

President's Commission on Carbon Neutrality

Commission Meeting, #20 4/24

24 April 2020 /2:00 PM/ Remote Meeting

ATTENDEES

Liz Barry, Andy Berki, Valeria Bertacco, Steve Forrest, Austin Glass, Jennifer Haverkamp, Brandon Hofmeister, Drew Horning, Greg Keoleian, Larissa Larsen, Jonathan Overpeck, Barry Rabe, Anna Stefanopoulou, Missy Stults, Logan Vear, Lisa Wozniak.

Regrets:

Hank Baier, Anthony Denton, Camilo Serna.

NOTES

Updates

PCCN Summer Retreats

Much remains up in the air with regard to the structure of the Commission's planned in-person July and August retreat sessions, and its ability to retain consultants for that work, in light of the COVID-19 crisis and resulting U-M financial constraints.

Spring 2020 Interim Progress Report

The Commission is set to release its second interim progress report in May 2020. Presently, the Commission is reviewing an outline and PCCN staff are working on a draft report.

Student Advisory Panel (SAP)

The co-chairs met with the SAP a few weeks ago. The SAP is working to identify new members to recommend to the PCCN. As the PCCN ramps up engagement in the fall semester regarding potential recommendations, the SAP will have a key role in working with other student groups on campus to gather input from the student body.

Internal Analysis Team Final Reports

The eight internal analysis teams have wrapped up their work and submitted their draft final reports to the Commission. Throughout May and June, each team will be meeting with the Commission for a Q&A session and brief presentation. IAT faculty leads have been invited to observe each others' sessions with the PCCN.

Carbon Neutrality Goal Setting, Accounting and Planning Framework Discussion

The Commission heard from the carbon accounting sub group, led by PCCN Commissioner Greg Keoleian, on its carbon neutrality goal setting, accounting and planning framework. The purpose of this discussion was to introduce all Commissioners to a proposed framework for carbon accounting across all

scopes that is designed to support the Commission in its decision-making process, and to garner feedback from Commissioners to refine the framework and enhance model development, so as to maximize its value to the Commission.

The model will include a wide range of inputs spanning all emission scopes and that are informed by the PCCN's various analyses and data from the U-M Ann Arbor, U-M-Flint and U-M-Dearborn campuses. Building such a model will allow the PCCN to work through a range of scenarios to help shape recommendations for specific emission reduction strategies and associated timelines.

The group presented slides that covered topics the Commission will need to address during its deliberation phase. Examples include: key terminology; system boundaries; baseline years; goal year(s); strategies for reduction; sequencing of strategies; and quantification of carbon offsets.

There was a general consensus that this type of model could help to inform the Commission's thinking and iterative feedback over the course of the decision-making process, along with a recognition that no model is perfect. It could potentially also serve post-PCCN as a tool that U-M administrators could use in charting U-M's future course towards carbon neutrality.

In the next few months, the sub group plans to develop a timeline for tasks, continue to coordinate its work with the various areas of analysis, and develop a timeline for interacting with and reporting back to the broader Commission.

Michigan Publishing Services

The Commission heard a presentation from Michigan Publishing Services (MPS) on the services it could provide in publishing the Commission's final report. A component of the U-M Library, MPS is a team of librarians and publishing professionals that work to serve the publishing needs of U-M's campus. Two MPS representatives described a user-friendly and accessible multimedia platform that could be used to engage a wide array of community members. The MPS publishing platform enables users to access multiple analyses and reports without having to sift through dense online pdfs, and also allows for interactive graphics. In response to some questions about searchability across the many analyses, the MPS team expressed hope that full searchability would be functional by the time the PCCN report was completed and explained that cross-report searchability can also be provided in other ways using keyword searches.