594563082.html>

The only way to change this is through conservation easements which can be reflected with tax offsets. That'll make all those governments bristle, since they are dependent on property taxes for their bread & butter money.

- Become an active participant on the policy board of the Pensacola and Perdido Bay's Estuary Program; encourage climate resilience strategies in addition to water quality management and improvement.

I have great hope for the EP as you know, but forgive me for being the naysayer - b/c whomever accepts this role will have to be 50% political & 50% genius (because the issues facing Perdido Bay are 100% different than the issues facing Pensacola Bay. The fact that our area won this EP over Choctawhatchee & St Andrew Bay using the Publix BOGO Method is still mind boggling. But, I hope to be proven wrong.

- Incorporate Better Site Design, Low Impact Development (LID) and green infrastructure principles into local codes and planning decisions to increase resilience of streams, bayous and floodplains to heavy precipitation events. Protect the natural riparian (natural shoreline) zones of these water bodies and incentivize restoration of living shorelines instead of hardening (stone, wood and concrete seawalls). Utilize Escambia County's LID Reference Manual and create incentives for its use within the City and region.

Might be best to define a rain event, given our community is growing with non-natives who may not realize that our region receives 65" of rain a year, and last year we received 97". Just an FYI, I a rain event as 2"/hr; aka, a frog strangler. Keep in mind, EsCo was one of the last counties in the panhandle to amend their stormwater holding basins from .25" to .50" - that's just ludicrous, given our annual rain events.

- Use a watershed-level rather than site-level approach to manage stormwater runoff and flooding. Wide-scale watershed management can reduce impacts of flooding from stormwater downstream through the use of better urban planning and design principles including a multi-jurisdictional approach.

This has been my mantra for quite some time, am glad to see it incorporated. Using a holistic approach, will include getting past the man-made boundaries of counties, and states. As you know, the Carpenter Creek Restore Project was developed in this manner and is a great example b/c it is entirely located within one county and has two jurisdictional entities - the city & county. When this project is completed, it can be used as a model for larger watersheds, interstate watersheds.

- Encourage higher density development where appropriate as an urban stormwater best-management practice. More compact development patterns generate less stormwater runoff overall than low density development.

And here again, the document should point out that HDD should NEVER be in riparian zones or low lying flood plains. The term as with rain event above, should be defined in this report. The fire in Jones Swamp earlier this year was another example of a high density development (multiple single family homes/acre) in a wetland. That development is relatively new, within the past 8 years. One need only look at Houston - development in flood plains - and see that these situations occur in 20-30-40 year cycles.

I'd like to see something added that related to 80% of all public buildings and projects must utilize native plants. The abundance of crepe myrtles in our city are creating a 'food desert' for many of our feathered friends who are year round residents or migrants moving through the area. Native plants have evolved with our temperature, rain and soil conditions and support multiple types of fauna. For example, and this may be too far in the weeds - but a live oak supports over 570 types of insects. A Chickadee (small bird) will require feeding 390-570 insects per day over two weeks to its young before they can fledge. Researchers who study this have found that without native species (quality native species live oak versus water oak) we are in essence creating food deserts. (I'm wearing my Audubon Hat now!)

And, let's use some common sense and not plant beautiful full grown trees in August, like the FDOT did at Scenic Highway and I-10. Since we know it is Africa Hot, and can observe them dying. (Wizard of Oz, *If I only had a brain...*)

Another important component of this Draft Report should address the many antiquated parking lots which have been grandfathered in - which can be modified to slow, capture, and hold stormwater. One need only drive within a 1/2 radius of the Spring Street Library to see several dozen examples. These parking lots can be modified to 'give up a portion of their impervious surfaces' and transformed into creative swales which can be planted with natives and take out the heat island aspect of these black topped areas.

Page 9

- The City of Pensacola shall utilize the City Tree Ordinance fund to maximize the benefits of trees throughout the community to absorb carbon dioxide, rebuild urban riparian zones, provide passive cooling for buildings, and provide shade for more walkable streets.
- The City of Pensacola shall continue to maintain annual certification as a Tree City USA Community in partnership with the Florida Forest Service and the Arbor Day Foundation. Tree City USA designation demonstrates the commitment of the city in protecting, conserving, and managing trees on the city-owned property to ensure that the benefits of healthy, native, urban forests and trees are fully utilized.
- The City of Pensacola shall partner with other area organizations by joining the Six Rivers Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) as a partner-member. The Six Rivers CISMA Partnership is comprised of local, private, and public partners who work together to control invasive species in the NW Florida region. The City of Pensacola has many wetlands and stormwater treatment areas that are predominantly comprised of invasive species. Controlling these species followed by the establishment of native species will improve the effectiveness of stormwater management in wetlands.

Include Native species at 80% for the three bullets above. Perhaps the city can secure funding for an environmentally trained individual with the new administration.

Under Public Health, page 11 and related to the earlier discussion on Living Shorelines

There is a very real danger of human health threats with the conversion of bulk heads (hardened shorelines) to living shorelines utilizing oysters. While LSL are wonderful in attenuating waves - one must be aware that if oysters are used in the vicinity of known swimming areas, there is a higher than normal propensity of Vibrio, flesh eating bacteria. In FL, EsCo & SRC have already had several cases this year in which people have contracted this bacteria. You'll never see a warning in the paper or on the news since it would negatively impact tourism, but two gentlemen who have been in the hospital for over a month contracted this and both were in water bodies (different water bodies) which oysters.

