

Minutes for January 18, 2018- Palouse Citizens' Climate Lobby

5:30-7:00pm, Hecht Room, Neill Public Library, 210 N. Grand Ave., Pullman

Present: Judy Meuth, Marilyn Von Seggern, Steve Flint, Mary DuPree, Paul Spencer, Al Poplawsky, Adrienne Marshall, Kathy Dawes, Jesse Brunner, Bertie Weddell, Jeff Ramsey, Diana Armstrong, Sonja Lewis, Becky Chastain, Amelie Schmolke, Linda Canary, Donna Erickson

Introductions and Additions to the Agenda – No Additions

Review of Minutes - Approved

Brief Introduction to the Citizens' Climate Lobby (PowerPoint)

This presentation was from the San Francisco CCL. There was a discussion of possible modifications to localize the Power Point slides for our own use. These included substituting a photo of our own lobbyists and making a better slide to leave up at the end of the presentation.

Adrienne asked whether the border adjustments would apply to Native American tribes since they are similar to sovereign nations. Mary said that the border adjustment is the most difficult and complicated part of the CCL proposal. U.S. companies exporting to a non-carbon fee country would receive a rebate, and foreign companies importing from a non-carbon fee country would pay a fee to the U.S. carbon fee agency. This should encourage other countries to institute their own carbon fee. The "Laser Talk" about this is available at:

<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/laser-talks/border-tax-adjustment/>

Mary led a discussion on how and why we at CCL must "work across the aisle":

- It a practical matter of power – we need conservative help.
- Climate change affects everyone.
- Mark Reynolds, the founder of CCL, thinks that to achieve success, a Republican must introduce the bill.
- The proposal fits well with many conservative ideals – it is not a tax since the fee is returned to the people, it is "market driven", and few new government regulations are needed.

Announcements

- The Daily News endorsed the CCL Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal. Pete Haug has also written several good letters to the editor.
- Mary announced that the "We Are Still In" coalition (to ask cities to stay in Paris Accord) was searching for an Idaho representative and she volunteered our group. We will try to help this cause even though it is not central to our mission.
- Al and Mary will go to the Moscow City Council to ask them to sign the CCL letter to MOCs endorsing action on climate change and will talk to the Sustainable Environment Committee. She expects this by April.
- Judy reported that there is no corresponding Sustainable Environment Committee in Pullman, but we are planning to contribute to the comments for the Pullman 20 year Plan and meet individually with city councilors

- The greater Northwest CCL conference will be in Boise March 10-11. All are encouraged to attend. The cost will be about \$95 but scholarships are available for any one for whom this would be a hardship. (This is the weekend of the beginning of spring break). There will be lots of workshops and practical information.
- The June CCL Lobby Day in Washington DC will be in June 10-12, and there will be speakers, workshops and training. Also participants can sign up to see legislators. The meetings with legislators are always done in a team with a role for each person, and they usually last about 15 minutes.

Action Items from December meeting and updates from interest groups

- Judy contacted the Kiwanis about making a presentation.
- Mary obtained the CCL presentation shown earlier in this meeting.
- Tom Bitterwolf said that Mac’s presentation to his UI class was excellent and Tom was very enthusiastic in his praise.
- Tabling is one of the interest groups and will ramp up as weather becomes better.

Campaign for letters to Members of Congress

- We welcome anyone’s signature but are most interested in “grasstop signatures” – people who are leaders or business people.
- Anyone who is interested in getting access to the Google data list for this campaign should contact Judy or Mary.
- Mary pointed out that we should engage people in conversation -- not just obtain signatures.
- We expect to complete the campaign before the lobbying day in early June.

Opportunities for engagement Mary explained that there are many ways to work within CCL. In our group, some of the areas that need work are:

Liaise with specific group/organization (Latah Co. Commissioners, Hospitals, Lions, UI Students, etc.)	Specialize in an issue (eg health effects, impact on agriculture)
Identify/share news reports to respond to	Recruit “friends of” for final push to CF/D
Arrange refreshments for meetings	Identify opportunities for presentations

Judy reminded us that education is a huge part of the mission of CCL. To do this effectively, one must start a conversation by paying attention to the other person’s values and beliefs. There is always common ground to be found.

Bertie has given a talk to the local Native Plant Society about climate change and will present to the Coeur d’ Alene chapter in the future.

Jesse volunteered that he studies infectious disease and climate change and would be able to make presentations on that topic.

National Call – Marilyn: –Sabine Marx, Earth Institute at Columbia University. How can we communicate effectively with policy makers about climate change? Dr. Marx is the Director of Research at the National Center for Disaster Preparedness (NCDP) at the Earth Institute, Columbia University and the co-author of [The Psychology of Climate Change Communication](#).

