Introductory remarks

Good morning. I am pleased to call this meeting to order. Before we begin, I would like to recognize Pace Law School's continuing support of FCWC and events like this one today. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Pace Law School

* Dean Anderson
* Professor Robinson
* Professor Shelby Green
* Director Bourgeois
* Director Ommen

I would also like to thank our State legislators for taking the time out of their busy schedules to meet with us today.

State Senator Harckman

State Senator Mayer

Assembly person Otis

Assembly person Shimisky

Assembly person Burdick

Assembly person Levenberg

And finally, thank our members for engaging with us in this discussion between the conservation groups and our state representatives. Your participation is invaluable as we strive to address our community's pressing issues. Today, we aim to foster collaboration and share insights to strengthen our efforts. I encourage everyone to voice their thoughts and questions, as open dialogue is crucial for our success. Let’s make this a productive session!

Today, we have 4 conservation issues to discuss and 2 hours to progress through the meeting. That leaves approx 25 minutes for each topic. The order for our discussion will start with FCWC presenting the topic, followed by 10 minutes for you, our member of the organization, to add to our introduction. We will wrap up each topic with the legislators having 10 minutes to respond; as you can see, this is not much time to get through the issues. We should have a fruitful dialogue if we are distinct in our remarks. So please be respectful and watch your time. We will also notify you when your time is up to keep us on time. Once again, your participation is crucial to our collective success. Remember, we aim to collaborate effectively and address these pressing conservation issues. Thank you all for your commitment.

(Introduce Pace Law - Dean Anderson or Nick Robinson - give them time to make opening remarks)

Let's go ahead and get started. You should all have the agenda; if not, QR codes on the tables will bring up the agenda. The 4 topics we will be discussing are:

1. Clean Water
2. Clean Air
3. Environmental justice
4. Environmental Land Use.

Some of you might be questioning why we did not include climate change as a topic. The reason is that the four topics for today are all related to Climate Change, and we believe that the overriding topic is too broad.