

VMICC Meeting Minutes

September 21,
2020

7:05-8:55 pm
Online, using WebEx

Meeting called by: Vashon-Maury Island Community **Type of Meeting:** Virtual Council meeting

Meeting Chair: David Vogel **Meeting Co-Chair:** Diane Emerson

Note Taker: Meeting was transcribed by WebEx, summarized by Diane Emerson

Attendees: 66 people attended the meeting.

Attendees:

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. 2064****87 | 16. Kate Dowling | 30. Jeff Dunncliff |
| 2. 2067****29 | 17. REVERT NEXT
GEN | 31. Jenna Riggs |
| 3. 2067****98 | 18. Creighton
Chamberlain | 32. James Garrison |
| 4. 2067****99 | 19. Adam Foster | 33. Jim Diers |
| 5. 5108****20 | 20. Dan Schueler | 34. Jeff Payne |
| 6. Adam Day | 21. David Goebel | 35. Kevin Jones |
| 7. Amy Morrison | 22. Debra Gussin | 36. Kyle Britz |
| 8. Kathleen | 23. Diane Emerson | 37. Gene Kuhns |
| 9. Barbara Wells | 24. David Vogel | 38. Ginny Lohr |
| 10. Robert Custer | 25. Eleanor Yarkin | 39. Lynn Kidder |
| 11. Bianca Perla | 26. Linda Fox | 40. Maria Metler |
| 12. Catherine Briggs | 27. Heather Pierce | 41. Mike Dawson |
| 13. Carter Nelson | 28. Heidi Watters | 42. Melvin Mackey |
| 14. Cherry Champagne | 29. Jan Kuhns | 43. Michael Laurie |
| 15. Jim Champagne | | 44. Maia Syfers |
| | | 45. Oliver Kurabi |

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| 46. Patty Vandebroek
Custer | 53. Ryan Maloney | 60. Tina Dawson |
| 47. Paul Rowley | 54. Steven Pennebaker | 61. Nick Jurus |
| 48. Richard Bard | 55. Shiv Kumar Singh | 62. Ward Carson |
| 49. Rayna Holtz | 56. Ann Spiers | 63. Wendy Wharton |
| 50. Rayne Beaudoin | 57. Steve Bergman | 64. Will Lockwood |
| 51. Dean Richardson | 58. Suzanne Greenberg | 65. Lisa Chambers |
| 52. Rob Harmon | 59. Terry Sullivan | 66. Yvonne Kuperberg |

Those interested in watching the video of the meeting can do so for the next 4 months. The video of the meeting with transcription are available at this link:

<https://gardengreen.my.webex.com/recording/service/sites/gardengreen.my/recording/playback/38206d04407b4507ad6e89e83bd4ecb5>

Here is the password: YujjQRt3

We are working to have the videos archived on our website, www.vmicc.net

Minutes

1. **WebEx Instructions** – Diane Emerson
2. **Welcome** David Vogel
3. **August 17 meeting minutes** were reviewed and approved
4. **The meeting agenda** was reviewed and approved
5. **Board Nominations** –Jim Diers: Jim encouraged everyone to consider running for a position on the VMICC board and reported that we currently have six candidates running. You can see who is running here: <http://vmicc.net/board-candidates> People are encouraged to self-nominate at <http://vmicc.net/council-nominations/> Nominations close at midnight Oct 20, and voting is from Oct 22 to Nov 3. We would like to see more people running who would be connected to the following sectors: youth, Latinx, farming, faith, recreation, and other sectors not covered by the current candidates. If you aren't up for running yourself, find someone who is! We want to make sure that all voices are connected to the board.

