

**Meeting Notes – September 21, 2017 – Monthly Meeting
Citizens' Climate Lobby—Palouse**

5:30-7:00pm, 1912 Center, 412 East 3rd Street, Moscow, ID

Present: Amelie Schmolke, Deb Olson, Judy Meuth, Brian Dietel, Jon Hatt, Mac Cantrell, Marilyn Von Seggern, Steve Flint, Donna Erickson, Adrienne Marshall, Bertie Weddell, Kathy Dawes, Mary DuPree

Addition to the Agenda: Accepted as published on website.

Review of Minutes: Accepted as published on the website.

Announcements:

- Bob Inglis (conservative republican voice for CFD; on board of CCL) is part of a tour called RepublicEn targeted towards conservatives; will be in Moscow on October 18-19.
- CCL Eastern Washington tour on November 14th – will be in Palouse (Palouse Community Center). Judy is hoping to get an article in the Daily News. Meeting in Colfax on the night of the 14th (Whitman County Library). The tour group will also meet with a city council member in Pullman at the same time.
- CCL is cosponsoring *An Inconvenient Sequel: Kenworthy*, Nov 15.
- CCL is cosponsoring *Chasing Coral* on September 27th at the UU Church.
- Steve: Regional conference in the spring might happen in Boise; looking for a leader.
- Judy: National conference will be in June next year – start thinking about it – might be able to fund some members to go.
- Brian: there were 15 people at the LC Valley group start in Lewiston; people were enthusiastic. First regular meeting is this Saturday at 10:00 am at the Clarkston Methodist Church. Screened *Chasing Coral* a few weeks ago; currently screening *Merchants of Doubt*.

Action Items from August Meeting and Updates from Interest Groups

- In addition to the items that are on the agenda...
- Marilyn published a letter to the editor.
- Mary and Mac presented to Rotary – the national organization prevents the local organizations from endorsing anything political (which includes climate change).
- The Moscow Food Co-op endorsed the CCL letter thanks to Diana Armstrong.
- PCEI endorsed the letter as well. Thanks to Judy Meuth.
- Bertie will give a talk to the Native Plant Society on November 2.

Organizational updates

- Letter writing campaign is going slowly.
 - Difficult to get people to sign
 - And difficult to risk rejection.
- What else could we be doing to engage people locally – including silent members?

- Mac: educational component – figure out which inactive members might be in organizations we would like to give talks to – use those members as “ins” for different organizations.
- Kathy: has a demonstration to share with people; it’s an interactive, small group greenhouse gas demonstration using water and alka seltzer.
- Kathy: recommends a video of a woman debunking common climate myths. Might be nice to have a list of talking points for class rooms. [Katharine Hayhoe: Global Wierding at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k5_zpjerQFo]
- Adrienne: find ways to flood congress people with notecards from constituents. Brian – make it as easy as possible for people to do. Judy – the idea of flooding is important – good to send a lot of cards at once. Mary: good to do at tabling.
- Bertie: Ask the agriculture group if anyone would give a tour of their farm to CCL. There’s a rancher who might be interested, and one person in the agriculture group who might be interested. Might be a good follow up to the eastern Washington group.
- Mary: Address anti-climate change book that’s been sent out. Would it be appropriate to volunteer to go into schools and offer lessons on climate change?
 - Kathy: lots of teachers teaching climate change anyway; might be appropriate to offer to help – not sure.
 - Deb: person to approach in Pullman is Roberta Kramer. Consider talking to Moscow superintendent of schools.
 - Bertie: Suggests putting together a committee to work on lesson planning.
 - Kathy: offered to put together something. Might make sense to reach out to college students.
 - Judy: it might be good to have social studies lessons as well. We discussed looking for educational lesson plans that already exist.
 - **Kathy will investigate what’s already out there in terms of climate change education and then check in with Judy and Bertie.**
 - People to consider talking to: Greg Bailey, Leanne Erickson.
- We should (in general) be doing more tabling.
- College outreach: go to one of the engagement sites on campus.
 - Look into environmental clubs – WSU has a cluster (ASWSU)
 - Eric Rockwood
 - Rick Finch – WSU recycling
 - **Deb will try to figure out who to talk to at WSU, and will talk to Craig (the civics teacher at the high school).**
 - Bertie’s cousin works with sustainability engagement at Whitman College in Walla Walla.
 - UI Sustainability Center as a contact point?
 - **Adrienne will look into tabling events coming up at UI in the next several months and send information to Mary.**
 - What’s the ask?
 - Willing to table/explain CCL/get people to sign postcards

