

# Meeting Notes – November 17, 2016 Monthly Meeting

Palouse Region Chapter, Citizens' Climate Lobby

5:30-7 pm, Nov. 17, 1912 Center, Moscow

**Present:** Mary DuPree, Judy Meuth (note taker), Paul Spencer (note taker), Katie Gieske, Steve Flint, Brian Dietel, Mac Cantrell, Al Poplawsky, Diana Armstrong, Marilyn Von Seggern, Jeff Ramsey, Sonja Lewis, Deb Olson

## Announcements and Reports

- Many present said something positive about the election results. Mary reported other optimistic viewpoints from CCL.
- Getting Endorsements to Create Political Will – CCL Webinar 5:00-5:45pm, Nov. 3  
<https://community.citizensclimatelobby.org/events/2016/11/20892/> Topics include initiating and cultivating relationships, tips on what has and has not worked, organizing to get endorsements.
- December meeting is on the 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Katherine Hayhoe is producing 6 minute “Global Weirding” videos on You Tube.
- Al Poplawsky: Report on the initial CCL meeting with 6 local farmers on climate change and the Carbon Fee and Dividend proposal. It was a very productive meeting where CCL members Al, Mary, and Judy learned about the concerns farmers have with any increase in costs, including carbon fuels, fertilizers, etc. All the farmers were concerned about climate change and want to do something about it.

Some of the farmers' concerns are:

1. Compensating by using “no-till” methods is expensive and not feasible for small farms.
2. Farming products sales prices/commodities are determined by market prices so increased costs from a carbon fee cannot be passed on.
3. Farming start-up is very difficult and expensive, and a carbon tax will make it more difficult.
4. There should be an incentive for innovation to decrease carbon usage.
5. There should be a credit for soil carbon sequestration.
6. Agriculture representatives should be a part of the planning for any carbon-pricing proposal.

We discussed the farmers' comments and concerns, some plans for a January meeting with these and more farmers, FSA, USDA, UI & WSU researchers. Mary mentioned that when it comes to politics, all states are farm states and most legislators have a strong incentive to “take care” of farmers so we definitely need to address farm concerns.

- Jeff Ramsey: Jeff met with members of Congress during the CCL November lobby day. Congress members love to receive mail and email letters, but paper letters have more effect. He reported however that Risch's office will soon change procedures – all paper letters will be immediately scanned and converted to JPEG format so this advantage will be lost. Jody Steele says that the number of letters about any subject is important. In a recent meeting their response to our message was very favorable – the lawyer took notes and Jeff observed some changes since the last two meetings. They were interested in our endorsement process.

Jeff showed us the folder kits which he has devised and constructed. They contain information sheets, a list of legislators, topics, and pre-addressed envelopes. He said that the state directors for Michigan, Kentucky, and Vermont were interested in them. Several local businesses wanted these folders.

- Mary DuPree reported that Ginny said that we should expect backsliding from the Idaho Legislators because of the election results.
- Mary contacted Pat Rathmann – our CCL group will combine with PESCI to sponsor the “Years of Living Dangerously” film series at the Kenworthy Theater next spring and suggested that we should do tabling at the Co-Op around this movie.
- Judy Meuth mentioned a recent newspaper article about Pullman High School efforts to save energy and the student involvement in this. She said that she thinks that increasing awareness and involvement of people of that age and college age with our cause is important. A WSU student has joined the national CCL and may start attending our meetings in January. There was a suggestion to discuss in December how to bring in student members. Several contacts to pursue at area schools were also suggested.
- Lobbying - Ginny, Jeff, and Ann traveled to the Congressional Education Day, Nov. 14-15, in Washington DC. and lobbied our members of Congress.
- National Call – Diana reported on the post-election talk by climate scientist Katherine Hayhoe. Her talk and comments by Mark Reynolds gave suggestions for actions, many of which our CCL group already does.
  - One emphasis was that the effort to develop and use non-carbon-dioxide-emitting energy sources is worth doing economically even if global warming is not caused by human use of carbon-containing fuels.
  - Hayhoe’s presentation was very positive, encouraging and inspiring.
  - In answer to a question about how much of global warming is human caused, she answered “more than 100%”. This is because the normal climate variation causes should result in a cooling of the earth and yet it is actually warming.

#### Actions for the Month

1. Regional - Sign up to receive CCL action alerts by text message. First alert was Congressional call-in on Nov. 14. Sign up at [cclusa.org/text](http://cclusa.org/text). Alerts are only sent when major, urgent actions are needed.
2. Support CCL’s Giving Tuesday matching grant of \$150,000: [citizensclimate.org/giving-Tuesday](http://citizensclimate.org/giving-Tuesday)
3. LASER TALK: We discussed the impact of the Carbon Fee and Dividend on households. From a CCL working paper, 53% of U.S. households will see a net financial benefit for a \$15 per ton carbon fee. 90% of those living below the poverty line will benefit financially.

#### Action Items from this Meeting

- All: send Marilyn actions/links for her to report to national CCL: LTEs, opinion pieces, tabling, etc. ([kvs21@frontier.com](mailto:kvs21@frontier.com))
- All: send published items to Paul to place on CCL-P website. ([paul-spencer@pullman.com](mailto:paul-spencer@pullman.com))
- Farmer/Ag outreach:
  - Al will talk with the CCL Ag caucus and Alex Amonette, a CCL member and a farmer.
  - Judy will talk with more farmers, USDA and FSA to come to the January Meeting.

- Diana will contact Tim Steury (publications) and Dena Well (Ag Publications)
- Diana and Mary will table at the co-op in January.
- Endorsements
  - Pete – Whitman Co. Gazette; had letter to editor but did not request an endorsement.
  - Katie and Judy – Lewiston Tribune
  - Paul – Whitman Co. Commissioners
  - Al – Argonaut
  - Mary—Daily News
- Contact groups about hosting CCL presentations with goal of more engagement with students
  - Sonja - LCSC Biology faculty member
  - Jeff—Environmental Club (where?)
  - Mac – Von Walden at WSU
  - Marilyn –WSU Student groups, Campus Republican and Democrat organizations
  - Deb – WSU Center for Civic Engagement
  - Mary—Kenton Bird for suggestions of UI core classes and political clubs at UI
- Paul suggested that we design a brochure for posting on bulletin boards and at businesses. Mary suggested using the existing trifold. Jeff suggested using the UPS Store in the strip mall near A and Line streets in Moscow. On Thursdays, printing is half price!

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 15, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in Pullman