

Meeting Notes – September 15, 2016 Monthly Meeting

Palouse Region Chapter, Citizens' Climate Lobby

5:30-7 pm, September 15, 2016. 1912 Center Senior Center, Moscow

Present: Mary DuPree, Paul Spencer (note taker), Ginny Lohr, Steve Flint, Rob Briggs, Pete Haug, Katie Gieske, Deb Olson, Kathie Nichols, Jesse Brunner, Judy Meuth, Marilyn Von Seggern

Announcements and Reports

- Steve reported that Lobby Day (which has been renamed Congressional Education Day) will be very targeted this fall. One target is Senator Crapo, who is on some important committees and is sympathetic to constituents' concerns. The date will be November 14-15 in Wash. D.C. Ginny will attend to lobby Cathy McMorris Rodgers. Mary asked for other volunteers with no responses. It may be that more of our members not attending today or someone from the Boise group will be able to attend.
- The cross-country LowCarbon bicyclers Mindy and Ryan stopped in Clarkston on their way to Washington D.C. Katie reported that there were 18 people at a CCL-sponsored conversation with the cyclers, (but no newspaper reporters) who asked a lot of questions. They talked about the carbon fee and dividend. Mindy and Ryan are now in Montana. There were 2 new recruits for CCL. More information is available on the LowCarbon Crossing webpage <https://lowcarboncrossings.wordpress.com>
- The Pullman LWV will have a table at WSU on September 27 for Voter Registration Day.
- October 5, candidates Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Joe Pakootas will meet and debate at WSU.
- October 5, a Moscow LWV candidate forum will be at 7 pm, Moscow High School Auditorium.
- There will be a voter forum by the Pullman LWV for four Washington initiatives, at Umpqua bank in Pullman, on October 19 from 7:00 – 9 p.m.
- Deborah also reported that Mary Dye and Jennifer Goulet, candidates for 9th District Washington State representative, will participate in the LWV Voter forum at the City Hall in Pullman from 7 – 9:00 p.m on October 20. I-732 and one other WA initiative will also be included.
- I-732
 1. Deborah has been approached by the State I-732 organization.
 2. Rob has bumper stickers and yard signs.
 3. On the WSU campus, there will be a debate about I-732 on Thursday October 20.
 4. Rob suggested that we should try to get an endorsement from the M-P *Daily News*.
- Judy reported that we are trying to schedule a meeting with farmers and others in the agricultural community, possibly later this fall to discuss concerns about climate change. She will continue to talk to her contacts.. She is in the "listen and learn conversation" mode.
- Ginny explained that she had already reported information about the Natural Resources Committee of the L-C Valley Chamber of Commerce at our last meeting and that the talk was summarized in their newsletter. She has been in contact with their legislative committee and volunteered Rob to talk about I-732.

Review of Minutes and Action Items from August meeting

- Ginny sent the endorsement forms to Paul.
- Judy emphasized that **for all letters to the editor or other publications it is very important to send a copy to the members of congress** as a follow-up! A guideline cover letter is available on the How-To Information section of the Resources page of our website <http://cclpalouse.org/links.html>

- Endorsement program

Mary reported that the Endorsement program is a rich and interesting program and is more complicated than she had expected. Mark Reynolds, CCL Executive Director, says that Congress will pass a carbon fee and dividend bill by the end of 2017. For this to happen, 4 steps are necessary before the introduction of the bill.

1. Construct the proper legal language.
2. Get the Congressional Budget Office or the Joint Task Force to score the language.
3. Get the proposal to pass muster with existing groups.
4. Collect as sponsors 10 House Republicans and 4 or 5 Senate Republicans. Additional Democrats are expected, too, but the Republicans are critical to getting the legislation onto the floor.

For this to happen it is very important to get endorsements before introduction. It is especially important for districts with potential Republican co-sponsors.

A group from the national CCL is trying to learn why Washington's I-732 was attacked from the left in order to avoid the same problems with CF/D legislation (The speculation is that the framers did not talk to the left before hand.)

