

## Minutes – October 19, 2017 Palouse Citizens' Climate Lobby

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

Present: Judy Meuth, Deb Olson, Paul Spencer, Marilyn Von Seggern, Amelie Schmolke, Bertie Weddell, Mac Cantrell, Pete Haug, Diane Armstrong, Donna Erikson

Introductions and Additions to the Agenda—No changes

Review of Minutes for September — Approved as attached to meeting announcement.

### Announcements

- Nov. 9 - Bertie Weddell will give a presentation to the **Native Plant Society**.
- Nov. 14 – 15: Washington State CCL's and Audubon Washington's **Water, Wind & Fire Tour: Saving our Farms, Forests, and Fish While Strengthening the Economy** will engage community members in conversations to explore ways to strengthen the economy and add jobs while stabilizing climate and managing energy risks.
  - Nov. 14 - **Palouse:** 12:00 - 1:30 pm, Complimentary Lunch; Palouse Community Center, 230 E. Main
  - Nov. 14 – **Colfax:** 6:00 – 7:30 pm, Refreshments, Whitman County Library, 102 S. Main St.
  - Nov. 15 - **Lewiston-Clarkston:** 6:30 – 8:00 pm, Clarkston United Methodist Church, 1242 Highland Ave.
  - Nov. 15 – **Pullman:** 10:00 – 11:00 am, Umpqua Bank Meeting Room, 225 N. Grand Ave. *Water, Wind & Fire Tour* and Palouse CCL members will meet with Pullman city officials to explore avenues for local action on climate change.

Judy encouraged people to attend a Nov.14-15 presentation and to contact her for a ride (509-592-5213).

- Nov 15 - CCL is co-sponsoring a free showing of **An Inconvenient Sequel**, Kenworthy Theater, 7:00pm.

### Reports

Former Republican SC congressman Bob Inglis made a presentation "Solving Climate Change with Conservative Principles", at UI's College of Law on Oct. 18. Inglis is on the national CCL Advisory Board. He said that America needs to lead in climate change curtailment and mitigation. A policy of accountability should make us "clean up our own mess". One way to encourage this is to take away subsidies for all energy sources and to put a fee on carbon that is revenue-neutral.

In talking to some of the attendees after the talk, Mac said that several thought there was more hope for getting a carbon fee than they had thought previously. Adrienne reported, though, that some liberals appeared to be somewhat mistrustful of legislation presented by a conservative. Judy recounted the research that highlights the importance of trusting the messenger in order for most people to accept the message. Concentrating on talking about values common to all (such as insuring that our children and grandchildren have good air) is one way to avoid the effect of such preconceptions. Mac relayed Inglis' suggestion to also ask the question, "Do you think that free enterprise can solve climate change?"

Bertie and Adrienne will write letters to the Daily Evergreen and Argonaut, respectively, to accentuate the non-partisan support for carbon fee and dividend.

### Action Items from Sept Meeting and Updates from Interest Groups

- Al had an LTE in the *Moscow-Pullman Daily News* on September 22.
- Kathy began investigation of existing K-12 lessons on climate change and action.
- Deb sent Judy a WSU Environmental Sustainability Alliance contact but was not able to talk to them yet; will talk to civics teacher at Pullman High School.

- Adrienne contacted the events organizer at U of I to find out about tabling possibilities. We will table at the Earth Fest in April.
- Mary will send link to short set of presentation slides from a California CCL group. She is traveling and will do this later.
- Judy will give a short presentation to the Pullman Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee on Oct. 21.
- Marilyn got applications for March 6 and 20 to table on the mall at WSU.

### Continuing Business

- **Ideas generated at Sept meeting** - Judy noted our productive conversation that raised many good ideas for engaging members and others in the community. A few ideas have been implemented already. One suggested idea was to increase the number of presentations we give. Diana reported that Tom Bitterwolf at UI wants someone to present in his class; Mac will contact Tom. Another idea was more media presence. To boost that effort, Judy sent around a list for volunteers to write monthly letters to an editor. There were many responses, as listed below.

#### **Volunteers to Write a Letter to the Editor by Month**

*2017*

Oct/Nov – Bertie (Evergreen), Adrienne (Argonaut), Diana, Pete, Mac? [Wow!]

Dec – Paul

*2018*

Jan – Amelie

Feb – Mac

March – Donna

April – Marilyn

May – Judy

To prioritize among some of the additional ideas suggested, Judy sent around a list of all the ideas and asked attendees to put a check mark by ideas he or she thinks should be prioritized.

- **Endorsement Campaign** on Letters to Members of Congress
  - Reminder – Record signatures on the Google Doc database. If you do not want to use Google Docs, please forward them to Judy or Mary.
  - This effort is progressing slowly so we need a reboot – What can we do?? Mac suggested that he has had the best response with personal contact rather than by sending email.
  - Pete met the editor of the Whitman County Gazette about 2 weeks ago. He will be contacting the Gazette about the CCL Eastern WA Tour as well.
  - Marilyn suggested that we should prioritize the WA signatures which we think are most important, that is: Local Officials, Chamber of Commerce, Business, and Clergy. Judy will color these on the Google Docs listing.
  - Mac talked to the Environment and Outdoors editor for the Idaho Statesman (Boise ID.) about endorsing our letter; he said that the staff is in favor and the answer is probably yes. They are now discussing the possibilities.
  - Mac talked to Tom Lamar, and there is a good possibility that the Moscow City Council will also make an endorsement.
  - Bertie suggested that we specify on the Google Docs spreadsheet whether a signature was gathered on paper or by email. People using the spread sheet should do that under the “Endorsement Y/N” column. All WA endorsements should be sent to Judy and all ID endorsements should be sent to Mary.

