

**Pulaski-Richland Comprehensive Plan
Climate Action Plan/Climate Smart
Communities
January 12, 2023**

Present Dawn Holynski, Jan Tighe, Robin Ford, Donna Gilson

Absent: Shawn Doyle, Melissa Wadkinson, Robin Philips

Presenter: Mike Boccuzzi (CNYRPD)

Guests: Kern Yerdon, Larry Atkinson, Robert Jeffery, Swiat Kaczmar

Allen Goodsell

Dawn called the meeting to order at 6pm. Welcome and introductions of those in attendance were done.

Meeting Minutes: November 3, 2022 meeting minutes were moved by Robin and seconded by Jan moved to approve. All in favor. Motion carried.

Jan moved to table the minutes of the December 1, 2022 meeting, Robin seconded the motion as some who attended the meeting are not present tonight; therefore, a quorum to approve was not available. All in favor, none opposed, carried.

Climate Action Plan: Mike presented a first draft of the updated 2023 Climate Action Plan. He pointed out areas our committee needed to focus on before he can go much further, they are:

- We need to set a goal for emissions reductions. In the draft, these sections are highlighted in yellow and need to be addressed prior to the final CAP release. New York State has set its reduction goals at a 40% reduction in emissions from 1990 levels by 2030, and an 85% reduction in emissions by 2050 with the remaining 15% covered by offsets, creating a goal of net-zero emissions by 2050.
- We need to see what we want to keep from the previous CAP and what we do not want to keep. For example, on page 16 of the original 2015 CAP there is a section with titled Community Characteristics, I could update this section current information in the next draft in InDesign or we can choose to not include this information at all. There are certain sections of the original document that I don't believe we need to include in this update, and I will discuss this further tonight with everyone.
- As you can see, I've attached an Excel spreadsheet with a list of climate actions. Although we have already developed our own list, the DEC has recently released their template for a CAP action list. I wanted to share this with you in case you were interested. We could switch over to the DEC template and add the actions from our existing list, but there is no requirement to do so. The DEC list is just a little bit more extensive than what we have come up with and switching to the DEC list would require you all to re-rank the actions in terms of priority.

Mike also informed the group that only 38 surveys have been submitted. Dawn reminded the committee that at our previous meetings we identified organizations, businesses, etc. that we as a group can visit to get the survey completed. **We need to work on this and please let her know which group you can contact so we don't overlap.**

Community members attending the meeting gave their opinion and concerns on the Governor's announcement proposing a statewide ban on new gas appliances and gas furnaces by 2030. Also is a concern about forcing people to purchase electric cars and the ban of burning wood for heating.

The discussion included the benefits of nuclear power and how hundreds of jobs that would create, not just in construction but also operations of the plant. Many believe there is room for diversifying all types of energy, i.e. water, wind turbines, solar, nuclear along with some fossil fuels. A great concern is taking the rights away from citizens of deciding for themselves on which heating source, automotive and agricultural tools they are using now under her plan. How will people afford to change their existing heating systems or cars? Can senior citizens afford or anyone on a fixed income that drastic change. The Governor must come up with answers soon.

Mike was taking notes and stated maybe some revision to his first draft should/could be made to address some of the concerns.

Comprehensive Plan: The committee agreed that it would not be cost effective at this time to produce copies of the updated Plan for all Village and Town offices, planning, zoning, trustees, and councilmen and women. The Plan is available on the Village and Town websites for people to review.

A motion was made by Robin and seconded by Donna to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 2, 2023

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Holynski