6. **Policy Change Proposed by Election Committee – Melvin Mackey** Melvin noted that the number of nominations required for a ballot to be prepared in our Policies and Procedures was listed as 5, and it should be 8. He proposed the following revision to the Policies and Procedures for Elections:
black = delete and green underline = insert]

VMICC Policies and Procedures for Elections

Preparation Guidance

1. The Board shall appoint an Election Committee.
2. Recruit and train poll workers as required.
3. Recruit and train vote tally persons and observers as required.
4. Prepare ballots if ~~five~~ eight or more candidates are nominated.
5. Select parameters for Ranked Choice Voting (see Resources).
6. Mail one ballot with instructions, candidate statements, and double envelopes for return to every island postal address or provide notice of website election to all VMICC Members.
7. Announce availability of Special ballots if needed.
8. Designate place and time for return of voted ballots if paper ballots are used.

Motion: Melvin Mackey moved to amend item 4 of the VMICC Policies and Procedures for Elections, Preparation Guidance, by deleting the word “five” and inserting the word “Eight”. The motion was seconded by Jeff Dunncliff and passed unanimously with 76% of attendees voting.

7. **Aviation Noise Committee Report – David Goebel** David shared key information on flight history, requirements for siting a noise monitor, and the recommended location on Wingehaven Park, on the bluff above the walking path. Here is his report: <http://vmicc.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Aviation-Noise-Committee-Report-21Sep2020.pdf> First an emergency motion was passed unanimously to allow a vote on accepting the Wingehaven location. A second vote was held to accept the Wingehaven location for the noise monitor. This second motion passed unanimously as well, 37 to 0, with 15 abstentions. The Port of Seattle will be notified so they can begin the process of installing the noise monitor on Wingehaven Park.
8. **Puget Sound Energy (PSE) – Heather Pierce** Heather is the Outreach Manager for West King County. She gave a presentation on the programs available for homeowners and businesses being offered through Puget Sound Energy. Some of the programs mentioned include Crisis Affected Customer Assistance, Green Energy, and Appliance Recycling. Her presentation can be viewed here: <http://vmicc.net/pse-presentation/>
9. **Questions/Comments/Suggestions for Puget Sound Energy**
When Heather contacted the Community Council, she asked what PSE could do for the community of Vashon. A number of detailed questions and suggestions were submitted to her for answers. Here are the ones submitted in the chat function:

Virginia Lohr:

“Climate science is crystal clear that we must phase out the use of natural gas as quickly as possible. Given that Vashon residents are by and large very climate aware and health conscious, they will be highly receptive to gas phase-out programs, which will help the climate while eliminating indoor-air pollutants. Will you consider initiating programs to transition PSE customers off of gas by

2040? Failure to actively manage the transition to all-electric buildings will leave a decreasing population of gas customers who have the least financial resources to shoulder the cost of the gas system and to cope with the inevitable natural gas death spiral.”

Rob Briggs:

“Perhaps PSE could divert some of the dark money that’s been spent on coloring books for children to promote use of natural gas to this activity which has a real potential to improve their futures. Your comments please. “

Kevin Jones:

“Thanks for speaking with Vashon residents at the VMICC meeting tonight. In 2017 nearly 800 Vashonites and over 100 Vashon business owners signed a petition to PSE to close your Colstrip, Montana coal plants. Two are now closed, due to a lawsuit. Two are still running. More disturbing, despite Washington’s Clean Energy Transformation Act which requires that Washington utilities remove coal-based electricity from the grid by 2025, PSE now plans to sell Colstrip Unit 4 to NorthWestern, a utility that plans to run the plant for another 19 years. Worse yet, the existing transmission line to Montana, paid for through our electricity rates, is part of the sale. Replacing this line with a new line so we can benefit from the tremendous wind resource in Montana is expected to cost five times as much as maintaining the current line. Closing Colstrip is important to Vashon. Question: Will PSE commit to close it down, not sell it off?”

Ward Carson:

“Studies have shown that Vashon-Maury would benefit by forming a non-profit, Public Utility District; most obviously by gaining direct access to the inexpensive, carbon-free hydroelectricity provided by the Bonneville Power Administration. Island voters must approve a PUD. Would PSE resist the formation of a PUD on Vashon-Maury?”

