

Steering Committee Meeting Notes
Jan 20th, 2021

Welcome and Introductions

- 14 Steering Committee members
 - Sharyn Main - Community Environmental Council
 - Heather Allen - County of Ventura
 - Tiffany Wise-West - City of Santa Cruz
 - Juliano Calil - Middlebury Institute of International Studies, Virtual Planet
 - Adrienne Greve - Cal Poly SLO
 - Garrett Wong - County of Santa Barbara
 - Ashley Paulsworth - County of Monterey
 - Terea Romero - Santa Ynez Band of Chumash
 - Rachel Couch - State Coastal Conservancy
 - Nancy Faulstich - Regeneracion Pajaro Valley (*not present*)
 - Kristin Cushman - MBRCAC and Blue Strike Environmental (*not present*)
 - Jacques Bertrand - City of Capitola (*not present*)
- Other participants:
 - Gail McNulty - Save Our Shores
 - Joanna Nelson - LandSea Science
 - Amaury Berteaud - AMBAG
 - Patti Toews - Integrated Waste Management Authority (SLO)
 - Lesli Austin - GreenPower
 - Charles Lester - UCSB
 - Ellen Vaughan - UCSC
 - Maya Hayden - Point Blue Conservation Science
 - Eric Veium - SLO CLimate Coalition
 - Alex Yasbek - City of Watsonville

Welcome to our three new steering committee members: Nancy Faulstich, Teresa Romero, and Kristin Cushman!! All were voted in unanimously via email ballot in December 2020.

2021 4C Leadership:

- For Co-Chair:
 - Rachel Couch – Coastal Conservancy. Nominated by Tiffany Wise-West
 - Heather Allen - County of Ventura. Nominated by Rachel Couch
 - *Both voted in unanimously by voice vote of steering committee members present..*
- For Vice Chair – open to nominations. No nominations made.
- New Steering Committee member nominations: Kirsten Liske - Ecology Action. Nominated by Rachel Couch
 - *Voted in unanimously. Welcome Kirsten!*

Discussion Items:

- Strategic Planning
 - With new members and a new year, strategic planning is needed
 - 4C hopes to contract Michael Armstrong to fulfil the role of facilitator for strategic planning effort. Michael Armstrong led the USDN Central Coast convening, and helped identify actions to move this effort forward, and has experience working with the Central Coast
 - An initial call was held with Rachel, Tiffany, Kristin, and Michael to see what this would look like
 - The working sessions (1-3 sessions) will be held throughout March
 - Depending on the depth of the planning, this might take more of a look than just a few work sessions. But we want the exercise to be useful for 2 years
 - Let's figure out how to bring new organizations, added transparency about where dues go, and how to collaborate
 - Priorities may include fundraising and grant application
 - Previously we've done a half day strategic session ([see outcome here](#))
 - Priorities and timelines were outlined to be used for annual guidance
 - Let's move forward with a strategic planning session with a two year outlook. Narrowed scope would work for the first one. We can expand as we go.
 - Steering Committee members to form Strategic Planning Committee: Sharyn Main, Adrienne Greve, Kirsten Liske, Tiffany Wise-West, Juliano Calil, Heather Allen, Gail McNulty
 - Heather will lead getting the next step/meeting together
- Technical Working Groups/Communication/Convening Infrastructure - Eric Veium - Chair of SLO Climate Coalition and previous with CalPoly for Climate work. Participated in USDN Convening Group ([action plan table here](#)):
 - Proposing that 4C serve as regional communication platforms/convening hubs for different climate/planning efforts
 - Priority of SLO Climate Coalition is to help shape policies and program for Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) ([proposal attached here](#))
 - Ad hoc group formed: Uniting the Central Coast for Action. Goal is to move forward community choice energy efforts
 - Proposal aims to build capacity for 4C through human resources, management, and communication/collaboration tools. Also help facilitate and enable a technical working group to help evaluate policy and program ideas to stakeholders within 3CE
 - Proposal would give a lot of benefit to 4C through the technical working group
 - 4C would contribute funds to help cover costs of the web hosting platforms
 - Climate Action Micro-group would definitely benefit from this shared working/technical space
 - Is this within budget? Yes, this would be an ongoing cost in the range of hundreds of dollars annually (cost of x # of Zoom licenses, etc.) as opposed to the two other one-time costs we are looking at (strategic planning and equity training facilitators)

