

Notes from the October 4th meeting of the Environmental Advisory
Council's Strategic Planning Committee

Present:

Roy Abe
Makaala Kaaumoana
Gordon Scruton, Jr.
Rachel Sprague
Ron Terry
Jodi Yi, Attorney General's Office
Robin Kaye, Committee Chair

- Meeting convened; Quorum ascertained; introductions completed
- There were no prior meeting notes available for review
- Four initial priorities recommended by SPC at its July 5, 2022 meeting:
 1. Unfinished Rules Business; e.g., addressing supplemental EAs, “records of decision,” clarifying definitions, guidance documents, and amending the rules to address Act 152 (2021) (the move of OEQC and EAC to OPSD)
 2. Finding our place within OPSD; what the EAC can and cannot do.
 3. Craft the “elevator speech” — what is the EAC/what it is NOT — and then promote broader public understanding of the EAC
 4. Dealing with the “carrying capacity” for the state, related to tourism and its burdens on the state, environment, and residents; finding a way to control impacts, for example, through control of the inventory of rental cars, or requiring visitors to use public transit.
- Agenda for today:
 - Review related efforts-to-date since the April 2022 Strategic Planning Forum
 - Review four priorities
 - Explore responsibilities and next steps

Discussions

Priority 1: Unfinished Business

- Our rules do not accurately or completely reflect the movement of EAC/OEQC into OPSD. Progress has been made by on this by the Rules Committee, but work not yet complete.
- Current PIG is looking at how to encourage more agencies to update their exemption lists, and at a deeper level, what inconsistencies, problems or barriers there are in the whole exemptions process.
- There are a whole series of guidance documents prepared over the decade by OEQC, dealing with the step-by-step of how agencies and preparers need to comply with the rules, the mechanics of the process, water well assessment, cultural impacts, and others. These have not been updated in some time (but exemptions actually was updated in 2019) and the Council wants to help OPSD-ERP take these on, with help from outside parties as well.
- Policies and procedures for EAC currently in draft and circulating with EAC members.

Priority 2: Integration into OPSD

- Change of administration coming shortly; question of impact on OPSD Director.
- Work with current director on designating key leadership staff to begin work on this integration; e.g., what can EAC offer/provide for OPSD, and how can EAC engage with the resources and opportunities of OPSD?
- Perhaps EAC (Onaona and Robin? Others interested?) begin with a discussion of what does the EAC want from OPSD?

Priority 3: Craft the “elevator speech” — what is the EAC/what it is NOT — and then promote broader public understanding of the EAC.

- Draft currently circulating with all the suggestions
- EAC members will be asked to rank
- Discussion of “audience;” e.g., who needs to have this elevator speech.

- Suggested to use list of survey recipients (currently being researched.) Be sure to tailor our outreach; e.g., younger folks more open to Instagram and TikTok. Could we prepare a 2 minute video? Could we find a pro bono producer?

Priority 4: Dealing with the “carrying capacity” for the state, related to tourism and its burdens on the state, environment, and residents;

- What are the EAC’s limitations; e.g., no budget, no dedicated staff.
- How can it bring down siloes that prevent the state’s departments from a 30,000 foot understanding of and action plan to address environmental challenges such as carrying capacity and climate change.
- Should there be a place/role for “carrying capacity” within the EIS requirements?
- Could I & O frame one of its forums on carrying capacity; e.g., what is it, who’s done the relevant studies...

Other Inputs: From Full EAC Meeting:

- What can we accomplish over the next 14 months (end of 2022 and all of 2023)?
- How can SPC bring clarity to topics covered in the Annual Report; e.g., what is mandated, realistic given time and capacity, and meaningful.
- How can SPC assist with transition planning; e.g., bringing on new members. What do they need to have to prepare them for participation in the EAC?
- How can SPC assist in recruiting membership; e.g., a long-sought “cultural practitioner.”