Suzanne Greenberg:

“So sorry that you are struggling from all that smoke. It is clear that the reason the west coast is burning down is because of climate change. Even knowing this, PSE is building a massive LNG plant in Tacoma, ignoring our community's clear and vocal objections. Even worse, PSE plans to charge us ratepayers for more than 40% of the costs of their LNG plant despite projecting that we ratepayers will use less than 5% of the generated energy. PSE's profits from this plant will be at our community's expense despite the fact that it will endanger our lives and increase the impact of climate change on our community and the entire planet. PSE is essentially asking us to fund our own demise while they line their own pockets. Will PSE commit to protect your lungs and the planet's survival and abort this harmful project and to stop all plans to pass on the costs to us, the PSE ratepayers?”

Will Lockwood:

“When will PSE consider investing geothermal as a baseload source of power for our region?”

Virginia Lohr:

“Do you give incentives for swapping gas stoves for electric induction ones?”

Michael Laurie:

“As some of us know, currently PSE is proposing building more natural gas fueled plants to help generate electricity to meet peak demands. There are a wide range of options to address those peaks needs without using more natural gas that we have to phase out soon. Will PSE commit to funding a project on Vashon to address and test one or more of the climate friendly peak demand meeting options? Some of those options include installing and testing a utility scale battery system, controlling hot water tanks, testing time of day rates, connecting customer-located batteries to assist with meeting peak demand, and more.”

Virginia Lohr:

“The State requires utilities to develop 20-year plans for their future energy use with public input. As a member of Vashon Climate Action Group, I participate in PSE's meetings to develop their plans. PSE says they are going green, but their plans haven't reflected this. PSE's new CEO said she was hired to help PSE go green, but she has some hesitation when she speaks about it. The State has a new regulation called the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) requiring utilities to be fossil fuel free by 2045. Will PSE show us they really mean to go green by committing to achieve CETA's 100% clean energy standards AHEAD of schedule and by developing plans that would realistically do this?”

Maia Syfers:

“Heather Pierce stated she wants to chat about how PSE can best serve the Vashon community. The Vashon community is threatened by climate disruption along with the rest of the world. PSE has been building a massive LNG tank in Tacoma despite widespread community resistance. PSE is promoting the scientifically invalid claim that methane is a transition fuel away from fossil fuel. PSE even attempted to propagandize children with a coloring page about “Natural Gas Town”. We know that methane is a fossil fuel and has a far higher greenhouse gas effect than carbon dioxide. We know that even the minimal pipeline leakage will pose an unacceptable contribution to climate disruption. LNG infrastructure will commit us to global warming energy sources for years to come and will require fracked gas. We know hydraulic fracking is extremely polluting, damaging to the health of communities and very environmentally destructive. Will PSE commit to removing the LNG infrastructure already built and commit its future investments to 100% renewable energy sources?”

Jim Diers:

“PSE's contributions to the community (out of the money that comes from us in the first place) pale in comparison to what PDE should be doing with its own operations to slow climate change. Selling the coal plants for ongoing operations certainly doesn't help.”

Kevin Jones:

“We know that PSE has developed the Green Power program, which delivers 100% renewable energy to Microsoft, for example. Given the high interest in solar power generation on Vashon, how would PSE provide 100% renewable energy to Vashon via the Green Power program?”

Heather wasn't able to answer these and other questions submitted in advance of the meeting but promised to return with more information. The Community Council will follow up as needed and will invite PSE to return for more discussions.

10. **Community Announcements** – no announcements
11. **Issues for Future Meetings** – Catherine Briggs introduced the topic of Marine Life/Shoreline Preservation. The group has identified 4 issues: (1) overharvesting, (2) not following regulations (e.g. not filing in holes), (3) driftwood issues and (4) commercial vessels/pollution
If interested in getting involved with this newly forming group, send an email to vashonmauryshoreline@gmail.com.
12. **Next Meeting:** Monday, October 19, 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm via WebEx
13. **Adjourn**