National Call – Bertie Weddell. The guest speaker was Barbara Love, Professor Emeritus of Social Justice Education at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. The talk is available on the Internet:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WTFv279uNx4>

The talk was about building relationships across different cultures—whites are only 10% of the world population. Love made a number of suggestions to do this successfully:

- To build broad coalitions one has to work at it.
- Climate is everyone’s issue.
- Mind your manners.
- Be prepared to make mistakes.
- Don’t brag about knowledge of other cultures.
- Get names right.
- Be rigorous and careful about what one says.
- Do as Cesar Chavez suggested “Listen” and then “Listen again”.

Bertie explained that the CCL has separate teams for various areas, and two of these are “Climate and Justice” and “Spanish Language”.

### National Actions for the Month

**Outreach to locally elected politicians**, especially locally elected Republicans. We, along with the CCL Eastern WA Tour team of three, are scheduled to meet with the mayor and three Pullman City Councilors on Nov. 15. Judy will organize a gathering to plan this meeting. We hope this will be that start of an active relationship. What do we want to convey and what do we want to ask of city officials?

Some possible ideas for this or future meetings are: ask city hall to stand up for climate action, write an Op-Ed, visit a CCL meeting, join an editorial board meeting, sign on to the US conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, speak to members of Congress, install more electric charging stations, buy only green energy, expand bus routes, mark more bike routes, pass a resolution calling for action on climate change.

**Get ready for the November 8 Call-in day.** Ginny Lohr and perhaps Jeff Ramsey will be attending the Fall Lobby Day in Washington. As many of us as possible should call our legislators on Nov. 8. Judy handed out Constituent Comment sheets – if you fill them out, please send them to Ginny Lohr, 9541 SW Burton Dr., Vashon, WA 98070 by Nov. 7.

**Practice laser talks.** Dividend Delivery, and Climate-Affects-Hurricanes – The length of the meeting did not allow time for this, so please carefully read the Laser Talk texts included below.

### Review Action items

- Bertie, Adrienne, Diana, Pete, Mac? will write letters to editor/Op-Eds.
- Mac will contact Tom Bitterwolf about presenting in his UI class.
- Mary will send link to short set of presentation slides from a California CCL group.
- Judy will color the WA high priority signatures on the Google Docs listing for the Endorsement Campaign.
- Judy will organize a meeting to plan the meeting with the Pullman City Council.
- Marilyn will turn in applications for March 6 and 20 to table on the mall at WSU.
- Anyone — Please let Mary and Judy know about any possible presentation opportunities at any organization to which you belong.
- All - Fill out Constituent Comment forms for members of Congress and send them to Ginny Lohr, 9541 SW Burton Dr., Vashon, WA 98070 by Nov. 7.

- All add to Google spreadsheet of potential signers for our Letter to members of Congress (or send signers' names to Judy or Mary). Send signed letters to Judy or Mary.
- 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** Nov. 16, 5:30-7pm, 1912 Center Senior Center, 412 East 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Moscow

## 5-MINUTE LASER TALK EXERCISES

**How to practice:** Pick a partner, read one of the the laser talks below (your choice!), and then summarize for your partner. Then the other person does the same thing.

### ***Laser Talk #1 - Dividend Delivery***

To address the question of “How will you go about distributing the carbon dividend to households?”, CCL commissioned an expert study of how to optimize the carbon dividend distribution. Our goal was to maximize simplicity and minimize costs for government, businesses and households, while still delivering a dividend to as many households as possible.

All the money collected from fossil fuel companies goes to a Carbon Fee Trust Fund managed by an Administrator. After administrative costs, the net funds constitute the pool for carbon dividends.

Recipients are identified from existing tax records or through a special form for those who haven't filed income taxes. Most people will get their dividend as a direct deposit or on an existing government-issued debit card, with paper checks as a backup. Eligibility changes are taken care of on a monthly basis, and any underpayments or overpayments for the year are reconciled on the recipient's next income tax return. CCL is satisfied that these steps will make the carbon dividend distribution fair, flexible, universal, and highly visible to households.

### **For more information**

See the [Dividend Delivery Study](#) on Community

### ***Laser Talk #2 - How Climate Change Affects Hurricanes***

People often ask if climate change caused a particular hurricane. The short answer is “no.” Hurricanes happened long before humans started pumping excess carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

What we can say with great certainty, however, is that human-induced global warming is making storms bigger, more powerful and more destructive for a number of reasons:

- **Warmer water:** Hurricanes derive their strength from warm ocean water. That's why they form in late summer and early fall when temperatures are at their highest. Global warming has increased those temperatures, thereby increasing the power of these storms.
- **Warmer air:** Climate change is also making our atmosphere warmer. Warmer air holds more water vapor, increasing the amount of rainfall produced by a particular storm.
- **Higher sea levels:** As our oceans heat up, the water expands. That expansion, combined with the melting of glaciers, is raising sea levels, making storm surges more destructive and deadly.

These factors played out in storms that made landfall in 2017. As temperatures continue to rise, we can expect to see more of this destructiveness and worse unless we reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.