

Minutes – February 15, 2018 Palouse Citizens’ Climate Lobby
5:30-7:00pm, Umpqua Bank Meeting Room, 225 N. Grand Ave., Pullman

Present: Judy Meuth, Marilyn Von Seggern, Mary DuPree, Paul Spencer, Deb Olson, Linda Jovanovich, Mac Cantrell

Introductions and Additions to the Agenda – An attempt to show the video *Undo Your Part* with no success because the WiFi signal was too weak. It is a new short CCL commercial which says that the U.S. has accomplished many difficult tasks in its history, from the American Revolution to landing on the moon and encourages us to help solve the Climate Change problem. The video can be seen near the bottom of this page: <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/undoyourpart/> The video is titled “JUST LOOK AT WHAT YOU’VE UNDONE”.

Review of Minutes - Approved

Announcements

- Upcoming Greater Northwest CCL Conference in Boise, March 10-11. Carpooling is available.
- CCL International Conference and Lobby Day in Congress in Washington DC, June 10-12
- Someone reported that it looks like the Farm bill will have a credit for carbon sequestration and also a carbon credit for environmentally friendly actions.
- Mac presented information about the **British Columbia carbon tax** which he has found. The tax rate increased from 2008 to 2012 and has been constant since then. When the tax rate stays constant, inflation causes the effective rate to decrease. When businesses and consumers know that tax increases are coming this has a bigger effect than when tax stays constant. Now the fluctuation in fuel prices is greater than the tax rate so this may also be a factor in lessening the effect of the tax. The British Columbia GDP is still rising but Mac is not yet certain of the effect on fuel usage.

Action Items from January meeting and updates from interest groups

- Media publications
 1. Pete
 2. Onya
 3. Diana, also Idaho Statesman
 4. Judy, Daily News

- Outreach
 1. Mac has put a record of the presentations onto Google file. Judy will send access information to Marilyn, Deb, and Al Jovanovich.
 2. Mac had planned to make a presentation at the U of I, but it was postponed to next week.
 3. Bertie will make a presentation Sandpoint.
 4. Judy – Pullman Kiwanis in April.
 5. Jim Dixon – 2 presentations
 6. Mary and Mac – Moscow Lions
 7. Mary – Sustainable Environment organization next week.

8. Mary – Individual members of the Moscow city council.
9. Marilyn and Linda -- Brendan Chapman who is a new member of the Pullman city council. Linda said that she wanted to see how the negotiations went and commented that the hand-outs looked good. Chapman was encouraging and Linda said that it was a good experience.
10. Marilyn -- Tableing March 6 and 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. outside the CUB.
11. Other possible outreach – chamber of Commerce luncheons and School Board meetings.

There was a report that some cities are starting action about carbon pricing. An example can be seen at: <https://schoolsforclimateaction.weebly.com> In our discussion about this the consensus was that working through the schools and the School Board might be a fruitful way to forward our goals.

- Lobbying – no action this month.

Campaign for letters to Members of Congress

- “Grass tops” contacts
 - Paul gave the Endorsement letters to the three Whitman County Commissioners during a pause in the board meeting and explained their purpose.
- City Council updates
- School Districts -- There was a report that some cities are starting action about carbon pricing. An example can be seen at: <https://schoolsforclimateaction.weebly.com> In our discussion about this the consensus was that working through the schools and the School Board might be a fruitful way to forward our goals.

National Call – Paul: The presenter was Celia Paris, Assistant Professor in Political Science at Loyola University. She is currently working on a book manuscript that explores whether Madisonian ideals for deliberative and collaborative political decision-making have lost their appeal. Titled *Madison’s ABCs: Why the Public Still Values Accomplishment, Bipartisanship, and Civility in Congress*, her book argues that the desire for a more Madisonian approach to politics remains alive and well in the American public and that citizens value accomplishment, bipartisanship and civility.

Paris reported on research about bipartisanship. Public polls show that 68% of the people favor bipartisanship but we do not see this in actions of many or most legislators and other government officials. There is a rise in partisan warfare, humiliation and questioning of the motives of opponents, which has destroyed the orderly legislative process.