Another excellent publication which details principles of communication about climate change was recommended: http://guide.cred.columbia.edu/pdfs/CREdguide_full-res.pdf

Marx discussed 3 main topics:

1. A person's background provides a risk in communicating – the influence from experience and prejudice has a strong influence on the effect of a persuasive conversation.
2. There are barriers to processing information logically. One example is framing effects such as loss vs. gain. People generally respond more strongly to the risk of losses!
3. The social context of a conversation alters how people respond to information. The CCL does a good job in this respect with its emphasis on developing a relationships and trying to recognize each individual's situation and background.

One difficulty with a problem such as climate change is that it is overwhelming. Such problems are so huge that people may not want to think about them.

There is Single Action Bias. This is the feeling that one solution will do the job. We should realize that many actions are possible and keep thinking about other actions which will help.

Each person has a finite pool of worry, and we need to be aware that a new worry such as the existence and risks of Climate Change may be difficult for a person to combine with existing personal worries.

Marilyn listed the key communication principles:

- Know your audience
- Make your presentation relatable to the audience
- Strike a balance to achieve meaning without being too alarming
- Transition from solutions to actions

This national call has been recorded and can be listened to at:

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/citizens-climate-lobby/id973194376?mt=2>

National Actions for the Month

- Media Blast: write letters to the editor.
<https://community.citizensclimatelobby.org/take-action/write-a-letter-to-the-editor/>
Identify newspapers in the region to target. We want more letters in the Lewiston Tribune, Spokane Papers, Walla Walla and other local papers.

Review Action items

- Quality pictures are needed for Power Point graphics. Please send Mary or Judy any pictures of meetings, tabling, headlines of relevant articles, lobbying etc.
- We want more letters in the Lewiston Tribune, Spokane papers, Walla Walla and other local papers.
- Mary and Judy will collect presentations by our members and some from the National CCL organization. After this meeting, they will meet with anyone interested in presenting.
- **Everyone:** study Develop Chapter Action Plan part 2. See the link on our website home page. <http://cclpalouse.org>
- **Everyone:** Write letters and make calls to Congress members.
- Anyone -- Please let Mary and Judy know about any possible presentation opportunities at any organization to which you belong.
- **All** add to Google spreadsheet of potential signers for our Letter to members of Congress (or send signers' names to Judy or Mary). Send signed letters to Judy or Mary.
- **All** - send Marilyn info on actions and any links so she can report them to national CCL (kvs21@frontier.com). Send published items to Paul to post on CCL-P website (paul-spencer@pullman.com)

Laser Talk - Answering Questions about Wildfire. There was not time to do this. See below for the text and the excellent references (click to access them).

From 7:00 to 7:45pm, Mary and Judy met with anyone interested in presenting.

Next meeting – Feb. 15, 5:30-7pm. Umpqua Bank in Pullman

Answering Questions about Wildfire Attribution

LASER TALK PRACTICE

This month's laser talk is meant to give you practice talking about the connections between climate and wildfires. When talking about wildfires during tabling, or in a meeting or presentation, it's best to ensure that your audience is genuinely interested in hearing this information. We also recommend that you stop between parts and solicit thoughts from your audience, using an open-ended question. More tips for sharing information can be found at the [Effective Communication Action Team](#)

To practice this laser talk, select a partner in your chapter and take turns reading the laser talk below out loud:

How are wildfires affected by climate change?

Wildfires are becoming bigger, deadlier and more expensive. There are many Contributing factors, and climate change is a big one [1-3]. A 2016 study showed that climate change nearly doubled the acreage burned in the US since the 1980s [4]. Another study of fire risk in Alaska concluded that up to 60 percent is due to climate change [5].

Global warming magnifies the threat of wildfires in three ways:

First, by making heat waves more intense and longer-lasting, drying out vegetation.

Second, by extending the length of the dry season, presenting more opportunities fire a to start

Third, by promoting greater extremes of wet and dry conditions. Wet winter weather increases growth of brush and grass, which in a dry summer means more fuel to burn [6].

As temperatures continue to creep upward, so will wildfire risk, which is already outrunning our efforts at better forest management and fire suppression. Unless we cut our greenhouse emissions, we can expect to see the destruction get worse.

References

1. "[Is global warming fueling increased wildfire risks](#)" Union of Concerned Scientists. Accessed 1 Oct 2017.
2. "[Science connections: western wildfires and climate change.](#)" Union of Concerned Scientists, Accessed 1 Oct 2017.
3. "[Wildfires in climate change.](#)" Center for Climate and Energy Solutions. Accessed 1 Oct 2017.
4. "[Climate Change Indicators: Wildfires \(Figs 1 and 2\).](#)" United States Environmental Protection Agency (updated Aug 2016).
5. "[An Assessment of the Role of Anthropogenic Climate Change in the Alaska Fire Season of 2015](#)" Partain J L jr., et al. Paper No. 4 in Special Supplement to the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society, Vol. 97, No. 12, December 2016 (14-18).
6. "[This US Wildfire Season is Among the Worst: Here's Why](#)" Elliott, D., [Phys.org](#) (8 Sep 2017)