

Minutes - November 21, 2019
Palouse Citizens' Climate Lobby
5:30-7:00pm Senior Center, 1912 Center Moscow

Attendees: Judy Meuth, Mac Cantrell, John Dimard, Diana Armstrong, Linda Jovanovich, Simon Smith, Diane Noel, Amelie Schmolke, Casey Johnson, Carolyn Shoemaker, Kathy Dawes, Leeanne Erickson, Martha Lovett, Trish Glazebrook, Eric Odberg, Trish Hartzell, Martina Ederer, Ava Sokolski, Mike Kahn, Laurel Hicke.

Additions to Agenda and Review of Minutes None

Announcements:

- A: Sierra Club "Ready for 100": communities committing to 100% renewable energy by 2050. Signatures are actively being collected in Moscow (Martha).
- Martha explained that the local Sierra Club wants the city of Moscow to commit to 100% renewable energy. That group will write LTEs and approach businesses. They are looking for volunteers to collect signatures from individuals and businesses.
- B. MHS Environmental Club:
- Ava and Laurel attended from Moscow HS. The club has been doing plantings at Philip's Farm. They are planning conservation trips. They voted to donate \$750 to the solar project at U of I. They will be at the alternative giving market on December 5th in the 1912 center. They are considering the possibility of going to Boise for lobbying, and maybe also reaching out to Pullman High School, to get a club started there.
- C. Petition for Fulcher and Simpson (Diana)
- RepublicEN.org has a petition for Fulcher and Simpson on their website.
- D. GPNW regional conference, Portland area, Feb. 28-March 1
- CCL Palouse can sponsor people to go. Contact Judy Meuth judyneuth@gmail.com if interested.
- E. National CCL Conservative Conference, Washington, DC, Feb. 3rd and 4th
- CCL is hosting a conservative conference to target active conservatives. National has some money to help fund people if anyone is interested in attending.
- F. Pizza/drinks: volunteers?
- Linda volunteered to take care of pizza and drinks for December and Diana volunteered for January. Volunteers will be reimbursed for the cost of the pizza.
- G. Minutes
- Diane Noel will take minutes December and Amelie Schmolke will take January and February minutes.
- H. Carpool
- Diana will coordinate from Moscow to Pullman.
 - Simon will coordinate from Pullman to Moscow.

Laser Talk Exercise: Dividend delivery discussion (see below)

CCL-Palouse Reports and Business

Local Projects:

- A. Winter Market:
 1. (Simon 12/7, Diana 12/14) CCL representatives table at the 1912 center for the winter market from 10am-2pm in a room with free coffee. Interested volunteers can go and learn to table on either of these days.
- B. Pullman Climate Action Plan: (Simon)
 1. CCL asked Pullman to establish a structure to create a climate plan.
- C. Grasstops Endorsements: (Mac)
 1. Working group members: Mac, Mary, Judy, Diana, Linda, Simon
 2. We are pushing for Grasstops endorsements.
 3. There will be a town hall at the 1912 center for Idaho State Legislators 12:30-2:30 on December 17th.
 4. Contact working group members to help with this process.
 5. Mary and Judy have a list of large businesses and other groups that we'd like to approach. Let Mary (ID) and Judy (WA) know of businesses and/or individuals that we should approach, especially if you have a connection to these.
 6. CCL has information about how to do Grasstops approaches on the CCL website.
- D. Chambers of Commerce: Avenue to Grasstops endorsements. We hope to co-sponsor a forum on climate change impacts focusing on healthcare and agriculture industries.
 1. It may be helpful to contact these businesses/groups in order to sponsor talks on economics or health care:
 - Moscow Chamber of Commerce Leadership
 - Gritman Medical Center Board
 - Pullman Chamber of Commerce Leadership
- E. Radio spots on climate change (Steve was not at the meeting; we'll get an update later.)
- F. Bob Inglis Visit (Casey and Simon)
 1. Bob Inglis and Brian Baird came to WSU and U of I as part of a tour by RepublicEN.org
 2. Inglis' goal is to get 20 Republican members of Congress to take action on climate.
 3. He has a conservative point of view and is trying to use that to connect with conservatives on environmental/climate change issues.
 4. Baird (D) and Inglis (R) are demonstrating how left and right can agree and come together
 5. The Pullman Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting with Inglis included business persons, a county commissioner, a city counselor, Schweitzer government affairs officer, Avista leader, banking leader, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, and more. The conversation went well and Inglis connected with people. The feedback on this was really positive because there is a lot of concern across the spectrum.
 6. The UI McClure Center is conducting an economic study of climate change.
 7. Inglis suggested using an emphasis on energy independence and security.