For many legislators there is ambiguity in the polls. This is because the results of national polls may not be relevant for their district and district level polls are rare. Also small changes in the questions may have a large effect on the answers and many issues and technical policies are complex which may make it hard to understand and decide on an answer. This can cause people to use cues or shortcuts to decide how they feel – the most common of these are the position of a person’s party, and the positions made by politicians. Pre-existing attitudes are also important, especially if strong.

She explained that she has done research using two artificial articles about unemployment and immigration. It clearly shows that bipartisan cooperation matters and that the subjects like legislators if they show bipartisanship and that this shows that they are less self-interested. Bipartisanship benefits legislators because it gives an appeal from crossover voters with little negative effect for people from their own party. People view bipartisan legislators as problem solvers.

Paris praised the CCL as using very effective methods to achieve their means, emphasizing bipartisanship by promoting the Climate Caucus, dealing with people in a friendly non-adversarial way, providing positive cues and getting a large variety of people to agree to their policies. She said that the CCL proposals are more friendly to conservative principles than many other proposed policies.

See Paris' talk at <https://youtu.be/oUbjL4yAHU4>

National Actions for the Month

- *Undo Your Part* – Share and pass the motivation on. **See Link in Introduction above.**
- Lobby locally – Members of Congress will be home on spring recess March 24-Apr 8

Review Action items

- Quality pictures are needed for Power Point presentations. Please send Mary or Judy any pictures of meetings, tabling, f relevant articles, lobbying etc.
- Judy will send access information for the presentations records to Marilyn, Deb, and Al Jovanovich.
- Note, Amalie will distribute articles relevant to our mission to everyone - to provide information to encourage us to respond by writing our own responses.
- Judy will send the Ag update to Mac and Paul.
- Judy will try to arrange a meeting with Cathy McMorris Rodgers
- Plan interaction with School Districts.
- **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

Responding to Criticism (See attachment below)

Next meeting March 15 at the Senior Center in the 1912 Center in Moscow

Responding to criticism

COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE

As the Climate Solutions Caucus has grown and become more visible, we've seen an increased number of criticisms of it, and we can expect this trend to continue as it is in the news more often. How should we respond when someone is attacking the Climate Solutions Caucus? What is the best way to turn a critique into an opportunity for a useful dialogue? How can we prevent our emotions from coloring our response? If the critique comes from an environmental or non-governmental organization, your first step is to alert Stephanie.Doyle@citizensclimate.org who manages CCL's partnerships. As with all criticism, it's best to respond as generously as you can.

Pair up with a buddy in your chapter and take turns reading the roles in the two exercises below.

Exercise 1 - The public scenario where what you say will be public. If a news reporter or media interviewer opens the conversation with a criticism, you should acknowledge and appreciate what you heard, and then pivot to some positive talking points.

Reporter: Why hasn't the Climate Solutions Caucus done anything?

You: I agree that we all want to see climate action as fast as possible. CCL supports the Caucus because it's a safe place for members of Congress from both parties to work on climate solutions, which is exactly what we need to get legislation passed. As these legislators work together, and welcome more members of Congress into the caucus, we're confident they will identify and pass strong bipartisan climate legislation.

Exercise 2 - The private scenario. Your neighbor, who knows that you are a CCL volunteer, tells you about an article she saw. Now is a great time to employ the 'Effective Communications' skills that you may have learned in a 'Motivational Interviewing' webinar.

Neighbor: I was thinking about coming to the next CCL meeting, but then I saw an article in Think Progress about how many people think the Climate Solutions Caucus is full of Republicans who are just trying to look good while they go ahead and tear down environmental protections. I can't support that.

You: It sounds like some people whose views you respect think the Climate Solutions Caucus is the wrong way to go, and this is worrying you.

Neighbor: Yes. I don't want to do the wrong thing. This is just too important.

You: I sure agree with you on that, and it can be hard to know what is the best approach sometimes.

Neighbor: So why do you think Republicans will do the right thing on climate?

More resources

[Dr. Katharine Hayhoe's webinar on getting prepared to be interviewed](#)

[Motivational Interviewing in the Learning Center](#), and the [monthly Action Team Webinars](#)