



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Commission on Climate Change and Resiliency

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2026

3:00 – 5:30 pm

<u>DC-CCCR Commissioners</u>	<u>DOEE Staff</u>
Present:	Alisonya Poole
Akiima Price	Brian Fox
Alan Etter	Brittany Whited
Anthony Kane	Casey Studhalter
Colin McCormick	Erin Garnaas-Holmes
Jim Dougherty	Jenn Hatch
Jim Landau	Jesse Cross
Kate Johnson	Kate Tanabe
Maureen Holman	Tasneem Islam
Peggy Keller	
Steve Moore	<u>Invited Guests</u>
Uwe Brandes	Elias Franzen
	Gail Taylor
Absent:	Kara Reeve
Erica Green	Tommy Wells
Kate Zyla	
	<u>Other Guests</u>
	Adam Carlesco
	Anthony J. Scerbo
	Claire Weinrib
	Dionne Brown
	Jamie Donovan
	Kenya Troutman
	Vermecia Alsop

1. Call to Order 3:07 PM

2. Guest Presentations

- [District's Integrated Flood Model \(IFM\)](#) – **Kara Reeve** (Branch Chief, Floodplain, Wetlands & Groundwater Branch, DC Department of Energy and Environment) and **Eli Franzen** (Environmental Protection Specialist, Floodplain, Wetlands & Groundwater Branch, DC Department of Energy and Environment)
 - The IFM can be used to identify potential areas for inland flooding not listed in existing FEMA floodplains maps.
 - 1-year storms are more common and might cause less damage. 100-year storms are less common, but can be more severe.
 - DOEE to use updated IFM to inform and empower residents, target the District's Flood Smart Homes program, and in work with other agencies.
 - Demo of <https://dcfloodrisk.org/>.
- Organizational Frameworks Discussion – **Tommy Wells**
 - a. People are policy: who you put into a position directs the policy you create.
 - b. Resiliency encompasses more than just climate. Housing is part of resiliency. Food insecurity is as well and is also affected by global climate and global crop failures. Need to think broadly.
 - c. Affordability is critical to Janeese Lewis George's priorities. Energy is becoming a greater part of people's cost of living, just like housing.
 - d. Part of our energy costs are connected to the increased energy use of data centers in Virginia. The District should consider class action lawsuits against Virginia for their decisions on data centers that impact the District and others who are affected by higher rates without the "benefits" (e.g., tax revenue) of data centers in our cities.
 - e. The District has no leverage over hyperscale data center developers directly with none located in the District.
 - f. The Commission should think about how buildings will heat and cool themselves, particularly in the Southwest neighborhood. For example, with geothermal. Variable rate pricing incentivizes the potential and promise of batteries.
 - g. A lot of data center development is not happening in cities, so it's hard to know how a mayor could make an impact.
 - h. Kate Johnson shared this Global Urban Data Centers Pact: <https://c40.shorthandstories.com/the-global-data-centres-pact/index.html>
 - i. Small scale data centers in the District are falling through the cracks of regulation.
 - j. The mayor of Chicago recently halted data center development to study energy and water use impacts first.
 - k. Sustainable DC 3.0 was developed years ago but unreleased. The CCCR report as well as the future Sustainable DC 3.0 will inform the next mayor's climate and environmental priorities.
 - l. Uwe noted the third CCCR report marked the first time the commissioners really expressed concern about whether the city is on track to meet its climate goals.
 - m. Tommy expressed gratitude to the commission.

- Urban Agriculture in the District – **Gail Taylor** (Founder, Three Part Harmony Farm)
 - a. [Three Part Harmony Farm](#) is a 100% off-grid operation growing vegetables on a half-acre plot with 64 permanent beds.
 - b. Climate change presents an interesting challenge. On the one hand, farmers have felt like the growing season can be longer and begin earlier in the spring and last later into the fall; however, navigating more extreme weather throughout the growing season is challenging. This year in particular has been challenging with constant extremes in heat, rain, and cold snaps.
 - c. The climate locally (for growing) is increasingly becoming more similar to that of a desert. Gail is looking to places like Arizona to better understand growing practices.
 - d. Emphasize the importance of social connectivity for resilience. Soil therapy is real, and Gail has noted several volunteers at the farm are attorneys who work desk jobs and they crave the opportunity to work with the soil and get outside.

3. Chair's Welcoming Remarks (Uwe Brandes)

4. Announcement of Quorum – Quorum confirmed.

5. Approval of Agenda – A motion to approve the 9/17/2026 meeting agenda was passed unanimously.

6. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – A motion to approve the 6/11/2026 Quarterly Meeting Minutes was passed unanimously.

7. Staff Report (Tasneem Islam) – Staff report included updates on administrative items and projects, events, and accomplishments from DOEE and other stakeholders. The report, including relevant links, is available on the [CCCR website](#).

8. Finance Report – none

9. Governance Report – none

10. Committee Reports – none

11. Public Comments – none

12. Discussion & Upcoming Meeting

- Commission vacancies and Uwe Brandes to step down as Chair.
- Next quarterly meeting: December 10, 2026 from 3-5:30 p.m.

13. Adjourn: 4:29 PM