

Minutes– June 21, 2018 Palouse Citizens’ Climate Lobby

5:30-7:00pm, Umpqua Bank Meeting Room, 225 N. Grand Ave., Pullman

Present: Mary DuPree, Judy Meuth, Deb Olson, Mark Bordsen, Claudia Pacioni, Katie Gieske, Marilyn Von Seggern, Charlotte Omoto, Adrienne Marshall, Rich Wesson, Mary Pluhta, Pete Haug, Paul Spencer, Jeff Ramsey

Laser Talk – Bipartisanship At the national conference, it was emphasized that we need to avoid any sign of partisanship. Bipartisanship is valued by politicians and voters. We practiced the Bipartisanship Laser Talk sent with the Agenda for this meeting.

Review of Minutes (No changes made.)

Announcements and Reports

- National CCL Conference and Lobby Day in DC , June 11-13 – Mac, Jeff, Judy
 - There was a CCL representative from almost every legislative district at the conference and also lobbying in congressional offices.
 - **All of our Palouse CCL members are to be congratulated – Our drive to collect signatures on letters endorsing climate action was very successful!** Mac said that our letters plus letters from other ID CCL groups totaled 460 letters to Senator Crapo. We delivered 134 of our letters to Washington Representative McMorris Rodgers. Additional cards from kids were delivered to WA members of Congress. Youth letters and cards are very influential.
 - We should think of climate change as a bridge issue, important to all humans.
 - When discussing the need for action on climate change, emphasize the effect on the human habitat and the effect of climate change action as an economic stimulus. There’s more money to be made in fixing the problems than in selling of fossil fuel.
 - Our Carbon Fee and Dividend solution is *not* a “free market” proposal. It’s a proposal to correct a market failure. The current market does not make polluters pay for the cost of carbon dioxide and global warming.
 - State-level carbon pricing policies matter because members of Congress want to see evidence that carbon pricing works. State-level pricing would also prompt industry to push for a national pricing policy so they would only have one policy to deal with rather than policies differing from state to state.
 - Jeff reported that Raul Labrador had a new staffer who knew about Carbon Fee and Dividend and the need to emit less carbon dioxide. Representative Risch responded better than before. Senator Crapo praised the CCL representatives’ politeness and their information showing that climate change actions are a good deal economically.
 - Mary said that Mac’s general impression is that things are moving – one can see the difference. The politicians were concerned about pollution and carbon dioxide but some would only talk about this privately. One of the aides had read enough about the CCL to ask questions.

- Mac also gave lots of good tabling ideas.
- Judy encourages anyone to go to the State and National CCL conferences, and scholarships are available.
- Moscow and Pullman City Council updates – Mary reported that there are no updates for the Moscow city council interaction; many people are gone for the season. Judy said that the Pullman City Supervisor asked for a word version of the City resolution which we proposed earlier. There will be no action on this until sometime in August or later. Regarding the Pullman city goals request for a climate action plan that we turned in, nothing has resulted yet. Recent news was encouraging – Pullman plans to buy electric buses and new construction of eight automobile charging stations was approved.
- Utah has passed some sort of carbon pricing. Mia Love is a recently elected Congress person in Utah. Her local CCL group asked her to a town hall on climate. The respectful gathering had a large effect on her. She researched climate change and joined the Climate Solutions Caucus.
- Americans for Carbon Dividends – Pete explained that this is a new group. They are proponents of taxing greenhouse gases. Trent Lott and Janet Yellen are backers. Two provisions of this proposal may be disadvantageous – fossil fuel suppliers would be protected from legal action for causing problems due to use of fossil fuels, and existing regulations on use of fossil fuels would be removed. The latter would give the suppliers a free ride for a long time as carbon fees ramp up.
- Pete also mentioned that the Pope called in fossil fuel executives warning that climate change may destroy civilization.
- Jeff recommended a *New York Times* article from yesterday about conservative Senators and industry leaders urging the US administration to push for ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal agreement of 1987, which would reduce HFCs, refrigerants.
- The book *Climate Change: A Wicked Problem: Complexity and Uncertainty at the Intersection of Science, Economics, Politics, and Human Behavior* by Frank Incropera was also recommended as good but technical.
- July 17 & 18 will be League of Women Voter forums on the candidates. Check the League's website for details.

