

MINUTES – Jan. 16, 2020
Palouse Citizens' Climate Lobby
1912 Center, 412 East 3rd St. Moscow: Senior Center Room

Attendees: Mary DuPree, Judy Meuth, Diana Armstrong, Diane Noel, Martina Ederer, Jesse McIntosh, Trish Hartzell, Marilyn Von Seggern, Tim Trese, Simon Smith, Martha Lovett, Chris Dixon, Paul Spencer, Steve Flint, Cassandra Goodmansen, Carlos Simms, Mac Cantrell, Sylena Harper, Mark Bordsen, Erik Archer, Ilan Carter, Margit von Braun, Ian von Lindern, Bertie Weddell, Mike Kahn, and Bill Parks as guest

Additions to the Agenda and Review of Minutes. Additions to agenda appear below. No additions or corrections to minutes of December 19, 2019.

Announcements

- **Reminder: new Pullman meeting location** in even-numbered months: Fellowship Hall in Community Congregational Church, 525 NE Campus Ave.
- **GPNW Regional CCL Conference** - Vancouver, WA, Feb. 28-March 1, 2020. [Click HERE to register and see program details!](#) The event runs Friday evening through Sunday afternoon, with Friday mainly a social. Registration is still open. Mary says the event is fun, energizing, inspirational. At least five people from our chapter will attend, and car pooling is possible. Rooms available in historic conference hotel and in free housing offered by local CCL people (visit program website for more info). Some registration funding is available.
- **National CCL Conservative Conference** - Washington, DC, Feb. 3 – 4, 2020. Carlos Simms is attending from our area, plus two or three from southern Idaho. Mary would like to see a conservative caucus develop here on the Palouse to help us be more effective.
- **Columbia University Center on Global Energy Policy's Report on the Energy Innovation Act** (see laser talk below at end of minutes). REMI (Regional Economic Models, Inc.) study that looked at the effect of a revenue-neutral carbon price on the American economy is now 7 years old and showing its age. To the extent possible, use the findings of the Columbia report and peer-reviewed articles, rather than REMI, to describe the likely impacts of the EICDA. CCL offers a training on this report as well as the main findings at <https://community.citizensclimate.org/resources/item/19/184>
- **"Toolkit" with research-based** info for our chapter. This year Mary and others will be assembling a "toolkit" on our chapter website with links to key articles (e.g., Stanford EMF 32, IPCC reports [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change]) and relevant CCL pages. Some articles are available on the national CCL website, but they are hard to find.
- **Recent national good news:** (1) Microsoft announced climate plan: By 2030 Microsoft will be carbon negative, and by 2050 Microsoft will remove from the environment all the carbon the company has emitted either directly or by electrical consumption since it was founded in 1975. (2) BlackRock, the world's largest asset manager, announced it will consider climate in its investing strategy and stop investing in coal for electricity production.
- **Child Care for CCL-P meetings.** Child care for Pullman meetings should start in the next months. Let people with kids know this is on the horizon.
- **Support for Piper Christian visit.** Ian and Margrit would be willing to support a trip up here for the young climate activist from Utah to speak (maybe in connection with Earth Day), visit in classes, etc.

Communication Exercise: Start a Conversation with a Conservative Community Leader

Pair up in twos, read script to each other (See COMMUNICATION EXERCISE: Start a conversation with a conservative community leader, below), then converse.

Group discussion and tips:

- Mac offered to arrange an informal get-together some evening to talk about the EICDA
- Talk about costs of inaction on climate change, not just costs of action through the EICDA
- When in doubt, offer to get back to people with more info.
- Although we need to talk about economics, also good to have personal stories (the power of the story). Cassandra mentioned a girl in her office who is collecting forest fire stories as part of her UI master's degree. CCL urges us to use personal stories. For example, Jesse remembers 15 years ago when a road trip would leave your windshield splattered with bugs; not so today (article in Science quantified it).
- If the point of the discussion is to build a relationship (for example, with someone with different points of view), you don't have to have all the answers.
- Mary will make available info about threats to forests from climate change.