8. Laurel attended an Inglis talk at Moscow High School with 80-90 students.
9. CCL lobby team gave McMorris-Rodgers' office the June CCL lobby meetings analysis of where members of Congress stand on climate action and HR 763.

Pullman Permanent Meeting Location ideas (Mac)

- We are looking for a different Pullman meeting place. We discussed the possibility of meeting at the Methodist or Catholic churches or at the Neill Public Library. Contact Judy with ideas about permanent location.

National Actions:

A. November Conference and National Lobby Day: (Mac)

1. Mac had lobby meetings with all of the Idaho Congressional offices, but Simpson was the only member who came; other meetings were with staffers. The offices are moving along – three of the four made statements that climate change is real. Simpson sat for 30 minutes to talk with 4 CCL representatives.
2. There are questions about what Ag and farmers are worried about.
3. Eric has visited with Simpson in his capacity as a grain grower. Farmers had some concern about Simpson wanting to remove the dams.

B. COP

1. Conference of Parties (COP) in Madrid meeting is 12/2. Two WSU students are going. Trish Glazebrook is going. The commitments from the countries are meant to be renewed in 2020. Trish is a member of Women for Climate Justice which will be involved.

C. Carbon Dividend Calculator: (Mike)

<https://energyinnovationact.org/carbon-dividend-calculator/>

1. There are explanations of how the calculator works at the website.
2. The calculator gives a net household income amount by comparing estimated monthly fee and dividend.

Next Meeting: December 19, 5:30-7pm Pullman Neill Public Library (tentative)

NOTE – The Dec. 19 meeting will be in the Fellowship Hall of the Community Congregational United Church of Christ at 525 NE Campus Avenue, Pullman.

LASER TALK EXERCISE: Dividend Delivery

In our June lobby meetings in D.C., members of Congress and their staff asked more questions about the Energy Innovation Act's dividend than any other topic. CCL wisely commissioned Alan Lerman, who served in the U.S. Treasury Department for 42 years, to write a detailed dividend delivery study that addresses concerns about the cost and method of returning carbon fee proceeds to households. Let's prepare to discuss dividend delivery in congressional offices and in other situations where you are discussing the bill with curious folks.

Exercise

Pair up with another volunteer and take turns reading aloud the laser talk paragraphs below and then say aloud in your own words what you remember and want to use.

Laser Talk - How are carbon dividends going to be delivered to households?

The carbon dividend is one of the three legs of H.R.763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, so it's important to get it right. CCL previously commissioned an expert

study to dive deeply into how this would be done. Our goal was to minimize administrative cost and make it work smoothly for everyone involved, while still getting the money to as many households as possible.

The expert study confirmed that remitting carbon dividends directly to households is, as CCL had anticipated, the least costly and least burdensome way to recycle the revenue to consumers. All the fees collected from fossil fuel suppliers go into the Carbon Dividend Trust Fund which is administered by the Treasury Department. The entirety of that fund, after administrative overhead, is distributed to recipients, who are identified from existing tax records or through a special form submitted by those who haven't filed income taxes.

Most recipients will get their carbon dividend in the form of a direct bank deposit or as money added to an existing government-issued debit card, with paper checks as a backup. Eligibility changes – births, deaths, adoptions, age changes – will be taken care of on a monthly basis, and any discrepancies between the money they are entitled to and what they have received will be reconciled on the next income tax return.

CCL is satisfied that these steps will make the carbon dividend delivery fair, flexible, and highly visible to households. For more details, refer to the Dividend Delivery Working Paper or accompanying FAQ. Note that this paper was written prior to H.R. 763's introduction, so there are some minor policy differences.