

Agenda November 21, 2019
Palouse Citizen Climate Lobby
5:30-7:00pm Senior Center, 1912 Center Moscow

Introductions

Additions to Agenda and Review of Minutes

Announcements:

- A. Sierra Club "Ready for 100": communities committing to 100% renewable energy by 2050. Signatures are actively being collected (Martha).
- B. MHS Environmental Club: Welcome! Update (Ilan)
- C. Petition to Governor Little (Diana)
- D. GPNW regional conference, Portland area, Feb. 28-March 1
- E. National conservative conference, Washington, DC, Feb. 3rd and 4th
- F. Pizza/drinks: volunteers?

Laser Talk Exercise: Dividend delivery discussion (see back)

CCL-Palouse Reports and Business

Local Projects:

- A. Winter Market: (Diana)
- B. Pullman Climate Action Plan: (Simon)
- C. Grasstops Endorsements: (Mac)
Work group members: Mac, Mary, Judy, Diana, Linda, Simon
- D. Chambers of Commerce: Grasstops endorsements and hopes to co-sponsor a forum on climate change focusing on healthcare and agriculture industries.
 - a. Moscow Chamber of Commerce Leadership: Jenny Ford, Director, Board Officers: Mike O'Brien (Best West.), Adina Bielenberg (SEL), Tim Heimke (UI), Cami McClure (UI), Gary Riedner, George Skandalos; Directors: Cara Christopher (EMSI), Cherri Gentry (pm airport), Peter Isakson (UI), Graham Lilly (Hunga Dunga), Scott Gropp, Pete Mundt (Gritman), Carol Price (Bookpeople) Jennifer Wallace (Habitat) Ex off: Bill Lambert, Kathie LaFortune, Susan Wilson, Greg Bailey (MSD), Toni Broyles (UI), Gina Taruscio
 - b. Gritman Medical Center Board: Kraig White (chair), Janie Nirk (vice-chair), Rula Awwad-Rafferty, Steve Busch, Richard Heimsch, Charles Jacobson, Aaron Ranisate, Lori Stinson, Barbara Wells, Robin Woods (no) *Underlined people signed the earlier climate change letter or have been contacted.*
 - c. Pullman Chamber of Commerce Leadership: Jill Bielenberg (President), Andrew Flabetich (Vice President), Theresa Myers (Secretary), Francis Benjamin, JoReen Brinkman, McKenzie Brumet, Megan Guido, Tom Handy, Glen Johnson, Jaci Kajfas, Bob Maxwell, Stacy Pearson, Tony Poston, Rob Rembert, PJ Sanchez, Susan Weed, Pat Wright
- E. Radio spots on climate change (Steve)
- F. Bob Inglis Visit (Casey and Simon)
- G. Pullman Permanent Location ideas (Mac)

Topic of Interest: Recent national speakers (eg. Ken Salazar) regarding solutions (Diana)

National Actions:

- A. November Conference and National Lobby Day: (Mac)
- B. Carbon Dividend Calculator: (Mike)
<https://energyinnovationact.org/carbon-dividend-calculator/>

Next Meeting: December 19, 5:30-7pm Pullman Neill Public Library (tentative)

LASER TALK EXERCISE: Dividend Delivery

In our June lobby meetings in D.C., members of Congress and their staff asked more questions about the Energy Innovation Act's dividend than any other topic. CCL wisely commissioned Alan Lerman, who served in the U.S. Treasury Department for 42 years, to write a detailed dividend delivery study that addresses concerns about the cost and method of returning carbon fee proceeds to households. Let's prepare to discuss dividend delivery in congressional offices and in other situations where you are discussing the bill with curious folks.

Exercise

Pair up with another volunteer and take turns reading aloud the laser talk paragraphs below and then say aloud in your own words what you remember and want to use.

Laser Talk - How are carbon dividends going to be delivered to households?

The carbon dividend is one of the three legs of H.R.763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, so it's important to get it right. CCL previously commissioned an expert study to dive deeply into how this would be done. Our goal was to minimize administrative cost and make it work smoothly for everyone involved, while still getting the money to as many households as possible.

The expert study confirmed that remitting carbon dividends directly to households is, as CCL had anticipated, the least costly and least burdensome way to recycle the revenue to consumers. All the fees collected from fossil fuel suppliers go into the Carbon Dividend Trust Fund which is administered by the Treasury Department. The entirety of that fund, after administrative overhead, is distributed to recipients, who are identified from existing tax records or through a special form submitted by those who haven't filed income taxes.

Most recipients will get their carbon dividend in the form of a direct bank deposit or as money added to an existing government-issued debit card, with paper checks as a backup. Eligibility changes – births, deaths, adoptions, age changes – will be taken care of on a monthly basis, and any discrepancies between the money they are entitled to and what they have received will be reconciled on the next income tax return.

CCL is satisfied that these steps will make the carbon dividend delivery fair, flexible, and highly visible to households. For more details, refer to the Dividend Delivery Working Paper or accompanying FAQ. Note that this paper was written prior to H.R. 763's introduction, so there are some minor policy differences.