

Minutes – November 15, 2018 Palouse Citizens' Climate Lobby

5:30-7:00pm, Senior Center, 1912 Center, 412 East 3rd St., Moscow

Present: Marilyn von Seggern, Brian Dietel, Katie Gieske, Kathryn Bonzo, Pete Haug, Mark Bordsen, Judy Meuth, Mary DuPree, Carlos Simms, Bertie Wedell, Steve Flint, Cathy Dawes, Adrienne Marshall, Arjan Meddens, Deb Olson, Russ Moore

Introductions

Review of Minutes – No changes.

Announcements

- Pete announced that he's responded positively to WA state CCL's request for Media Ambassadors to develop relationships with media outlet editors and help move them toward endorsement of a national carbon fee and dividend policy. Pete already has relationships with the editors of the Whitman County Gazette, Daily News, and Lewiston Tribune. He and other CCL volunteers will move forward on this initiative in the near future. Mary noted that the DN editors have already endorsed CF&D.
- Steve Ghan from TriCities CCL has asked NWPB to air radio spots produced by the Yale Climate Connections project. He has asked for any other CCL members interested in having the broadcasts aired to sign on to his request.
- Kathryn noted that we need strong 4th – 6th grade climate lessons and that there are some good examples available. Kathy and Kathryn will work together on math and science lessons that use climate as a context.
- Pete mentioned good resources for CCLers:
 - The book *Factfulness* by Hans Rosling focuses on how we inaccurately assess facts and situations so that we often end up with more negative and wrong opinions than are warranted. He does a TED talk called "The best stats you've ever seen" at https://www.ted.com/talks/hans_rosling_shows_the_best_stats_you_ve_ever_s_eeen?language=en A related resource is Gapminder, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that fights misconceptions. They have downloadable data sets and great graphics on many topics and produce teaching materials as well <https://www.gapminder.org/>
- There is now recycling at Moscow Charter School for plastic bags and film, as well as collection points at Moscow's Safeway and Winco stores. Kathryn wants to have a large plastics recycling bin in Moscow as well. There is Styrofoam recycling in Spokane.
- Staples is recycling electronics through Saturday.

Reports - Kathryn: Fracking in Idaho

Natural gas has been presented by many energy companies and some governments as "clean energy", but it is a fossil fuel. Additionally, fracking to extract natural gas has been demonstrated to have numerous negative effects and not all effects are known. Contamination of water resources is a major concern. Citizens Allied for Integrity and Accountability (CAIA) has formed in southern Idaho to try to stop fracking there. CAIA has taken Alta Mesa, a Texas

company that has over 4,000 leases for fracking in southern ID, to court. Only 55% of the property owners in a “block” of properties has to sign a lease to allow the company to frack that block. The town of Eagle now has an ordinance to prevent fracking within a specific distance to any building.

Northern Idaho needs to pay attention, too, since water quality in the Snake and Payette Rivers and ground water sources may be contaminated by current or future fracking attempts. Kathryn wants counties like Latah to understand the risks and pass preventive policies. She will take this concern to the Moscow Sustainability and Environmental Commission.

Monthly Call - Russ.: Anthony Leiserowitz, Yale Program on Climate Change Communication, was the speaker on the call (<http://climatecommunication.yale.edu/visualizations-data/>). The Yale surveys on climate communication and opinion started in 2008. Climate change is now a more divisive issue than abortion. There is also a lot of agreement. Russ showed several recent results from the surveys, including:

- 70% of respondents think climate change is happening
- 61% are concerned about it
- 68% of registered voters want fossil fuel companies to pay a carbon tax
- Approximately 67 million Americans are either alarmed or concerned about climate change but often do not know what to do about it. When asked why they haven't taken action, common responses are not knowing what to do and not having been asked to do a specific action.
- Only 36% of adults discuss global warming at least occasionally.

Yale maps and data are downloadable from the URL above.

The Northwest Earth Institute (<https://nwei.org/about-nwei/>) is another organization with useful tools, including courses and discussion group templates for use in workplaces, schools, other organizations, or communities.

Discussion of the post-election political climate

Mary reported that, according to Mac, the big push in this month's CCL lobby day in DC was bipartisanship, that climate change is a bridge, not a wedge issue. Mac said that in the last 4 years of meeting with ID members of Congress and their staff members, interest in climate change has grown significantly. There were also meetings with WA members of Congress offices, but we haven't received the reports on those yet. Pelosi has said that House Democrats' top priorities will include green jobs and infrastructure and more emphasis on science-based information. The failure of 1631 to pass was due in part to Big Oil's expenditure of more than \$30 million to defeat it.

CCL-P Actions: focus for now and the coming year

Mary pointed out that our progress comes from everyone's efforts, such as Adrienne's research on climate change health effects that went into the recent lobby meeting plan for Cathy McMorris Rodgers, presentations by Mac and others, op eds and letters to the editor, and much more. However any of us contributes is important!

Some CCL-Palouse actions in the works are:

- Presentation at the Carbon Series at UI in the spring
- Educational outreach to schools by Kathy and Kathryn
- Student CCL volunteer position (or 2) through CougSync at WSU
- Obtaining a climate action resolution from the city of Moscow
- Obtaining a climate action resolution from other towns in our area (Palouse in the works)
- Using the Pullman climate resolution to magnify its influence
- Obtaining climate action resolutions/endorsements from media outlets

Some CCL-Palouse actions planned for the near future:

- Obtaining climate action resolutions/endorsements from other entities: counties, WSU, UI, ASWSU, ASUI, Chambers of Commerce, hospitals....
- Nomination of a climate change/action book for the Common Reading program at WSU and UI
- Working with the city of Pullman on its new goal of developing a Climate Action Plan

CCL Focus Items suggested Fall, 2018

Lobby health care orgs. , large local businesses, and weather reporters
Choose a month to write letters to each of your members of Congress
Develop educational forums and outreach to K-12 schools and universities
Find new opportunities for presentations, especially to new audiences
Expand the impact of local Carbon Fee and Dividend resolutions

Next Meeting: NOTE that the meeting date varies from our regular schedule.

Thursday Dec. 13, 5:30-7 at Pullman's Umpqua Bank meeting room, 225 N. Grand Ave