

Palouse Citizens' Climate Lobby
Meeting minutes, May 20,2021, 5:30-7:00pm Zoom Meeting

Participants: Mary DuPree, Paul Spencer, Bill Engels, Diana Armstrong, Kynan Witter-Hicks, Mac Cantrell, Pete Haug, Erik Nelson, Jesse Brazil, Judy Meuth, Kayla Bordelon, Lauren Carlsen, Lynn Weaver, Mark Havens, Nathan Weller, Simon Smith, Steve Flint, Stevie Fawcett, Tristan Sahwell, Kathy Dawes, Amelie Schmolke and Lily

Announcements

- CCL Conference June 12-13, Lobby Days June 14-18

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-push-for-a-price-on-carbon-ccls-june-2021-virtual-conference-registration-146625124695>

Mary advertised the conference, it's free and everyone can sign up; the virtual conference will be using "Airmeet" instead of zoom which is easier to use; focus: push for price on carbon; main event on Sat, Sun smaller, interactive sessions.

- Energy Sector Innovation Credit (ESIC) Act—Mac

Sen. Crapo is co-sponsor of this newly introduced bill (together with Democratic Sen. Whitehouse); ESIC Act summary can be found here: https://www.finance.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/esic_one-pager.pdf; the aim of the bill is to help energy technology that will reduce carbon (or equivalent) emissions via tax credits; technologies that reduce carbon emissions to <60% of natural gas will be considered; carbon capture technologies are also included; only for technologies/companies with currently very small market share; credit goes away once market share rises.

Tim Dec leads an effort to have folks write letters etc. to Sen. Crapo to thank him (watch out for emails).

- Fulcher lobbying team member needed—Mac

Lobbying of members of Congress will occur in the week after the CCL conference; Mac is advertising for folks to join the Fulcher lobby team (Rep. of ID 01); meeting might occur the week before the conference; please contact Mac if interested.

- CCL-Palouse leadership team call

Mary: We would like to establish a leadership team of folks who are involved in our group; please volunteer to join the leadership team; the team will meet a few times per year and discuss ideas/direction of our local organization in more detail; first meeting in June; not much of a time commitment; contact Judy or Mary if you are interested.

- In-person monthly meetings?

Are we ready to go back to in-person meetings? Next meeting would be in Pullman; we had a discussion with multiple folks signaling that they are ready to meet in person again, but there was also the request to keep the meetings as hybrid, so people can join in if they want to avoid driving and keep the advantages of zoom meetings as well. Further discussion for this topic to come, and we will figure out the necessary technology to host the meetings as hybrids.

- Presentation to Lewiston and Clarkston Methodist churches (Cody Stauffer)

In June (a Sunday during service), the pastor offered to include a presentation by CCL in to his service; the presentation could be in-person or a recorded presentation; are there volunteers for the presentation? The

is held via zoom and the presentation should be up to 20 min with about 10 min time for discussion afterwards; Mark: very influential people belong to those congregations.

CCL—Palouse Reports and Actions

- Lauren: U.I. student attitudes study
 - Lauren shared slides about her senior research at University of Idaho: she conducted a survey among students about to assess the relationship between their political stances and their positions on climate change and a carbon fee and dividend policy; Lauren introduced CCL to a class at the College of Natural Resources and gathered a total of 59 responses to her survey from students with different political leanings; 6 questions specifically about climate change (including about belief in climate change and carbon fee and dividend as policy); answers fell out strongly along political leanings; only very conservative respondents were rejecting climate change is real and strongly opposed to policies addressing it; moderately conservative respondents had a lot variability in their responses; Lauren noted that the number of respondents was small and not necessarily a representative sample. She derived recommendations for CCL: increase education and outreach events, good to see for students that there are folks doing this work outside of the university.

Mary emphasized that the support for carbon fee and dividend by strongly liberal students was good to see because this is not always the case.

- Kayla and Simon: Earth Week activities - Climate Ribbons and Sign Waving
Kayla reported about the climate ribbons project: she had about 100 responses during the week prior to the event at the U.I. plus foot traffic at Saturday in-person event; Simon: Sign waving was quite effective and had a good visual appeal.
- UI engagement: Kayla received a request from UI Sustainability Center at UI to see if we could plan a fall event for undergraduates in collaboration with them. She's thinking of an interactive event.
- Moscow and Pullman Chambers of Commerce updates
Moscow: tentative meeting setup by Mary with Sam Martinet (new Chamber Executive Director); please contact Mary if you are interested in joining the meeting; Judy: no recent news from Pullman, but it is time to get in touch with them again now that things are opening up.

