

# Meeting Notes - September 2015 Monthly Meeting

## Palouse Region Chapter, Citizens' Climate Lobby

Time: Thursday Sept. 3, 2015

Place: One Word Café, Moscow, ID

Present: Deb Olson, Mary DuPree, Rob Briggs, Ginny Lohr, Jeff Ramsey, Steve Flint, Judy Meuth (note taker), Paul Spencer, Pat Rathmann, Nancy Nelson, David Nelson, Ann Moscrip, Bob Lohr, Katie Gieske

Last month's media accomplishments: 4 letters to the editor. LMT (Katie), Spokesman (Ginny), Whitman Co. Gazette (Ginny), Daily News (AI); Editorial endorsement in Daily News on Aug. 6

### Action items accomplished last month

- Deb is working with Neill Library about Pullman showing of *Merchants of Doubt*
- Rob is working on Climate Hope bumper sticker purchase
- Rob ordered and brought "I am concerned" postcards
- Pat is working on AARP and Kiwanis for CCL presentations
- Mary was asked to speak on the CCL at the Moscow LWV in November

### Reports

- This month's international call on Sept. 12: The conservative case for a carbon tax. Hear it on or after that date at <http://citizensclimatelobby.org>
- Rob addressed the question "why hasn't the CCL F/D proposal reached the floor of the house or senate yet?" Four (now five) carbon-tax bills have been introduced, but need conservative backing to go further. You can find a review of introduced bills here: <https://community.citizensclimatelobby.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/2015-Bills-Submitted.pdf>. CCL strategy is to quietly work to line up bi-partisan support before having a bill introduced, reducing the time foes have to organize against it. CCL also chooses to keep the proposal generic so that details can't be picked apart. Major areas of difference among current bills principally involve how quickly the carbon fee ramps up, and what happens to the proceeds. See <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Carbon-Fee-and-Dividend-July-2015.pdf> for CCL's current page and a half description of its proposal. Pat raised the concern that the dividend part of Fee/Dividend was perceived by some as elitist. The REMI report, however, indicates that those with lower incomes will benefit most. It does appear to be an area we need to clarify in our communications.
- Mary opined that we are not in a position to ask for the endorsements CCL requests until we have had a chance to present the CCL proposal to groups such as Rotary, Kiwanis. The group agreed.
- The new Spokane CCL group is up and going strong.

### Local chapter issues

- Mary reported that we have 100+ names on our mailing list, but only a dozen or so active participants. The group suggested sending special alerts to the list, for example the *Merchants of Doubt* showing, to get people motivated.

- Group filled out “I am concerned” cards, which will be sent as a group to members of congress. Jeff and other will use these at tabling events.

### Updates from Interest Groups

- *Merchants of Doubt* showing at Kenworthy on Oct. 7 sponsored by UUCP, CCL, PESCI. Free with donations requested; panel following short break: Tom Bitterwolf (science), Kenton Bird (media), Rob or Mary (CCL F/D proposal). There are UI class showings and we are working on WSU. Pat is working on radio interviews and posters; Mary will do press releases.
- Steve reported on lack of response from recent MoC and staff contacts. Persistence was encouraged and we discussed the importance of working with local staff of MoCs.
- Ginny and Rob met with aides of Senator Cantwell and Rep. McMorris-Rodgers in conjunction with CCL Spokane. Rob emphasized that you don’t need to be a policy expert to lobby effectively and anecdotally cited the moving presentation of a copy of James Hansen’s *Storms of Our Grandchildren* to a congressional aide as an example of connecting on effectively on values.
- To maximize the impact of our letters to the editor, opinion pieces, and editorials on climate, we need to ensure they get sent to our MoCs. Rob suggested we needed to establish procedures that make it easy to do this and ensure that it happens. Ginny agreed to spearhead this effort and solicited models for cover letters; Paul offered to draft a model.

### New Action Items from Meeting

- Rob will check with Emily Adams to see if she can provide some local agriculture (farmer) contacts
- Ginny will put our opinion pieces, LTEs, etc. on our CCL-P website and find an appropriate place for news articles and editorials.
- Mary, Rob, Ginny and maybe Deb will table at National Farmer’s Union Conference in Airway Height October 30 – 31.
- Presentations group will meet, with dessert, on Thursday Sept. 24 at the Lohr/Briggs home. Everyone is welcome.
- Rob agreed to try to set up editorial board meetings in advance of the Pope’s address to congress on September 24, as requested by CCL National. Volunteers to participate included: Whitman Co. Gazette (Ginny), LMT (Katie), Daily News (Nancy). Rob and Mary will participate as needed.
- Get word out to school-age children about Kenworthy showing of *Merchants of Doubt*
- Ginny to spearhead process for sending climate opinion pieces to MoCs.
- All: vote for “The Little Engine that Could” at <http://climatecolab.org/web/guest/plans/-/plans/contestId/1301419/planId/2802>

Next Meeting Thursday, October 1 from 5:30 to 7 pm at The Daily Grind in Pullman