

# Notes from January 8, 2015 Meeting

## Palouse Region Chapter, Citizens' Climate Lobby

Thursday, Jan. 8, 2015, 5:30 to 7 pm, Meeting room, One World Cafe, Moscow

### Introductions

Members present: Rob Briggs, Mary DuPree, Steve Flint, Mary Jo Hamilton, Ginny Lohr, Judy Meuth (Note taker), Al Poplawsky, Jeff Ramsey, Pat Rathmann, and Bertie Weddell.

### Additions to Agenda

Report on December National CCL Call

### Review of December Minutes

Members asked for clarification of several acronyms.

### Updates on Local Chapter Issues/Announcements

- **February meeting date and location:** Thursday, Feb. 5, 5:30pm-7:00pm, Ginny Lohr's house at 837 SE Edge Knoll Drive, Pullman. Prior to deciding on this location, we discussed whether to continue the meeting and food arrangements we have had recently or not. Ginny volunteered to experiment with hosting the Pullman meetings at her house, with pizza ordered and paid for by member contributions or food provided by other means. All agreed.
- **Letter writing** – We discussed whether it is more effective to take our regular meeting time to write letters to MOCs or have a meeting dedicated to letter writing; there was no clear consensus. Two suggested topics were 1) whatever is current in the news and 2) a thank you to those who attended the REMI briefings and further lobbying for the CCL proposal.
- Mary and Rob will check with Paul to gain access to uploading documents directly to our website.
- **Our chapter surpassed its recent fundraising goal by 50%!!** Rob recommended asking family/friends to donate in lieu of other gifts to members.
- Meeting: **Pacific Northwest Regional CCL Conference in Seattle** – March 7 & 8, 2015. The conference focus will be "Fisheries, Farms, and Forests." Registration is \$85 with meals, \$40 without meals. There are scholarships and some free housing available. For more information: <https://donate.citizensclimateeducationcorp.org/seattle/events/greater-pacific-northwest-regional-conference/e41679> Pat R. asked if we can get a copy of the official bill that CCL is proposing, prior to this conference. Rob will look into this request.
- Meeting: **CCL International Conference in Washington, DC** – June 21-23, 2015. Dr. Katharine Hayhoe, atmospheric scientist at Texas Tech University, will be the keynote speaker. Rob highly recommended this conference which will include training opportunities and lobbying of Members of Congress (MOCs). Registration is \$99. You can register here: <https://donate.citizensclimateeducationcorp.org/washington/events/2015-international-conference/e41246>

### Reports

**Report on December CCL Call** – The speaker was Allan Savory of the Savory Institute; he asks whether we can reverse desertification and sequester carbon through cattle herding.

- **This month's call will be Jan. 10**, when David Hone, Climate Change Advisor for Shell, will discuss why businesses should embrace carbon pricing.

[We encourage everyone to listen to the calls. You can listen to the call [here](#) usually by Saturday afternoon after the call.]

**Ginny reported on CCL news in general:**

- CCL held a second lobbying day (beyond the June International Conference) for the first time. In this second November 19-21 lobbying day effort, the focus was on four congressional committees of most interest to CCL:  
House – 1) Ways and Means and 2) Energy and Commerce  
Senate – 3) Environment and Public Works and 4) Finance  
They were pleased with the effort: 45 Senate meetings and 74 House meeting.
- The House and Senate briefings on the REMI report by author Scott Nystom exceeded the capacity for the briefing rooms scheduled, with more than 70 people in attendance at each. Some staffers and MOCs stayed much longer in the briefings and asked more questions than is customary.
- **CCL advises “keep trying”**: the San Jose CCL finally got an OpEd in the local paper after 3 1/2 years of trying.
- **Growth** – There are 10 new chapters of CCL in the last month!
- **Terminology** – The advice from CCL National is that we can call our CCL proposal the “Carbon Fee and Dividend Plan” or the “Schultz and Becker Plan”. Schultz and Becker wrote an April 7, 2013 article in the *Wall Street Journal* called, “Why We Support a Revenue-Neutral Carbon Tax” (<http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424127887323611604578396401965799658> ). George Schultz is former Secretary of the three offices of Labor, Treasury, and State and was director of the Office of Management and Budget. The late Gary Becker was a professor of economics at the Univ. of Chicago and a Nobel laureate in economics. Both authors have been senior fellows at Stanford University’s Hoover Institution.

