

April 26, 2023

Subject: Strategic Growth Council February 28th, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Reporting Period: February 2023 – April 2023

Staff Lead: Sauntharya Manikandan, Executive Fellow, SGC

Recommended Action

Approval of the February 28, 2023, Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes.

Strategic Growth Council February 28, 2023 - Meeting Minutes

Agenda Item #1: Call to Order

Director Assefa called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM.

Acknowledgement of death of colleague and friend of Raquelle Kelly Meyers: Grateful to have had the honor of working with her and we will always remember her passion and justice for native people. We will start this meeting in her honor.

Agenda Item #2: Roll Call

Council Members and Representatives Present:

Sam Assefa, Director, Governor's Office of Planning and Research

Wade Crowfoot, Secretary, California Natural Resources Agency

Rohan Radhakrishna (Designee), Deputy Director, California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS), on behalf of Secretary Mark Ghaly.

Sasha Kergan (Designee), Deputy Secretary of Housing & Consumer Relations (BCSH), on behalf of Secretary Lourdes Castro Ramirez

Darwin Moosavi (Designee), Deputy Secretary, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), on behalf of Secretary Toks Omishakin

Shereen D'Souza (Designee), Deputy Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency on behalf of Secretary Yana Garcia

Attending Virtually

Karen Ross, Secretary, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)

Frank Cardenas, Public Member

Juan Sanchez Munoz, Public Member

Nicole Capretz, Public Member

D'Souza joins at 1:12

Ross joins 1:10

Agenda Item #3: ACTION: Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Munoz and seconded by Crowfoot to approve the December 15, 2022 meeting minutes.

Motion passes (10-1-0*). *Marks abstention or absence from vote

Public Comment: No public comment

Agenda Item #4: Executive Director's Report

Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Executive Director, SGC

Council Comment:

Assefa: Making that link from research to action is critical and is glad to hear that we are exploring these connections at a university level. We are multiple agencies that use multiple areas of research to make decisions around climate, and making that bridge is critical. The models and experience within SGC show the ability to make strides with Climate Change Research program.

Crowfoot: In relation to climate research agenda and program, it's excellent that we are coordinating with UC given the amount of resources state leaders have provided. Highlighting the Fifth Climate Assessment that CNRA is conducting with OPR, SGC, and the work California Council on Science and Technology. One important role for SGC is the potential to be a convener and coordinator, not administratively but thought leadership wise. If you think about the amount of funding going into climate research, we are often not connecting the dots between the research within state and outside of the state as well. Call for SGC being the hub for community-based research.

Radhakrishna: Applaud the summary paper. In investment programs we are excited to see focus on rural and disadvantaged communities. Highlighting technical assistance and capacity building within the SALC program as there was a lot of tribal land support and reducing match requirements for easement and these details that really matter. Building off Secretary Crowfoot's comments, there is a lot of government-academic partnerships taking place coming out of the pandemic. We want to applaud uplifting community based participatory research especially for more partnerships between government and academia. We are aware that some of the applications are aiming to address health and equity, so we hope this is included in the ultimate portfolio.

We also wanted to acknowledge the regional climate planning initiatives. Within our agency there was a 25 million regional climate and health resilience program that was eliminated due to budget. We want to thank you for all your efforts, and we hope to stay engaged in regional planning efforts that benefit our agency as well. Kudos to Health and Equity Program on the REAP strategies and support alignment with reparations task force. Wanted to share news of our agency's new chief equity officer, Daniel Torres who is a former senior immigration advisor and worked on the community level.



Capretz: Huge fan of this model of replicating and scaling CBO/academic research and we are part of three different conversation and most of the time academic institutions reach out to us.

Capretz: Academic institution requires the bulk of the grant and that becomes a barrier for CBO's as we are small nonprofit entities that don't have capacity to be writing the grant, or when we get the grant being able to put together deliverables. We are not sure we can engage in the way academic partners and it's not at the fault of those writing grant with us but want to point out the flaw there.