- We have other upcoming income streams pending: annual 2021 4C dues and MBRCAC annual dues (see merger discussion below)
 - 4C will not be putting a lot of staff time to this effort, it will just be a platform/convening space for this group
 - Technical working group is not a political working group
 - Motion made to move forward with proposal - Eric will create a detailed proposal and the Steering Committee will consider this for a vote next time.
 - *Unanimously passed - with expectation to work with Steering Committee to understand priorities*
- Equity Training and Committee ([scope attached here](#)) -
Juliano Calil, VirtualPlanet.tech
 - New members: Teresa Romero, Garret Wong, Nancy Faulstich and Kirsten Liske. Existing members: Juliano (lead), Rachel, Tiffany. Ella is admin support but will transition to volunteer after her SCC Fellowship ends.
 - Working on determining Ana Rosa's availability and interest to facilitate a training for 4C members and EJ-centered groups in Central Coast.
 - Committee will meet on the 27th, could potentially send out a survey to Steering or Membership to better understand priorities
 - 4C equity mission is to center and manifest equity in our collective climate work
- Collective Action Campaign ([summary attached here](#)) - Kirsten Liske, Ecology Action
 - Central campaign that will support everyone from a micro-community to a city to a company to prioritize and move forward local climate actions
 - Tool creation and community engagement strategies might be included
 - SLO Climate Coalition is also working on this issue
 - Hoping to use strategic sessions to present these findings and collect feedback

Updates:

Monterey Bay Regional Climate Action Compact Merger

- Draft MOU is up for review to merge these two orgs
 - Agreement for specifics as we merge these groups - will be much more efficient and offer more benefits
 - We will need to get this done before we collect annual dues
 - **ACTION ITEM: Tiffany asks everyone to review the draft MOU, submit questions to Tiffany and Rachel, and either vote by email or at the next week ([MOU attached](#))**
 - We will merge contact lists and combine newsletter efforts
 - Member dues will be reduced and cover both efforts. Kristin Cushman will be paid on an hourly basis by contract for her work to continue to convene and facilitate the MBRCAC subregional arm of 4C.
 - MBRCAC committees will be retained (waste, passive haus, etc.)

Bylaws Review - form Governance Committee

- Heather Allen and Jacques Bertrand are forming a Governance Committee - reviewing bylaws, guiding new committees, other legal protocols. [Bylaws attached here](#)

- Minutes from previous (2020) Steering Committee meetings will also be sent out for approval before next meeting, as we missed voting to approve minutes in our process.

ARCCA Update

- Rachel has been nominated to be chair for 2021
 - This will be good for 4C orgs to connect with state and federal agency efforts
- As a member of ARCCA, we get 4 voting members, and two on the executive committee. This is currently Rachel, and Tiffany
 - Other members who are interested as voting members?
 - Joanna Nelson, Ashley Paulsworth, and Teresa Romero are interested. If it can only be steering committee members, then it can be Heather and Sharyn (currently the other two 2020 voting members).
 - ARCCA' received a grant focused on Embedding Equity in ARCCA's work funded by Climate Resilience Fund that will be a focus in 2021

Student support

- If anyone has staff or a student who might be available to work with 4C as support, please let Rachel know. We can always use help. Incoming SCC fellow will be able to help starting in March 2021. Ella will continue as 4C volunteer...yaay!

2021 Meeting Schedule

- Steering committee - monthly meetings are best. One hour at lunch time. 3rd Wednesdays, 12:00 -1:00pm. Membership meetings - changing from quarterly in 2020 to every two months in 2021, given how much is going on. We may decide to focus on sharing out from a sub-group for Membership meetings so we can have more detailed updates, rather than everyone giving very abbreviated updates and using all the meeting time. First Tuesday 10:00-11:00am. Starts Feb 2. 2021.
- Motion to approve this schedule.
 - *Unanimously approved*
 - Ella will send out the calendar invite series via the 4C gmail account.