

## **Minutes – May 17, 2018 Palouse Citizens' Climate Lobby**

5:30-7:00pm, Senior Center, 1912 Center, 412 East 3<sup>rd</sup>, Moscow

Present:, Mary DuPree, Steve Flint, Deb Olson, Mark Bordsen, Mac Cantrell, Linda Jovanovich, Al Poplawsky

### Introductions and Additions to the Agenda

Each chose an item from the CCL Study Guide (this month's National Action) to read and discuss.

#7: The Dividend Delivery Study. Linda questioned whether the IRS and US Treasury can actually deliver the dividend as cheaply and simply as promised. Mac pointed out that these agencies already deliver income tax refunds in the same way they would deliver dividends and already know the amounts of fossil fuels processed so delivery of dividends could be very efficient. There were lingering doubts whether a government agency can, in fact, do this as projected.

#8 Household Impacts Study: it's not clear that all households will share the dividend equally and that lower income households will benefit more. How can we clarify this message?

#13 Concerns about the Border Tax adjustment: there were widespread reservations about cumbersome international trade agreements. Would it help to know more about the Montreal protocols?

#3 and #8: Local Impacts and Household Impacts Study: this evolved into a discussion about how cities, school districts, etc. benefit from Carbon Fee and Dividend. They will have higher costs but not the dividend. Will rising incomes mean a higher tax base for these entities? How else will they benefit from CF/D?

#5 Energy Costs: Mark pointed out how important it is to distinguish between urban and rural areas. How will farmers deal with rising fuel costs? Mac pointed out that the gradual and predictable rise in the Carbon Fee and its impact on fuel costs will allow farmers to adjust, and that fuel prices already fluctuate widely.

### Review of Minutes (no changes made)

### Announcements

Avista merger with Hydro One: there will be a Moscow hearing by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission on June 12, from 6-8pm at the 1912 Center. It's not yet clear what the details of the merger are. Tim Hatten is tracking this for the Sierra Club.

### Action Items from April meeting and updates from Interest Groups

- Letter Writing Campaign: Mark will write a June letter (Gazette and Daily News): Al will write a letter in September
- Mary circulated a sign-up sheet for the Moscow Farmers' Market. Volunteers Needed!

### Campaign for letters to Members of Congress

Current Campaign will conclude on June 1 so that we can get the data to CCL in time for the national conference and Lobby Day. Where should we put our efforts next?

Fact of Interest: Mac explained that BC's carbon tax has some problems, but it did indeed reduce per capita gasoline consumption during the period the tax rate was gradually increasing as planned (2008-2012), even as the rest of Canada's gasoline consumption stayed roughly the same. During the time the tax remained flat (from 2013 to 2016), gasoline usage didn't decline. This is partly because during this time more offsets and exclusions were included that allowed companies to pay less carbon tax. BC's gross domestic product has risen, paralleling that of the rest of Canada, despite its carbon tax.

New Research on the Sociology of Climate Skepticism: Mac described a paper that has recently been published by two sociology professors at UI on "Climate change skepticism as a psychological coping strategy." The paper suggests useful ways to approach climate skeptics and can be read at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/soc4.12586>

National Call Linda reported on the talk by Julia Roberson, VP of Communications for the Ocean Conservancy, who pointed out the shared values of CCL and the OC. The OC sponsors a trash cleanup day on the third Saturday of September. This includes local streams and rivers as well as ocean beaches. The OC keeps data collected by citizen scientists on the sources of ocean trash.

#### National Actions for the Month

1. Prepare for DC Lobby Meetings
2. Share/Read CCL Study Guide (we did this at the beginning of the meeting).
  - Set goals for June 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional Call-In Day: Mary announced that CCL and CCL-P would be sending out reminders for people to call.

#### Review Action items

- **Everyone:** Call congressional offices on June 6 (see above under National Actions)
- **Anyone:** volunteer to table at the Moscow Farmers' Market. Contact Mary to sign up.
- Anyone -- Please let Mary and Judy know about any possible presentation opportunities at any organization to which you belong.
- Anyone: sign up to write a letter in August or December. Let Judy know.
- **All** : send signed letters to our Members of Congress (either paper or email) to Mary (Idaho) or Judy (Washington) by June 1.
- **All** - send Marilyn info on actions and any links so she can report them to national CCL ([kvs21@frontier.com](mailto:kvs21@frontier.com)). Send published items to Paul to post on CCL-P website ([paul-spencer@pullman.com](mailto:paul-spencer@pullman.com))

Next Meeting – Umpqua Bank in Pullman, June 21, 5:30-7pm