

MINUTES – Feb. 20, 2020
Palouse Citizens' Climate Lobby

Fellowship Hall, Community Congregational Church, 525 NE Campus Ave., Pullman

Attendees: Tim Trese, Mark Bordsen, Diana Armstrong, Juhi Patel, Mary DuPree, Amelie Schmolke, Carlos Simms, Marilyn Von Seggern, KJ Fitzgerald, Cassandra Goodmansen, Kayla Bordelon, Sylena Harper, Steve Flint, Paul Spencer, Mac Cantrell, Pete Haug, Simon Smith, Linda Jovanovich, Casey Johnson, Trish Hartzell, Martina Ederer, Mike Kahn, Gretchen Kaufman, Diane Noel, Judy Meuth, Lily

Additions to the Agenda and Review of Minutes. No additions or corrections to minutes of January 16, 2020.

Announcements

- **GPNW Regional CCL Conference** - Vancouver, WA, Feb. 28-March 1, 2020. Registration is still open at time of our meeting. Carpooling from Pullman/Moscow is an option.
- **National Lobby Day** – Washington, DC, June 7-9, 2020. Registration is now open. CCL members meet for a conference on the first two days. On the third day, members talk with over 500 member of Congress each year. Scholarships are available, particularly for students and conservatives.
<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/2020-june-conference/>
- **Research project at University of Idaho** - Dr. Kristin Haltinner and Dr. Dilshani Sarathchandra (faculty at the University of Idaho), along with their research team, are interested in understanding the factors that contribute to people changing their mind on climate change. Interview participants will receive a \$10 gift card to the Moscow Food Co-op or Winco in exchange for about an hour of their time. Interviews will be conducted in the UI library group study rooms or in the group meeting room at One World Cafe. If you have changed your mind about climate change and are interested in participating, please email Kristin Haltinner at khaltinner@uidaho.edu to schedule an interview.
Note: this type of research is critical for climate action because it helps establish what makes people rethink their opinion on climate change.
- **Bees and trees** WSU Bees and Trees - Katy Fitzgerald introduced herself to the group. She is a senior at WSU and is involved in multiple community organizations. She started the facebook group 'Bees and Trees' <https://m.facebook.com/beesandtreesproject>. The goal is to connect communities to help bees. She advertised joining a 10-week challenge leading up to Earth Day. She gave out seeds for pollinator gardens and handouts from the Xerces Society.

Communication Exercise: I heard you say...

Present CCL members got together in twos or threes to practice reflection: repeating the conversation partner's statements in their own words. It helps making the other person feel valued and may open up pathways for conversation.

CCL-Palouse Reports and Business

- **CCL membership in an election year** – Keep in mind that CCL is non-partisan. CCL members are not limited in joining any political campaign, but are asked not to present themselves as campaigning on behalf of CCL.
- **Report from National CCL Conservative Conference** – Carlos Simms joined the conference (Washington, DC, Feb. 3 – 4, 2020). He took part in meetings with members of Congress or their staffers, including Rep. Simpson, Sen. Crapo and Sen. Risch. Representatives are interested in hearing about endorsements of CCL and climate bills as well as letters to newspapers etc.

Along with other participants in the conference, Carlos gave an interview to Vice News which will be published in March.

