

Minutes for Dec. 14, 2017- Palouse Citizens' Climate Lobby

5:30-7:00pm, Hecht Room, Neill Public Library, 210 N. Grand Ave., Pullman

Present: Judy Meuth, Deb Olson, Paul Spencer, Marilyn Von Seggern, Linda Javonovich, Mac Cantrell, Steve Flint, Cassie Geraghty, Katie Gieske, Lee Powers, Beth Powers, Brian Dietel, Masoud Kazemi, David Warner, Pete Haug, Mary DuPree

Introductions and Additions to the Agenda – Judy suggested two additions that are included in the Minutes below.

Review of Minutes - Approved

Announcements – No announcements

Action Items from November meeting and updates from interest groups

- Paul: write a letter to editor/Op-Ed in December – Working on it.
- Mac: gave a presentation to a UI honors class of juniors and seniors – mostly science and engineering students.
- Mary: has had trouble getting the presentation slides from a California CCL group to open after sending it; she's working on a solution.
- All: select 3 "Grasstops" (key contacts) to approach for letters to Members of Congress.
- Cassie: gave an informative tutorial about the use of Facebook using a computer and a projector which Paul provided. This included how to sign up, make a profile, choose settings for privacy, etc. Also included were how to be a friend or to follow a Facebook page or group, how to post a picture or text, and how to make pages and enter events.
- Steve, Judy, Mary, and Bertie: Chapter Action Plan ideas - See work on these topics below.

Ideas for more local engagement

- Cassie will work on our CCI-Palouse Social media Facebook pages.
- Other efforts – We discussed our work in the areas of education, presentations, and contacting MOCs.
- Several members expressed interest in learning more about giving presentations, so we will have a short Presentations meeting immediately following our next regular meeting.
- Deb suggested contacting the Kiwanis about making a presentation.

Washington State Mentor Program - Washington now has 2,300 CCL members and many are new. There is an effort now to build a mentorship program for orientation and training of new members. New members will be asked about their interests in order to help find a place for them to participate. Any local members who wish to help with this program, or to participate as learners should contact Judy Meuth.

Campaign for letters to Members of Congress

- Al Poplawsky and Mary have approached a Moscow city committee and are planning an approach to the Moscow City Council to ask it to sign the endorsement letter. CCL will also ask the Council about signing on to the national cities' pledge to follow the Paris Accord.

- Members of CCL-P met with the Pullman Mayor Glenn Johnson and Council Member Eileen Macoll. The mayor was non-committal, but Macoll seemed positive about the city acting on climate change. A concern of the mayor's about Carbon Fee and Dividend was that the city's fuel cost increases would be uncompensated, since the city would not receive the dividends paid to citizens from the carbon fees. Judy said that she would research the CCL proposal and other sources about this concern. Mac noted that a 14 cent/gallon cost increase is small compared with fluctuations of gasoline prices that we've seen in the last decade (14 cents is estimated by CCL to be increase in gas prices for the first year CFD is in effect). Steve suggested that the city could re-think its fuel use and make policies to decrease fuel use – such as less use of heavy pickup trucks for general transportation.
- A later meeting with Pullman City Council Member Nathan Weller resulted in a positive response regarding Pullman actions on climate change. He asked that we write a draft of a resolution for the city.
- Pullman Planning Department head Pete Dickinson said that the CCL members should make public comments to the ongoing revision of the city's 20-year Comprehensive Plan.
- There was a short discussion of why it is particularly important to gain signatures on the Letters from "Grasstops" community and business leaders, since members of Congress often pay more attention to them. We broke into WA and ID members and selected several Grasstops or other potential signatories to approach.
- Judy will send out an email to attendees at this meeting with the WA and ID endorsement Letters to Members of Congress and a script/information on how to ask a person to endorse the letter. She will also share the Google Doc spreadsheet of the endorsers and potential endorsers with attendees.
- "Grass Tops" (key contacts) WA volunteers:
 1. Paul – Whitman County Commissioners
 2. Judy – Pullman City Council
 3. Pete and Lee – Colfax Grasstops
 4. Linda - Palouse Grasstops
 5. Lee and Beth - Uniontown Grasstops and Neill's Flowers
 6. Beth and Cassie - Faith Groups (and requesting a presentation to an interfaith group via Steve Van Kuiken)
- "Grass Tops" (key contacts) ID volunteers:
 1. Mac—Anatek Labs, Robin Woods
 2. Mac—CHS Primeland, Jim Miller
 3. Mary—Hayden Ross Accountants, Cade Konen
 4. Steve—Idaho Cedar Sales, Troy
 5. Mary and Pete—Daily News, Lee Rozen
 6. Mary and Mark—Moscow Pullman Building Supply
 7. Mary—PESCI, Pat Rathman
 8. Steve—Jewish Fellowship of the Palouse, Myron Schreck
 9. Mary—UI Campus Christian Center, Julie Coyle
 10. Mary—Moscow City Council, Alnne Zabala
 11. Mac—Moscow City Council, Brandy Sullivan

National Call – Judy (View this National Call at: <https://youtu.be/qjfCHmiclNo>)

José Aguto is Associate Director of Catholic Climate Covenant, where he raises up the call to care for creation and care for the poor. Prior to joining Catholic Climate Covenant, he was Legislative Secretary for Sustainable Energy and Environment at the Friends Committee on National Legislation. Aguto was one of CCL's earliest allies on Capitol Hill and worked with CCL on the introduction of the Republican Climate Resolution, which eventually led to the formation of the bipartisan House Climate Solutions Caucus. Aguto has also worked for the National Congress of American Indians in the service of tribal governments seeking to address climate change.