#### Updates from Interest Groups

- **Tabling/Outreach** – Pat Rathmann/Jeff Ramsey – Jeff reported that he has been doing some outreach and we briefly discussed additional opportunities, including the Palouse Clearwater Food Summit 4.0, which will be held Jan. 30, 2015, 9:00am-4:00pm at the 1912 Center in Moscow. More information on the Summit and the registration form are online at [www.ruralroots.org](http://www.ruralroots.org)  
Jeff also recommended a TED talk by Dan Miller on carbon fee and dividend; the talk can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0k2-SzIDGko>
- **Presentations** – Pat Friel.
- **Lobbying** – Steve Flint/Rob Briggs
- **Newspapers/Media** – Al Poplawsky/Rob Briggs

#### Monthly Actions

**Review and Plan** – We began a process of reviewing our 2014 work and planning for 2015. CCL suggested addressing these questions as we plan: “How will you move your Representative(s) and Senators to the next level in support of Carbon Fee and Dividend? What actions will you take...?” CCL also suggested using the levers of lobbying, media, outreach, and chapter development/expansion to build political will.

Rob brought a summary of our 2014 actions and reported them. Points made in our ensuing discussion on the levers and our ideas of how to use them are below. **At our next meeting, we will continue discussion on each of the levers and build a more specific plan of action with goals for 2015.**

- **Lobbying** – *Potential 2015 goal*: In addition to meeting with all our MOCs and/or their staff members at the June CCL conference in Washington, DC, hold a second meeting during the year with every MOC.
  - Steve noted that in ID so far, we have lobbied Sen. Crapo’s and Rep. Labrador’s staffers. There has not been much progress with Sen. Risch. In general when lobbying MOCs, it is important to start with some action they have taken that we see as positive. Pat R. pointed out that some MOCs are not interested in considering the CCL proposal until we can

show that we have local support from community organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, and Rotary.

- **Media** - *Potential 2015 goal*: See Newspaper, Radio, and Television below.
  - Newspaper – Two to three op-eds per year; one letter to the editor per month. Put these pieces in the *Moscow/Pullman Daily News*, the *Lewiston Tribune*, and the *Spokesman Review*, as well as in agricultural publications. Jeff suggested a letter topic would be to counter MOCs' claim that they are not scientists with the fact that they can rely on the 97% of climate scientists who acknowledge climate change.
  - Radio and Television – Should we start a radio program? The consensus was no, but we should attempt to get on current radio and television programs, such as those on Radio Free Moscow.
- **Outreach** – *Potential 2015 goals*: Six speaking engagements for new groups. Build support from community organizations and groups (which?).
  - We want to build support from community organizations such as the Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, Rotary. Pat volunteered to get the Kiwanis on board with the CCL proposal. Pullman Parks and Recreation Department is having a talk series that may be of interest to us; Pat will attend the first talk on Jan. 20.
  - Bertie suggested bringing more farmer organizations on board. A good place to start might be to attend the Palouse Clearwater Food Summit 4.0 (for more information, see Tabling/Outreach report under Updates from Interest Groups in these minutes). Also meeting with the USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council ([www.pea-lentil.com](http://www.pea-lentil.com)) would be important. Pat asked if we might be able to reach farmers by going through the research project Regional Approaches to Climate Change in Pacific Northwest Agriculture (REACCH) that involves both UI and WSU researchers.
  - Mary asked if we should educate and attract UI and WSU students. We decided that we should concentrate on just a few groups at the moment, since we are few in number; thus we will not pursue students now.
  - In Outreach efforts, Mary Jo noted that we need to point out how climate change will affect us locally as well as some possible solutions. She is on the Moscow Tree Commission which will be interested in effects; Rob suggested Ginny as a resource person for the Tree Commission.
- **Chapter Development/Expansion** – *Potential 2015 goals*: Assist in chapter establishment in Spokane and Boise. Grow our own membership.
  - Mary asked if we have enough of a critical mass to do our work as well as to help chapters get going in Spokane and Boise. Rob said we have already begun the work in Spokane and he will follow up on that effort. Al will raise the topic of a Boise CCL chapter at the February Sierra Club meeting in Boise to see if there is interest. Pat suggested that the progressive organization TransForm Idaho might be helpful in Boise.
  - We should also increase and diversify our own chapter membership, including by approaching students and religious groups.

#### New Business

- Last meeting, Rob asked if we wanted to support the **CarbonWA proposal for a revenue-neutral carbon tax** (proposal attached and at <http://carbonwa.org/policy/>). He clarified that the

proposal is 'revenue-neutral' although it uses a 'tax'. The Washington constitution prohibits a tax refund to citizens, but the tax will be 'refunded' in other ways, for instance via a lower state sales tax. This initiative would appear on the November, 2016 ballot if 300,000+ voter signatures can be collected between March and December of 2015.

Should we endorse the ballot initiative and/or participate in signature gathering? Rob noted that National CCL is okay with us endorsing it. Pat R. moved and Ginny seconded our chapter endorsing the initiative. We accepted the motion to endorse.

#### Laser Talk

Briefly we paired for a Laser Talk practice on "What Is Citizen's Climate Lobby?" One of each pair read the "Laser Talk" document 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. Each pair then briefly discussed how to best use the information.

#### Adjourn