Capretz: Other issue is that a lot of cities don't want to sign the bottom line and are resistant to being accountable. Suspicious of process and money, so there is a lack of communication (out of blue 100 mill in play). CBO's themselves don't understand the process and what's really going on. Don't want to discredit opportunity but want to flag things as we move through.

Public Comment: No Public Comment

Agenda Item #5: Transformative Climate Communities Round 5 Guidelines

Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Executive Director, SGC

Amar Cid, Deputy Director of Community Investments and Planning, SGC

Recommended Action: Approve the Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Final Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) Round 5 Program Guidelines.

Council Comment:

Assefa: It's great to see how TCC becoming a model for national government, especially with 3 billion dollars being invested in federal level. It also speaks to the agility of the team, even though there is a proposed budget cut, and that they are still able to provide technical assistance and empower these communities to go through cumbersome application processes. This is a wonderful transformation of the program.

D'Souza: Love the proposal to support local jurisdictions and CBO's to go after federal funds. One thing to hear more about in the future is how to align/leverage our funding with federal funding. So that we can support those that are less likely to get federal funding or vice versa – timing issue as well to consider. Really supportive of aligning with AHSC with limiting funding to zero emission busses and requiring all electric housing. Also excited to hear about project development grants that will support low-capacity entities.

Koch-Liebert: Think about this as a landscape assessment and triage. If we can organize demand and take that thought little further with connecting communities. We should think more than just TCC/EPA connections and think more broadly about the connections that can be made. This initial state investment can be more catalytic, and we will come back with more details.

Moosavi: Echo comments and really excited about project development grant. Like your programs have done in the past. This is an area where you are leading and what we can do in this space. For transportation space lot of difficult with building capacity for new projects so this can be a model for us to think about our programs. As you all think about the next round of implementation - Cal Trans Reconnecting Community Programs that are being modeled after



the TCC program in many ways. Also given potential timeline alignment of our grants there will be applicants trying for both pots of money and we should coordinate on any overlaps of applicants.

Munoz: Question on the section about creating flexibility for tribes and expanded eligibility for disadvantaged/unincorporated communities. These changes wouldn't be there unless it yielded support for these communities in round 5. Do you have sense for how impactful these changes will be and increased uptake of California Native tribes? Mindful of Capretz's comment on limited capacity for smaller organizations and groups like tribes, so would be curious how these modifications would transpire.

TCC team: We have been in close communication with grantees in round 4 and those in public comment and they informed our revisions and update this need. But we will have to see in Round 5 how this plays out.

Munoz: I will be interested to see what we learn from making these adjustments. We often think we have the right formula, but it might not be the case. Let's look at data and see what the outcomes are and be sure to be mindful.

Kergan: The ability to iterate in this program shows commitment to communities. Really appreciate the team thinking about removing barriers not just financial but especially in helping coalesce community members. Reality is we need to continue removing barriers for communities that have not yet received funding. When thinking about financial aspect - I am excited to see advanced pay come to life and the project development is very creative part of the program that is removing barriers of people being able to step into these opportunities. On the Tribes' piece, very similar to the feedback we have received and let's see how that continues to play out. While we are thinking about communities being able to leverage federal dollars it is important to think about the story of what is not getting funded.

Public Comment:

Todd Isherwood

Olivia Sidemen

Motion passes (10-0-0).

Motion was made by Crowfoot and second by Ross.

Kergan leaves at 2:00 PM (no replacement)

Agenda Item #6: DISCUSSION: SGC Catalyst Conference Summary Papers

Lynn von Koch-Liebert, Executive Director, SGC

Council Comment:

Cardenas: What Secretary Crowfoot is talking about is the confluence of SGC - vision and leadership. Saw people from all over the state working together. Typically avoid these conferences, went in with high expectations, but they were exceeded.

- Summary pages are an accomplishment.



- Breadth & depth of conference
 - Action items from Conference – the MI match making role can be a huge compliment towards what SGC is already doing.
 - New frontiers – taking best lessons learned, collaborating with innovative ideas, public & private partnerships.
- Really appreciate it was not the usual suspects.
- Strategies: RCC will be pivotal

D'Souza: Congrats and kudos and completely agree with Frank and Crowfoot's remarks.

- Thinking of the questions and 4 key themes – thought we are already doing everything and already working on those areas. The idea that they emerged as key topics means that we need to do be doing more.
 - 10 or 15 years in the future, there will be more impact from what we area already doing now.
 - The Technical Assistance and Capacity Building work that SGC is piloting can be seen as “add on” to main programs from other orgs. But for low-capacity orgs, that is the main program.
 - To the degree that it is helpful for us to echo that with GO, leg, and finance to do more investment in those programs.
- SGC is a van guard of this.
 - In working with other parts of the administration, there is so much resistance. For instance, we also wanted advanced pay for sub grantees, which other parts of the administration were hesitant about due to risk
 - Looking for ways to move more things around for more risk adverse parts of the org would be interesting for the strategic planning process.

Assefa: Agree with D'Souza. We should be more open to risk and removing barriers. We must be open to this, especially given urgency of time. It is our job to talk to leaders and institutions to transform government.

Crowfoot: Occasionally, you're a part of a conversation that changes you. Yesterday, we facilitated a conversation with Black leaders for Black History month. Heard of a story how hard it was to get a state job, from a former state park person. We inherit systematically racist institutions. And while we are so focused on moving forward, the word institutionalized are so critical especially as we work to change initialization. The 3 words I think of is: experiment, align, and institutionalize for SGC.

Radhakrishna: We need to go bigger, deeper, and further.

- Bigger: equity is about distribution of power and resources. We should absolutely do this with federal funds but what is the state target for our funds? And for locals and philanthropy? What is the CA way for the future? What does it mean to double up?
- Deeper & further: facilitate TCC model with other partners, many things that we are already doing. Collaborative stakeholders initialized in for all forms of governance and fund distribution.

Competitive apps for billions are good for consultants and those who have resources and benefit from it. As stewards, how can we level the playing field by using data? We know where we need to put the resources. Can we use the data more equitably rather than complex competitive processes? Considering Health – want to make sure that is baked in analysis and #1 motivator for climate action.

Some things that were not discussed at the conference: low carbon cost infrastructure, Care givers, childcare, etc. Also thinking about who is not in the table – youth.

Darwin: The benefit of my absence is we were able to have staff from other departments to attend. To really make this change, we need to bring in folks who are not doing this work to convince them to do this work. Also thinking about how to make the conversations more accessible to those not doing this day to day.

Capretz: My purpose is to train the younger people and the next generation. I must say it is monumental that we are having this conversation currently. The top three themes are what I see on the ground is necessary.

- In our community organizing work, there is a lack of awareness as well distrust around government.
- Would love the idea of regional roundtables. Not just curated roundtables but also meeting with MPO'S and elected officials, especially those who are resistant to what you're doing --> possibility of a road show.
- How do we reach more communities? Competitive process puts communities and CBOs against each other. Tensions and comparing struggles even though everyone deserve to have a thriving life (TCC 5-mile radius. See tension in local areas). How can we push the money, in a less competitive process. Like during covid, we pushed money and at the end of the day most people who needed it got it.
- Echo D'Souza's comments that SGC is vanguard. How do we get more people to think this way about the future?

Public Comment:

Laura O'Connor

Peter Browley

Motion passes (10-0-0)

Agenda Item #7: Public Comment

Public comment (virtual)

Vamsi Kotla

Agenda Item #8: Meeting Adjournment

Director Assefa ends with acknowledgement of Raquelle Kelly Myer's work with numerous programs across SGC and OPR to engage with and serve tribes. In honor of Kelly Myers this meeting is adjourned.



Meeting adjourned at 2:59 PM.