Action Items from May meeting and updates from interest groups

- Media – Op-eds and letters to the editor
 - Pete: Daily News last week
 - Mark: Whitman County Gazette on 24 May
 - Note – on the list for those committing to writing a letter to the editor, August and December are open. There is good information on the CCL national website about how to write a good letter.
 - Reminder to those writing letters to the editor, please send a copy to Marilyn whose email address is in the minutes. Also send a copy to your members of Congress.

- Presentation opportunities? Please think about possible presentation opportunities. Remember that these climate change is a human issue not a political issue.
- Tabling - Moscow Farmer's Market - Sign up for a Saturday or two!
Mary has tabled at the Moscow farmers' market twice this summer. Jeff and Charlotte have also tabled there. Mary and Marilyn created a triptych with information about carbon fee and dividend, countries pricing carbon, and local issues for the Palouse.

Where should we put our efforts next? Our campaign to collect signatures calling for our members of Congress to act on climate change was a great success!! Now what? Ideas that were suggested are below. We can continue this discussion next meeting.

- Mary suggested one focus for the coming year could be on the health care communities in our area.
- Make a list of climate change effects in our area and organize this as part of our presentations. Examples are heat stress, mental stress, West Nile virus, ticks etc. Mark reported that a Montana State Univ. spring wheat breeding program ([MSU spring wheat breeding program](#)) research shows that March temperatures in Montana have increased 7 deg. F since 1950! This is good information for talking to farming people and organizations.
- The CCL national website has an article about 2 Republicans and 2 Democrats introducing a resolution acknowledging the impact that climate change is having on outdoor recreation and supporting policies to address the problem. [Climate change effect on outdoor recreation](#)
- Mary suggested working to re-institute the Pullman-Moscow bus.
- Rich said that one or more of us should be on the list for RTPO, the Regional Transportation Planning group.
- We should make an effort to affect the coming elections by writing letters to editors, meeting with editorial boards of public media, asking questions at candidate forums, developing relationships with candidates, and more.

National Call: Nathaniel Stinnett, Environmental Voter Project

If political will is the key to enacting effective climate policies, there's a big obstacle that needs to be overcome: Many environmentalists are not showing up to vote. The mission of <https://www.environmentalvoter.org> is to identify citizens concerned about environmental issues who are staying home on election day and turn them into active voters. Stinnett has held a variety of senior leadership and campaign manager positions and is a frequent speaker on cutting-edge campaign techniques. You can watch his presentation at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPxOf1rb8c4&feature=youtu.be> or listen to it at <https://ccl.podbean.com/e/june-2018-monthly-meeting/>

Paul reported that Environmental Voter targets people who already consider environmental factors important and concentrates on getting them to vote. The method is to apply peer pressure and social pressure to do this. Almost everyone wants to be thought of as a

conscientious voter, and once they promise to vote, a reminder on voting day and a joking “threat” that the records on who votes are actually public information, are very effective. Once a person votes, they usually continue voting. This program is now operating in 6 states, Nevada, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts.

Fact of Interest: Mary - 2018 World Bank Carbon Pricing Report [Click to get report access website](#)

Actions for the Month

1. Write letters to the editor and op-eds about the CCL International Conference
2. Plan your summer outreach – Spread the word about CCL! Members took handouts on CCL to pass on this summer.
3. We practiced the Laser Talk Exercise: Bipartisanship at the beginning of the meeting

Next Meeting – July 19 at the Senior Center in the 1912 Center, Moscow, 5:30-7pm.