He suggests that an application of the Golden Rule may encourage people to make things better for everyone regarding climate change. He said that hundreds of Catholic organizations have signed to support the Paris Accord and that Catholics have a hierarchal organization so that the local dioceses are somewhat independent. He suggested that it may be effective to ask them to explain their climate concerns and then start with their position and work to broaden their understanding of climate action. Pete mentioned that the Yale website <http://climatecommunication.yale.edu> has statements from faith groups on climate.

Mark Reynolds reported that there were 550 CCL members participating at the November Lobby Day in Washington D.C. and that they visited 433 congressional offices. Reynolds also noted that CCL received more endorsements from municipalities this year than ever before.

National Actions for the Month

Develop part two of your Chapter's Bill-introduction Action Plan. The text of this document was included with the agenda email for this meeting, and this is a link to it on our website: [Develop Part Two of your Chapter Action Plan.pdf](#)

Part One

- Steve reported on a Part One Action Plan component, how to best communicate with Members of Congress:
 - Present individualized effective and short messages.
 - Make personal visits.
 - Meet with staff. The effectiveness of such a visit is about the same for a local visit as one in Wash. D.C., but there is more time for a local visit. Since 2010 there are more recesses for Congress members so local access is now easier.
 - To prepare, we should collect a portfolio of Letters-to-Editors to present to Congress Members and their offices.
- Mary reported on another Part One Action Plan component, how to get volunteers to show support. She noted that we will use our roster to communicate by email and/or phone, text, and Facebook. When a bill is introduced, national CCL will be sending instructions, information, and scripts that we can use.

Part Two

- Communicate with Community Members (not yet planned)
- Communicating to other Organizations (not yet planned)
- Communicating to Local Leaders and Influencers (not yet planned)
- Mary suggested that we should prioritize these actions to select those which would have the most influence.
 - Prepare presentations.

- Choose absolutely necessary contacts.
- Use Social Media effectively.
- Someone suggested that libraries would be a good “neutral ground” for meetings.

Review Action items

- Paul will write a letter to editor/Op-Ed in December.
- Mary will send link to short set of presentation slides from a California CCL group.
- Cassie will work on our CCL-Palouse Facebook page.
- Brian will work on email use.
- Judy will send attendees at this meeting the WA and ID endorsement Letters to Members of Congress and a script/information on how to ask a person to endorse the letter and will share the Google Doc spreadsheet of potential endorsers.
- Mary and Judy will collect presentations by our members and some from the National CCL organization. After our next regular meeting, they will meet with anyone interested in presenting.
- **Everyone:** study Develop Chapter Action Plan part 2. See the link on our website home page. <http://cclpalouse.org>
- **Everyone:** Write letters and make calls to Congress members.
- Anyone — Please let Mary and Judy know about any possible presentation opportunities at any organization to which you belong.
- **All** add to Google spreadsheet of potential signers for our Letter to members of Congress (or send signers’ names to Judy or Mary). Send signed letters to Judy or Mary.
- **All** - send Marilyn info on actions and any links so she can report them to national CCL (kvs21@frontier.com). Send published items to Paul to post on CCL-P website (paul-spencer@pullman.com)

Laser Talk - Effective communication exercise and Bonus Action - A holiday conversation. There was not time in this meeting for this exercise, but you can read the text below.

**Next meeting - Jan. 18, 5:30-7pm. Presentations meeting, 7:00-7:45pm.
1912 Center Senior Center, 412 East 3rd St. Moscow**

Effective Communication Exercise - A Holiday Conversation

During the holidays we often see lots of people who have opinions that are different from our own at parties or holiday dinners or while we are back in our home towns seeing old friends. This offers a chance to practice our listening skills! When you see an opportunity like this, you may want to try using the [Motivational Interviewing](#) (MI) approach as described on CCL Community. MI is a collaborative communication style for helping a person to strengthen their own motivation and commitment to change.

Three MI techniques are to (1) ask open questions, (2) reflect the answer that you heard, and (3) give an affirmation. The goal in the communications exercise below is to open a discussion about climate change and to maintain a friendly dialogue.

During your CCL meeting, pair up with another CCL volunteer, imagine that you are at a festive gathering, and take turns reading the two roles.

You: [open question] Have you been thinking much about climate change lately?

Partner: Not much. I did see in the news that hurricanes are maybe worse when the climate is warmer. But I'm not sure that I agree with that.

You: [reflection] Okay, it sounds like you are undecided about whether a warming climate makes hurricanes worse or not.

Partner: Yeah, it's hard to believe that a little warming could change a massive storm.

You: [affirmation] I agree it's hard to understand sometimes. Though maybe it's like these little cookies I'm eating--a little bit over and over means I have to go on a diet in January!
[open question] Have you noticed anything changing locally?

Partner: Well, my brother is a farmer, and he says that here in Southern California the growing season for winter vegetables seems to be getting shorter. He may have to change his crop plan.

You: Yes, I've heard that winters are getting shorter. [open question] What else do you think about global warming?

Partner: I suppose that longer summers might be hard on the ski industry. I like to go skiing. Do you know anything about that? Let's go get some fruit cake.

Additional Resources

[Motivational Interviewing in the CCL Community Learning Center](#)
[CCL Effective Communications Action Team](#)