- Pullman city climate actions update: Kynan
CCL met with Mike Urban (Pullman City Administrator) last month, he was very interested in possibilities for climate action by the city. Kynan asked about policy ideas from the city that could be integrated in the survey CCL has prepared. Mike was very open to that, and will collect feed-back from other departments. Mike thinks it's time for the city to revisit its 2018 CAP goal. Mike invited CCL to present at city council meeting, 22 June. From his perspective, it is important for Pullman to celebrate the small wins like electric buses, LED street light retro-fit and solar panels on the city hall. In the context of climate change, he is particularly concerned about Pullman's water supply: any climate action that also helps water, the city would be very interested in.
Bill: how about an electric bus between Pullman and Moscow? (Moscow transportation commission has this on their agenda)
Nathan: goals discussed with Mike have been previously discussed; the rest of the city council is very much for these goals (incl. Nathan); he is also very much in favor for the bus: Nathan would like to collaborate with CCL to push this topic.
Pete: loop in senior center lead in Pullman who has a strong voice.

Judy: she has been attending planning sessions for comprehensive plan; looks like climate action plan will be included in the comprehensive plan.

- Grassroots:-Simon - Farmers' Market, other tabling opportunities this summer
Three markets have taken place in Moscow this year so far, Simon was there for all of them; there is less foot traffic than usual due to the current location of the market; however, he had some good conversations and sign-ups for monthly calling campaign.

Mary: please join Simon at the table (regularly or occasionally)

Lily shared her climate action she organized with classmates from 3rd grade in Sunnyside Park.

Two slides with the CCL publications in the past month; we highlighted Bill's LTE that was published in the Spokesman, Daily News, and the Whitman County Gazette and Pete's great opinion piece in the Daily News.

- Grasstops:
Judy - Initial meeting with Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories (Report on this topic at the next CCL meeting)

Communications Exercise (text at the end of the Agenda) –

We had pair-wise breakout rooms for the exercise; a few thoughts coming out of the individual discussions: Erik, Lynn were shocked seeing the numbers of folks dying from air pollution; Mark: we should stress that EICDA will not add to debt; due to its negative perception, using the term "pollution" may result in more support than, e.g. "carbon emissions".

Continuing Individual Actions

Suggestion to continue to send postcards to President Biden to advertise for EICDA; Simon has pre-addressed postcards at the table at the Moscow farmer's market

--Log actions on CCL's Action Tracker: <https://community.citizensclimate.org/actions/home>

--Write Senator Crapo to express appreciation for his bipartisan work with Senator Whitehouse re. the ESIC.
<https://www.crapo.senate.gov/contact/email-me>

--Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, H.R. 2307 -

Send a postcard to President Biden to let him know of your support for carbon pricing and the EICDA
(President Biden, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC 20500)

Send information for Facebook posts to Adrienne Marshall: amarshall813@gmail.com

Additional announcement: Mark announced that grants are available from the Lewis-Clark Valley Healthcare Foundation; fast-track grant applications (for grants up to \$10k, not very competitive) are due at the end of the month, larger grant applications in June; these grants can cover all kinds of projects for non-profit organizations in the larger region; link: lewisclarkhealth.org

Next meeting Thursday June 17 from 5:30 to 7, location TBD

Communication exercise

SPECIAL COMMUNICATION EXERCISE: Practice saying the four bill talking points (acronym NAMS)

When talking about the newly reintroduced Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, H.R.2307, we want to stay focused as much as possible on our tested high-level messaging because listeners are more likely to care if we tell them the kitchen table benefits instead of how it works. To make it easy to remember our four talking points, think NAMS - **N**et zero, **A**ffordable, **M**oney in your pocket and **S**aves lives.

Let's practice with a partner rattling off the bill's four benefits so that we can be ready to talk to community leaders, the public, the media, friends, family and congressional offices.

The four talking points about the newly reintroduced Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, H.R.2307 will be pasted in the chat. With a partner, take turns reading the four talking points out loud. Then see if you can remember the names of the four talking points using the acronym NAMS. Net zero, Affordable, Money in your pocket and Saves lives.

The four talking points

Net Zero by 2050 - This policy will reduce America's carbon pollution 50% by 2030, putting us on track to reach net zero by 2050.

Affordable Clean Energy - America leads the world with technology innovation. With this policy, the government sets the direction, and businesses respond in order to provide abundant, affordable and reliable clean energy. This clean energy innovation will drive us faster toward net zero carbon pollution.

Puts Money in your Pocket - This policy is affordable for ordinary Americans because it puts money in your pocket. The money collected from the fee is given as a monthly dividend, or "carbon cash back" payment, to every American to spend with no restrictions. Most low-and middle-income Americans will come out financially ahead or break even.

Saves Lives - This policy will improve health and save 4.5 million American lives over the next 50 years by reducing the pollution which Americans breathe. Poor air quality is responsible for as many as 1 in 10 American deaths today and sickens thousands more.

(data sources are available at energyinnovationact.org/data-sources)