

Notes from December Monthly Meeting

Palouse Region Chapter, Citizens' Climate Lobby

Time: Thursday, December 4, 5:30 to 7 pm

Place: Meeting room, South Fork Public House, 1680 S. Grand Avenue in Pullman.

Introductions Note taker --Paul Spencer Members present: Rob Briggs, Steve Flint, Pat Rathmann, Ginny Lohr, Paul Spencer, and Bertie Weddell. [Icy roads kept several members from attending.]

Updates on Local Chapter Issues/Announcements

- January meeting date and location . Thursday, January 8 (to avoid meeting on January 1). Location to be announced later, but probably Cafe Artista in Moscow.
- Meeting: Pacific Northwest Regional CCL Conference in Seattle – Saturday and Sunday, March 7 & 8. Conference focus will be "Fisheries, Farms, and Forests." **Both Rob and Ginny recommended this meeting as "energizing" and strongly encouraged everyone to attend if they are able.**

Reports

- Ginny Lohr previewed the December National CCL Call. The speaker is Allan Savory on sequestering carbon through holistic land management – He proposes reversing desertification of grass lands by animal control, taking carbon out of the air and at the same time feeding people. Ginny explained that Savory's ideas are somewhat controversial and that listening to this talk may be a good lesson on how CCL deals with controversial issues.

[Note: We encourage everyone to listen to the calls, which this month will occur on the Saturday after our meeting. You can listen to the call [here](#) usually by Saturday afternoon. (Also a link to Allan Savory's TED talk)]

Activities for month

- LASER TALK practice – It's a fee not a 'tax' (attached). We made a trial of this activity. The group was divided into pairs. One of each pair read a "Laser Talk" document (several paragraphs) to the other member of the pair. The other member of each pair then explained to the reader what he or she considered the most important statement or item of information from the reading and why. The original reader explained his or her opinion of which was the most important statement. A short discussion between each pair about the document was followed by a general group discussion about the talk and how it could be used by CCL.

The consensus was that this exercise was useful for learning more about information relevant to CCL and good practice for presenting the ideas and positions of CCL and that our local CCL should continue do a LASER TALK during each meeting.

- We discussed generating letters to the editor and op-eds. Bertie agreed to write a follow-up letter to the Larry Kirkland letter which appeared in the Dec. 2 issue of the M-P Daily News.
- Each of us is encouraged to write letters to our local members of Congress (MOCs) congratulating them on re-election and plugging revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend. Each letter should start with something positive and appreciative of the MOCs service, even if one disagrees with the MOC on some issues.

Updates from Interest Groups

- Tabling/Outreach – Pat Rathmann/Jeff Ramsey
 - **Upcoming opportunities.** We discussed the possibility of having a table at the Sat. Dec 16 winter market. Lobbying and petitions are not allowed, which might constrain us. Pat suggested that talking about climate change might be considered too political.
 - Mary Dupree conveyed that she had contacted the interfaith ministers' group in Moscow and that they will discuss co-sponsorship with Palouse Region CCL of a film or speaking event, such as Catherine Heyhoe. This was in follow-up to outreach ideas generated at the November CCL chapter meeting.
- Presentations – Pat Friel
 - **CCLU Speakers Bureau** – Videos from four training sessions are available here: <http://community.citizensclimatelobby.org/cclu/>. PowerPoint files are available as well.
 - **Ideas for audiences and venues.** Pat suggested that we start with the service clubs such as Rotary and Kiwanis. Paul agreed to call a member of the Audubon Society to see if they would like a presentation from CCL. All members should think about other opportunities to present on climate and revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend. Another possible venue is the Chamber of Commerce. Pat said that the presenters for the C of C should be of professional quality.
- Lobbying – Steve Flint/Rob Briggs
 - **Lobby Day on November 19, 2014** – CCL visited 100 offices of MOCs in DC including Mike Crapo and Cathy McMorris Rodgers with local chapter members participating via phone.
 - **REMI briefings** for Senate and House drew overflow crowds on November 20 and 21.
 - Steve reported that 3 CCL members participated on Lobby day with intent to talk to Senator Crapo. They were able to talk to his staffers with Steve on the phone. The staffers voiced strong concerns about proposed EPA power plant regulations.
 - Rob described the meeting with Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers' chief of staff, Melanie Steele. The discussion provided a useful exchange of information with the three CCL members and staff able to convey key points about revenue-neutral carbon and fee and dividend, while Ms. Steele revealed some key areas of concern, such as stability of the electrical grid as contribution from renewables increases.
- Newspapers/Media – Al Poplawsky/Rob Briggs
 - A get together and strategy session was held on November 20 at Rob and Ginny's house. There we talked about various ways we might become more productive in generating letters and op-eds. In particular, they talked about identifying various roles: monitor and alert, write, and review, and file field reports.
 - LTE and Op-Ed exercise – Rob emphasized that we wanted to use our local meeting to convey our positive message about revenue-neutral carbon fee and dividend as a way to address global warming and to publicize our solutions-oriented organization. We reviewed recent opportunities presented by news articles, op-eds, and letters in the M-P Daily News for us to respond. Rob shared copies of a document containing principles for effective advocacy that are useful to keep in mind when writing (attached).

New Business

- Carbon Tax for Washington State– There will be a November 2016 ballot measure for a revenue-neutral carbon tax in Washington. It will require 300,000+ voter signatures between March and December of 2015. Should we consider endorsing the ballot initiative? Participating in signature gathering?
- We discussed the matter briefly. The consensus was that this could be important even though it is not a solution for the whole U.S. Paul asked if there is any possibility that the word "Tax" could be changed to "Fee".

Adjourn