Three types of endorsements from community leaders such as Mayors, business leaders, Chambers of Commerce, etc. are needed:

1. That climate change is dangerous
2. Or Support of Carbon Fee and Dividend
3. Or support of a customized statement which might focus on unique regional issues resulting from climate change.

Judy cited the example of the CCL talking to an Olympic skier and then to the managers of ski areas, and then to the national organization of ski resorts. All ended up endorsing.

Once the carbon fee and dividend bill is actually introduced, we will want to ask previous endorsers to also support a new endorsement letter favoring the bill.

The CCL has an endorsement database. It is possible to search the database by states for Congress members, large businesses, or large donors, etc. CCL members can log in to the database and pick a name of someone who has not yet endorsed, and register as a "delegate" attempting to get an endorsement from that person. Rob and Steve pointed out that the most important potential endorsers are the financial contributors for the Congress members. Community Leaders are also critical. Ginny has obtained endorsements from 2 members of the L-C Valley C of C. She has also contacted Devon Felsted, Pullman Disposal, about endorsing.

Potential endorsers for Pullman could be Mayor Glen Johnson, Ed Schweitzer, Paul Kimmel from Avista, and the Whitman County Commissioners. In Idaho, Mary will pursue former mayor Nancy Chaney, Bill Parks, former owner of Northwest River Supply, Chuck Boyd, owner of Salmon River Experience (with the hopes that this might lead to support from a larger group of outdoor recreation representatives) and Latah County Commissioner Tom Lamar.

National Call (Judy): Former congressman and conservative Bob Inglis. Inglis, who introduced his own carbon tax bill in 2009, left Congress in 2011 and founded RepublicEn, which is working to build support among conservatives for a market-based solution to climate change. <http://ccl.podbean.com> He said that climate change is a problem and we need to do something about it and that we need accountability (which should appeal to conservatives). He feels that a fee and dividend system is preferable to regulation and is working with

CCL. He said that there are three key steps:

1. We have to get people excited.
2. The most important committee in Congress for carbon fee and dividend is the House Ways and Means committee, but there are other sub-committees with common elements such as Health, Jobs, etc. that might be influential.
3. The timing must be right. It may be a long haul to get a bill through all the steps to passage.

He commented that even after introduction, a bill may not pass initially, and that is the case for most bills. Continuously building support through education and popular concern will be necessary. Congress people listen to people's fears. We should educate Congress persons and ask them to pull together to work to solve the problems which are everyone's concern.

Suggestions: Pete suggested that we visit schools and talk about climate change and explain about possible actions such as I-732 and the CCL program. If young people learn and are enthusiastic, that influences parents.

Actions for the Month

1. Follow up on Endorsements Project
2. Follow up on town halls and candidate forums (report on Labrador town hall)
3. Write a letter to reps about Climate Solutions Caucus
details at <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/monthly-meetings-and-actions/>

Communication Skills Practice—discussing with congressional staffer

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)
- All: send published items to Paul to place on CCL-P website. (paul-spencer@pullman.com)
- Mary --Oct. 2 Palouse Progressive Picnic – want table and speaker. KSPS and U of I Young Democrats plus lots of other groups are sponsoring it. 1912 Center, 2 pm.
- Monday Sept. 18 Judy and Ginny, interview on I-732 and CCL on KRFP Radio's "What's Left?" program. 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.
- Jeff and Mary, Sept 25 – KRFP Radio interview 2:00 p.m.
- Table at the Co-op in September also: Diana and Mary
- Pete an opinion piece about I-732 for the Daily News
- Jeff -- Daily News Climate change recognition
- Ginny – Lewiston Tribune
- Ginny --Lobby – start as the liaison with Cathy McMorris Rodger's office
- Send Ag people names to Judy
- Paul will send name of Whitman Co. Ag Extension Name to Judy
- Paul will check to see if any of the Whitman County Commissioners will make an endorsement
- Rob – will see if he can coordinate newspaper endorsements with Yoram Bauman, initiator of I-732
- Jesse would like to try to arrange a meeting of the WSU Zoology club with a representative from CCL.

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 20, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Umpqua Bank Meeting Room, Pullman
Adjourn (Presentation Committee meets at 7pm)