- Engage with schools
- Gather letter signatures
- Make sure students know about CCL.
- CFD-oriented activities?
 - Tabling accomplishes this. There are two sets of tabling materials – get in touch with Mary or Judy if you’re interested.
 - Present at Chamber of Commerce committee meeting?
 - We could use a 10-minute presentation.
 - A California group sent out a compact slide deck. **Mary will add link** Might also be appropriate for Mac’s presentation with Tara’s class. There might already be a laser talk. There’s also a two-minute presentation on CFD on the CCL website. **Judy will send the link out.** [Link is here: <http://citizensclimatelobby.org/why-carbon-fee-and-dividend/carbon-fee-dividend-video/>
- Ads on the TV or radio?
 - League of Women Voters has been working on advertising – working well. Making contacts and establishing relationships has been critical for them.
 - Kathy: there’s a way of sending a PSA to all the radio stations.
 - Judy: we may or may not be able to get PSAs on the radio because we’re a 501c(4) – political. This means we are covered by CCL’s organizational insurance.

National Call – Amelie. Speaker was Shi-Link Hsu; author of *The Case for a Carbon Tax*. He mainly talked about why he thinks a tax is economically preferable to other forms of regulation. Agencies regulating carbon will likely be inefficient, but a tax encourages innovation and efficiency. Tax could have a larger effect on emissions than regulation (but this is highly uncertain). A tax is also more inclusive and doesn’t create a division between “good guys” and “bad guys”. He also described some economic model findings: should give the tax to corporations rather than households. This is based on the assumption that individuals work less if you give them money (may be an incorrect assumption). Discussed initial pricing for a carbon tax; Dr. Hsu didn’t know but seemed to think the CCL proposal was reasonable. He discussed the issue of imposing costs on farmers, and said he hoped that imposing a tax would decrease farming emissions. He also discussed the fact that Trudeau is imposing a uniform carbon tax across Canada; Dr. Hsu was cautiously optimistic. Dr. Hsu commented positively on the politeness and persistence of CCL.

We discussed what happened in B.C.; tax was effective but a government shift led to a stable (rather than increasing) tax, which stopped the reduction in emissions. B.C. also subsidized farmers, but thinks they would have done okay anyway. With new Trudeau initiative, every province has to have a plan for curbing carbon emissions (rather than a national policy).

We discussed the use of “fee” vs “tax”; “fee” is preferred because the money goes directly back to households, rather than a “tax”, in which revenue is kept and spent by the government.

National News: Mac

- B.C. is going to reintroduce the carbon tax.
- Climate Solutions Caucus is up to 56 members.
- John McCain came out saying that climate change is real and human caused and action is necessary. Lindsay Graham also came out in support of a price on carbon, and is working with White House on new legislation.
- CCL in Flagstaff has gotten their city council to enact a resolution urging Congress to pass CFD. {To date, 77 cities have passed resolutions either endorsing CFD or climate change action.}

Our interaction with City Council

Idaho: Mary and Al are working on bringing our letter to City Council. We need a large group of citizens to show up. The same is true of County Commissioners; we need a strong showing of public support. For County Commissioners, it would be particularly useful to get people from outside of Moscow.

Pullman: Judy has contacted mayor and all of the city council members; has only heard back from Nathan Weller. No sustainability commission in Pullman; Planning Commission might be the place to go. One approach would be to bring a question to the forum for City Council members on October 18.

Lewiston: Brian – knows a few City Council members. Jesse Maldonado is a young City Council member – might be worth talking to. The City Council is probably pretty politically polarized.

Clarkston: We know the city council is pro-marijuana, but that’s all we know.

Communication exercise:

We didn’t get to this; encouraged people to read it.

Congressional Education Day in November:

Steve asked if anyone is going. Four people from southern Idaho are going.

Next Meeting Thursday October 19, 5:30-7 at the Umpqua Bank in Pullman.