I am not yelling FIRE in a crowded theater, instead I am providing feedback on my observations in our area waters.

Thanks for your time & consideration,  
Barbara

**Barbara Albrecht - Director**

[www.PanhandleWatershed.org](http://www.PanhandleWatershed.org)

850-384-6696



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Katie Wilhelm** <[katie.wilhelm@wfrpc.org](mailto:katie.wilhelm@wfrpc.org)>

Date: Fri, Aug 10, 2018 at 2:19 PM

Subject: FW: Invitation to Review and Comment on the City of Pensacola Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Draft Report

To: BARC Board Members <[BARC-Board-Members@wfrpc.org](mailto:BARC-Board-Members@wfrpc.org)>, BARC TAC MEMBERS <[BARC-TAC-MEMBERS@wfrpc.org](mailto:BARC-TAC-MEMBERS@wfrpc.org)>, BARC Interested Parties <[BARC-IP@wfrpc.org](mailto:BARC-IP@wfrpc.org)>

Hello BARC and Estuary Program Community,

Please see the attached draft report from the City of Pensacola's Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force and provide comments to Pensacola City Council Executive Don Kraher, [dkraher@cityofpensacola.com](mailto:dkraher@cityofpensacola.com), by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 21, 2018. Details are included in the message below from BARC-TAC member, Cynthia Cannon; feel free to contact her with any questions.

Best regards,

Katie

Katie Wilhelm

Regional Planner & Environmental Programs Coordinator

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**From:** Cynthia Cannon <[CynthiaC@santarosa.fl.gov](mailto:CynthiaC@santarosa.fl.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, August 10, 2018 11:48 AM

**To:** Katie Wilhelm <[katie.wilhelm@wfrpc.org](mailto:katie.wilhelm@wfrpc.org)>

**Subject:** Invitation to Review and Comment on the City of Pensacola Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Draft Report

Good Afternoon Katie,

The City of Pensacola Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force requests that the WFRPC, BARC and BARC/TAC members provide feedback on the attached City of Pensacola's Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Task Force's Draft Report. The comment period is intended to provide interested community organizations and individuals an opportunity to review and comment on the report. We will need your comments no later than **5 p.m., Friday, September 21, 2018.**

Please send your comments to Pensacola City Council Executive Don Kraher, [dkraher@cityofpensacola.com](mailto:dkraher@cityofpensacola.com). We hope to present the final report to the Pensacola City Council in October.

The Climate Mitigation and Task Force meets again on Thursday, September 6, 3:30 p.m., and Thursday, October 4, 3:30 p.m., in the Hagler/Mason Conference Room, second floor of Pensacola City Hall (222 West Main Street Pensacola, FL 32502). We hope representatives from WFRPC, BARC and BARC/TAC will be able to join our discussion as we near completion of our final report.

Your assistance in distributing this report for comments is greatly appreciated. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions,

Thank you,

Cynthia R. Cannon, AICP

Senior Urban Planner

Santa Rosa County Development Services Center

6051 Old Bagdad Hwy, Suite 202 | Milton, Florida 32583

P: 850.981.7078 | F: 850.983.9874

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## 8/20/18 Comments to the

Draft Report "Climate Mitigation and Adaption Task Force City of Pensacola dated August 2, 2018.

I have five observations I would like the Task Force to consider:

1. Legal Implications: I strongly suggest that any document of this type be reviewed by competent legal counsel if any endorsement by the City Council is proposed. Based on my training in preparing advisory reports and recommendations I avoid the words will, shall, should, ensure, assure, etc. that asserts action. In adopting such a document, the City Council may be inadvertently opening itself up to future litigation if it does not act on the such action worded recommendations. I have redlined changes to the draft to illustrate my comments.
2. Prioritization of Recommendations: The document has at least 76 or more recommendations (recognizing that some recommendations suggest multiple actions) as all equal even though some may be significant and other minor or cosmetic. I suggest that the recommendations be prioritized. There is no practical way the City has the time, money, or staff to address 76 or more recommendations. Therefore, the top ten or so recommendations I recommend be highlighted. This will help the City Council focus on a limited number of key issues raising the potential of implementation.
3. Outcome Metrics: The recommendations are said to address mitigation measures for climate effects. It is not clear to me that all of them do so in a substantive fashion or are just feel good statements. I recommend that each recommendation or at least each group of recommendations identify a measurable, tangible, set of metrics and outcomes in dollars, taxes saved, lives saved, areas of habitat saved, property value increase, tons of CO<sub>2</sub> reduced, etc.
4. There is also a specific recommendation that the City should move forward with installing solar panels on its buildings. This is an expensive proposition that does not economically pay for itself for decades in Florida especially with its restrictive regulations. Has the cost to the taxpayer been considered and is this the better and higher priority use of limited City funds compared to other recommendations. How many committee members are willing to make the same solar energy commitment without cost considerations?
5. It is recommended that "Engage the Environmental Advisory Board (or appropriate entity) to work with City Council and city planning staff to help the city's Land Development Code address mitigation and adaptation policies" ∴ The City has well developed planning processes. Another body involved with no outcome responsibly will only act as delay, confusion, and interference.

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Robert R Bennett  
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