- **Upcoming House recess** – The next US House recess is coming up in April. Mac reported that a group of economists from Idaho have signed on to CCL's climate plan. They are planning to meet with Sen. Crapo during recess. If that does not happen, Mac would aim for a meeting with Sen. Crapo in Lewiston. Judy has reached out to Rep. McMorris Rodgers for a meeting during recess and got a positive response. She will announce the meeting once it is scheduled and invite WA members to join.
- **Grasstops campaign** – A running list of local businesses should be extended, and CCLP Campaign members should sign up to meet with business leaders. In the list, high-priority businesses and businesses who showed interest in taking climate action previously are highlighted in color. The goal of the grasstops campaign is to get endorsements specifically for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend bill, HR 763, not just a general endorsement of climate action.
The national CCL has an endorsement tracker, listing businesses that have endorsed or have been contacted. REI is not on the list: CCLP members got the opportunity to sign a letter asking REI to endorse. The grasstops campaign group met after this meeting.
- **Upcoming WEBINAR: Living with Wildfire in the Era of Climate Change** - Offered by republicEn, presenter is from University of Idaho.
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2020
Time: 3:00-4:00 p.m. EST
Cost: Free (but space is limited)
<https://www.republicen.org/webinars/feb-26>
- **Ag forum** – Marilyn, Mac, Simon, and Judy met with five farmers from the Palouse area to find out about their concerns with respect to climate change and what they are already doing. The goal is to organize a forum, likely in late fall (after harvest). The farmers would like to see the general public as an audience for the forum. The forum should be organized in collaboration with the Chambers of Commerce of Pullman and Moscow.
- **Moscow Climate Action Plan** – The City of Moscow has a climate action plan working group (CAWG) in place that is meeting regularly. CCL members have joined recent meetings. The committee is using the Sierra Club emission goals as a starting point, but think that Moscow might be able to reach emission goals earlier. The current focus is to identify the likely impacts of climate change on Moscow. A formal vulnerability assessment is currently being conducted by Jeff Hicke from University of Idaho. A public forum is planned for April 22 (Earth Day) to begin the discussion with the public.
- **Pullman Climate Action Plan** - Judy reported that she is picking up the work on a Pullman CAP again and, along with Pullman CCL members will be talking to city councilors. Potential actions in the plan could include, for instance, changes in building codes, tree planting, etc. An open question is whether the climate plan would focus on the emissions of the municipality operations only or the entire community (including emissions by residents). CCL could provide ideas: we have an earlier compilation of CAPs for other cities from Marilyn. City officials generally seem on board, but have not acted to develop a CAP. Simon suggested also talking to Clayton Forsman, city Deputy Public Works Director, for contact and inputs.
- **Latah County Commission** – Mac reported that a meeting of CCL members and the commissioners is planned and will include a farmer from the area.
- **WSU student involvement** – Sylena is working on getting more WSU students involved. She thinks that the major obstacles to student involvement are visibility of CCL and access to meetings (many students do not have cars). She is working on starting a student club at WSU. She will need two faculty advisors to get this officially going. Mike Kahn volunteered to be one of them. WSU has a sustainability month coming up in

April, but getting the word out earlier would be important to get students on board before the end of the semester (when Sylena will also be leaving).

- **Tabling and presentations**
 - Tabling at Moscow's and Pullman's winter markets in January/February were a success (~16 signatures from each). It appears easier to start conversations during the in-door events.
 - Looking for volunteers for tabling going forward: Pullman Winter market is still going on (once a month on Saturdays); Moscow farmers market starts on May 1
 - Recently, no presentations were given by CCL members: multiple group members have done this before and would be available to give presentations to any interested group.
- **Publications** - Five letters to the editor were published in the past month. Pete got contacted by the Eastern Washington office of the governor as a result of his publications. Judy circulated a sign up 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.
- **Treasury report** - We currently have about \$500. We will invest in a new banner for tabling and other events. In addition, we want to run radio spots on climate/action on local radio stations. For public radio, this is already happening (and it is free to us), but reaches only a small section of potential listeners. For commercial radio stations, spots are generally limited to 60 seconds or less. An example radio spot is available from Yale Climate Connections (Judy sent a link to google docs) that we could use plus the announcement of our meetings. Alternatively, we could produce our own: the local NPR station offered help to produce it. The costs depend on the radio station (~\$15-20 per airing). There was a suggestion to run it either once a day for a month or several times on Earth Day (April 22). We also have contacts to WSU and UI student radio stations where such ads could be run for free.
- **Earth Day** – Opportunities to join Earth Day events were brought up. Is there a Science March planned that we could join?
- **CCL Palouse Facebook page** – Please send any relevant material / links to Judy and Carlos. Relevant material could be any climate-related international, national or local news, and other climate-related posts.
- **Pizza/drinks Volunteers.** We are covered for the next meeting.

National CCL monthly calling campaign:

Mac introduced a CCL app that helps members remember and conduct monthly calls to their representatives. Go to cclusa.org/mcc to sign up and get a text message or email reminder with suggested talking points and the calling information for your representative every month. It is important and makes a difference if representatives hear from their constituents even if they think you might not vote for them. We have seen this in Sen. Risch's staffers who became more interested in listening to CCL over the past year.

National CCL Monthly Call:

Mike reported on the call with Bob Inglis who was a Republican representative in Congress twice. He has since been involved in promoting conservative action on climate change, and has also educated himself in meetings with climate researchers etc. He talked about CCL's carbon fee and dividend plan as a conservative action, making an economic argument for it. It does not increase the size of government. He also made the point that it needs to be a federal bill, not introduced by individual states to avoid unequal competition within the US. Since 2018, Republican politicians are more aware of the power of climate change at the ballot box. However, actions like 'planting a million trees' are not going to solve the problem. He also made the point that tax breaks only work in wealthy countries/communities where people pay enough taxes to see the benefit of a tax break. The fee and dividend approach is thus more applicable globally.

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

Next Meeting: Thursday, Mar. 19, 5:30-7 at 1912 Center, 412 East 3rd St. Moscow: Senior Center Room

We were joined by Lily, a young artist, during our meeting who would like to share what she worked on during the meeting:

