

**Charleston County  
Resilience and Sustainability Advisory Committee (RSAC)  
Meeting Minutes  
March 04, 2025**

**ATTENDEES**

RSAC: Dr. Kylon Jerome Middleton (Charleston County Council Chairman), Stewart Weinberg (Sustainability Technical Expert), Scott Harris (College of Charleston), Diamond Curry (Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce), Adrian Cain (Homebuilders Association), Scott Curtis (Citadel), Sally Brooks (Zoning and Planning), Nina Miller (BCDCOG).

Public SMEs: Kyle James (BCDCOG), Adelaide Bates (Shi Institute), Catherine Min (SCOR)  
County Staff: Molly Caggiano, Alexandra Petruch, David Rhode, Walter Smalls, Sheetal Verma<sup>+</sup>

**CALL TO ORDER**

Stewart Weinberg called the Charleston County RSAC meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.  
FOIA and media acknowledgement announced.

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS' REMARKS**

- Approved meeting minutes at 9:42 a.m. from February 27, 2024.
  - Motion to approve introduced by Stewart Weinberg. Motion was approved unanimously.
  - Stewart Weinberg approved as Chair for RSAC
  - Scott Harris of the College of Charleston approved as Vice Chair for RSAC

**TOPICS DISCUSSED**

Introductions of each member of the RSAC were given as meetings have now been reinstated upon the hiring of the new Resilience and Sustainability team members: Molly Caggiano (Resilience and Sustainability Manager), Alexandra Petruch (Sustainability Coordinator), and David Rhode (Project Officer).

Presentations:

*Molly Caggiano*

An overview of what has taken place since the last RSAC meeting in February 2024 was provided. As of August 2024 the County has approved the Climate Action Plan with 5 big moves and 53 strategies, which will include the underlying goals of reducing GHG emissions. There will also be an implementation of the 11 strategies and actions for increasing resilience as identified in the Multi-Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Assessment completed by Fernleaf in October 2024.

Moving forward, the goal is to establish a countywide approach to Resilience and Sustainability that engages our stakeholders to fully pursue mitigation and adaptation solutions to risks while

adopting sustainability practices. There will be strategies for collaboration that incorporate internal and external partners as well as SCEMD/CCEMD.

Based on Strategies 1 and 11 of the Climate Action Plan, the Flood Mitigation Framework and Brownfield Redevelopment and Community Revitalization resilience projects that came out of the Multi-Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (HVA) are still in progress with Fernleaf with a completion dates slated for May 2025. The Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved in December 2024 and won't be adopted again until December 2029. In the next five years, all of the HVA data will be integrated into the Hazard Mitigation Plan.

*Alexandra Petruch*

Progress made on the Climate Action Plan was introduced. Of 5 big moves, 16/53 of the strategies are in progress. It is important to note the 53 strategies are extremely ambitious and unusual, but it will help Charleston County set a new standard for Sustainability. Big Move 1 and 2 have received the most attention based on the amount funding that was readily available, with most action being taken in Big Move 1.

Committee Input: It is recommended that Resilience and Sustainability measures be cohesively implemented to transform adaptations into solutions, while emphasizing the importance of each independent component of these two specialties.

Projects Updates:

*Alexandra Petruch*

Development of Environmental Guidelines for new developments and retrofits are currently in progress commercially with finalization projected for 2026. This will satisfy Strategies 2, 4, and 5 of Big Move 1 as well as Strategies 19 and 31 of Big Move 2.

Education Programs will be offered highlighting Weatherization incentives; there is the potential for distributing weatherization kits so that energy savings can be realized in individual homes. Certain aspects are currently on pause due to funding freezes, but the outreach component may still be feasible at this time. This will implement Strategy 18, Big Move 1.

There have been increased events and outreach facilitating the growth and strengthening of our internal and external partnerships.

*Molly Caggiano*

Currently, \$8,327,676 slated for FY24-FY25 with portions federally frozen. Projects dependent on these funds include: Coastal Carolina Community Charging (Paused), Residential Weatherization and Energy Audits (Paused), Ford F150 (Completed), Two Ford Mustangs (Completed), CSCI (In Progress), and Joint-Base Microgrid (award announcement in mid-April 2025).

Community Partner Projects include: EPA Community Change Grant – Union Heights – City of North Charleston (In Progress) and Building a Resilient and Efficient Southeast Collaborative –



Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA) (In Progress).

Committee Input: Concern was expressed regarding the number of strategies that have yet to be addressed/implemented. Considering the limited manpower that the Office of Resilience and Sustainability currently has, it was suggested that some of the strategies/responsibilities could be delegated to committee members to catalyze momentum. Additionally, there was an address of the stagnation due to grant freezes and dependency on external funding; a solution was introduced of incorporating fiscal needs in the upcoming budget.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS MADE/ACTION ITEMS:**

- Develop a Regional Vision for Resilience – regional meaning the County – but may encompass the tri-county.
- Reference: Dutch Dialog
- Identification of our county partners for Resilience and Sustainability initiatives.
- Review and considers Climate Action Plan strategy assignments for RSAC members.
- Distribute updates from the South Carolina Strategic Resilience Department regarding the statewide climate action plan.
- Provide data for Number 5 of Climate Action Plan for HBA.
- Determine the necessary budget to implement the strategies as we trend towards relying less on grants and external funds.
- Committee will begin to prioritize the strategies to accelerate a course forward.
- Each member will review the 53 Climate Action Plan Strategies and develop more in-depth comments and questions.
- Additional meetings may be organized outside of the regularly scheduled sessions as prioritization of strategies and delegation of responsibilities ensue.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Late April (tentative)

#### **CHAIR'S REMARKS**

None

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

#### **GENERAL COMMENT**

It was requested that RSAC continue to work with representative from the State Sustainability Office to encourage the continual availability of grant funds and to press forward in the sustainability strategies that have been presented.

## ADJOURNMENT

The Chair, Stewart Weinberg, adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

Sheetal Verma<sup>+</sup>

Ratified by the Charleston County  
Resilience and Sustainability Advisory  
Committee this 04<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025.

  
Chair

Attest:

  
Administrative Officer - Resilience  
Administrative Officer - Sustainability