CCL-Palouse Reports and Business

- **2019 Successes!** See December minutes for a compilation.
- **Our 2020 Action Plan Draft.** Mary and Judy ask us to sign up for one or more of these activities.
 1. **Grasstops:** developing relationships and seeking endorsements of the EICDA. Our members of Congress are especially impressed by business endorsements.
Priorities:
 - a. Schweitzer, NRS, Alta Engineering, McGregor, Papé. Need teams willing to do research on the organizations, identify decision makers, make contacts. Mary will circulate the grasstops list to everyone in attendance at this meeting.
 - b. Return to businesses who signed the 2017 letter endorsing general action on climate change to get endorsement of the EICDA.
Simon notes that the CCL Breweries team statement of support for EICDA sounds like a lot of legalese and wonders if there is an option for entry-level commitment short of endorsement, perhaps a statement of concern by the business. Mary says something like this is on the national CCL website. The endorsements gathered through the website are used by CCL people in their meetings with members of Congress. Endorsements can be made online in a simple process that takes less than 10 minutes.
 2. **Ag forum**, potentially co-sponsored by local Chambers of Commerce. Try to get chambers to sponsor ag forum that deals with climate change. The Pullman chamber is already engaged; the Moscow chamber isn't. Judy says we know farmers who are interested. Try to have meeting with farmers in early February. A likely focus would be economics and climate change risks to banks, implement dealers, farms, etc.
 3. **Pullman Climate Action Plan.** Judy reported that Pullman adopted a resolution to act on climate change; however, work on developing a plan stalled for a while. Judy will be contacting people from Pullman to see about getting it going again. Judy, Marilyn, and Simon have expressed an interest in this.
 4. **Latah County Commissioners.** Mac and Carolyn Shoemaker are working on this. Mary notes that our members of Congress are even more impressed with county commissioner support than city council support.
- **Treasurer's Report**—Steve. No treasurer's report.
- **Radio spots**—Steve. Steve Flint is talking tomorrow with Yale on producing shorter spots (30 seconds versus 90 seconds) that could fit the format of our commercial radio stations. If it's possible to get the shorter spots, we would still need to find a way to pay to have them aired. Ideas: (1) produce spots locally and give them a local angle; (2) no UI comm classes available this semester to do a radio project; maybe another time; (3) Cassandra will look into whether this could be a potential project for her UI class on society and climate change; (4) might Radio Free Moscow be able to help? (5) if the radio spots become an educational activity for UI or other classes, perhaps the radio stations would be willing to give us a break on costs, (6) Sylena worked at radio station at WSU and will ask there about it.

- **Moscow High School Action.** Ilan reported that the Environmental Club is planning activities for the week of Earth Day and has assembled a planning committee. They want to plan something that is open to student body, such as an activity where kids calculate their own carbon footprints. Also thinking of handouts like cloth bags or reusable straws. Plans still pretty loose. Cassandra suggests checking with Earth Day Network.
Weekly calling campaign to elected officials underway at high school, making about 20 calls per week.
- **Carlos Simms** just graduated from UI with project dealing with transition to alternative fuels on campus, especially solar.
- **Tabling and presentations**
 - MLK breakfast January 18 in Moscow—Simon and Judy will table.
 - Wild and Scenic Film Festival—January 24 at 6 at Kenworthy in Moscow. Diana will table; Chris Dixon and Sylena may join her.
 - Pullman farmers market at Brelsford WSU Visitor Center—Judy will confirm dates and request volunteers; third Saturdays in February, March, and April, 10—2.
 - Moscow Winter Market—February 1 and March 7. Simon will do. Contact Simon with interest.
 - Presentations to community groups and classes. Cassandra's class on society and climate change wants outside speakers. Mary says Mac, Judy, and Mary are prepared to make presentations.
- **Publications.** Three letters to the editor by Pete Haug published during the past month. Pete will begin writing a column for the Spokesman-Review. All our published letters to the editor are sent to our members of Congress.
Judy circulated signup sheet for writing letters to the editor and to members of Congress. People who sign up will get reminders and CCL resources from Judy. People who want input on their letters can turn to others in our chapter; Pete Haug is media coordinator for our group and can provide input.
- **Moscow Commission on Sustainable Environment.** Mary reported this group has a subcommittee working on a climate action plan. Their effort parallels the Sierra Club's Ready for 100 effort. Looking at hosting a public forum in April. Ideas and practices the group is looking at include transitioning to electric energy from gas, urban forests, solar, other. Meetings second and fourth Monday. This is an ongoing process that the city will need to approve of and buy into. Kyle Steele is city staff rep to commission.
- **Calling members of Congress.** Mary alerts us to a new systematic way of calling our members of Congress that should be rolling out next month. We'll talk about a calling campaign at our February meeting.
- **Seeking support from religious communities.** Mary asked about reaching out to religious communities for support for climate action. Martina expressed interest in talking to Catholic Church; Cassandra offered to spearhead an effort with the LDS Church. Might the Real Life Church in Moscow and Pullman be open to it?
- **Pizza/drinks Volunteers.** No volunteers.

National CCL Recommended Actions:

Plan In-District Lobbying

In-district lobby day is coming up. This is an opportunity to meet with members or their staff. Mac is official CCL rep to Idaho Senator Mike Crapo; Judy is the official rep to Washington Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers

National CCL Monthly Call:

Carlos reported on the call with John Wood, Jr., of Better Angels, an organization trying to bring together people with different perspectives and bridge the partisan divide. One of the organization's efforts is a workshop in which it brings together conservatives and liberals to talk about their beliefs and asks, "Why do we believe what we believe?" A focus is on telling stories that make us human instead of divided by politics.

Wood is a national leader for Better Angels, a former nominee for Congress, former Vice-Chairman of the Republican Party of Los Angeles County, and author of the upcoming book, "Transcending Politics: Perspectives for a Divided Nation."

Watch/listen at <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/monthly-speakers/>

- **Next Meeting:** Thursday, Feb. 20, 5:30-7 at – Fellowship Hall, Community Congregational Church, 525 NE Campus Ave., Pullman

COMMUNICATION EXERCISE: Start a conversation with a conservative community leader

Conservative community leaders can be good allies in persuading your members of Congress to support the Energy Innovation Act. Beginning a conversation with open questions is a good way to find out how concerned they are about climate change and whether they might help to advocate for the bill.

You've scheduled a first phone call with Linda, the conservative CEO of a large local manufacturer. Linda has been in the news recently for highlighting the city council's unusually high business permit costs. Pair up with another volunteer and take turns reading aloud the parts in the communication exercise below and then afterwards discuss what went well and what you'd do differently next time.

You: Linda, I appreciate that you're talking about your business permit concerns with the city council.

Linda: Thanks, it doesn't make sense to me that the city refuses to lower permit costs when three of our local businesses have already relocated to other towns.

You: It sounds like as a CEO you have experience with government inaction. I've also been thinking about gov't inaction lately, mostly in the area of climate change. How concerned are you about the climate?

Linda: I am a bit concerned about how climate change will impact my business. And my son has been studying climate change in his science class, and the future projections are really worrisome. But the problem is so big it's hard to know where to start. We all use oil to heat our homes in the winter.

You: It's true we need to both solve climate change and not increase our home heating costs. Have you seen any of the climate change solutions proposed by conservatives in Congress? I've done a lot of reading about these solutions because I think whatever we do must have bipartisan support to be durable.

Linda: I'd like it if the Democrats would work together with us Republicans and agree on some initial steps.

You: I agree. I do some volunteer work with an organization that is urging Congress to do that. I'd be happy to tell you about it when you have time. We advocate a market-based climate solution that is supported by both Republicans and Democrats because it's good for the economy and good for people.

Linda: Sure. I'd like to hear the main points.

LASER TALK EXERCISE: Columbia University Report on the Energy Innovation Act

Dr. Noah Kaufman and his team at Columbia University have published an exciting new report that projects the outcomes of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, H.R.763.

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 - Benefits of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act

The Columbia Center on Global Energy Policy (CGEP) recently released an analysis of H.R.763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act.

This milestone report concludes that H.R.763 would cut net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 36 to 38 percent by 2030 (from 2005 levels), exceeding U.S. commitments under the Paris Agreement. It would also improve Americans' health by reducing sulfur and mercury emissions by an eye-popping 95 percent and smog-forming NOx emissions by 75 percent.

Under this bill, CGEP says, electric power generation would rapidly shift to low- and zero-carbon sources including solar, wind, nuclear, and natural gas with carbon capture and storage.

They also confirmed that the carbon dividend would, as CCL has long argued, cushion energy price impacts for consumers. Overall, the dividends paid would be comparable to the increased energy costs, but low and middle-income households would receive *more* in dividends than they pay in higher prices.

The main message from the CGEP report is that a price on carbon is a uniquely cost-effective policy tool because it incentivizes emissions reductions wherever and however they can be achieved, and does so at the lowest cost. That's why economists overwhelmingly support a price on carbon as the most powerful first step to addressing climate change.

Resource

Columbia University Report, [An Assessment of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act](#)