

Minutes – April 19, 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, Linda Jovanovich, Amelie Schmolke, Kathy Dawes, Donna Ericson, Pete Haug, Patrick O’Keeffe, Steve Flint, Jeff Ramsey, Bertie Weddell, Mark Bordson

Introductions and Additions to the Agenda -- During the introductions each of those present was asked to give an idea of one action for us or our town which would help with climate change. These suggestions were:

Convince one person about carbon fee and Dividend	Use more solar power	
More sidewalks	More bus routes and frequency	Climate friendly gardening
Water Conservation	Consortium of Mayors	Fleets fossil fuel free
Make lawns “with a wild look” generally acceptable	Solar heating for swimming pool	
Information letter to city council	Convenient location for Moscow recycling station	
Pullman Moscow commuter bus		

Review of Minutes The March minutes were approved

Announcements

- Hydro One and Avista merger agreement in WA; Colstrip coal mines to close early.
 - There is a Sierra Club settlement. For Washington State the key points will be discussed in a public hearing on Thursday May 3 at noon in Colfax at the Parks and Rec. building auditorium –310 N. Main Street.
 - There will be a transition period for Colstrip employees and low income provisions
 - For Idaho the Utility Commission must approve and there will be hearings in Boise, Sandpoint and Moscow.
 - Mary will send an email about the Idaho meeting times and locations.
- Living in the Garden event -- This is on hold for now.
- National CCL Conference June – June 10-12 in Washington D.C.

Action Items from March meeting and updates from interest groups

- Media – Op-Eds and letters to the editor
 - Donna published a LTE in the Daily News
 - Mac had an Op-Id in the Daily News
- Presentations
 - Mac made 4 presentations in U of I classes
 - Judy made a presentation at the Kiwanis meeting last week
- Tabling -
 - Kathy Dawes, Mary and Mac --Earth Day, Moscow Farmer’s Market (entire season)
 - Kathy, Adrian and Mary – U of I Bike Fix Showcase, and at the Sustainability Environment Committee on Wednesday April 18

- ?????? on Thursday April 12 at the WSU Mall
- Tabling at the Lentil Festival was discussed. This costs \$75 and Paul explained that liability insurance is required which would be quite expensive unless some arrangement with the National CCL can be made
- Lobbying - in district during Congress' spring recess.
 - Kathy McMorris Rodgers is expected to have her staff attend town hall meetings in May and June.
 - Judy Meuth attended her Town Hall in Dayton. Judy said that McMorris Rodgers did not answer Judy's question about climate change and clearly does not understand the long term problem.

Group discussion about this: In addition to temperature changes, Bertie explained that one of the main drive factors is the increasingly early snow melt. Any changes will strongly affect the probability of forest fires. Steve explained that these fires affect air pollution which causes increased heart issues (CA study) and also respiratory and liver problems. Judy mentioned that during 2012, in Washington State there were 350 hospital admissions and 3000 student school days missed due to air pollution. Some schools are installing HEPA filters.

Communications Exercise – Effective conversations with table visitors on Earth Day. This document attached below.

Campaign for letters to Members of Congress

- Sign up for “grass tops” contacts
- Moscow and Pullman City Council update
 - Mary said that the Moscow Sustainable Environment Committee favors the letter to MOC and a resolution about the carbon fee and dividend proposal.
 - Judy reported that Amalie, Paul and Judy met to review resolutions from other cities and towns and drafted a proposed resolution for Pullman. It was sent to 2 council members and was introduced to the City Council. Judy received a call from the City Supervisor, and he said that it sounds like the Council will adopt a resolution and will probably vote on it in May.
- Help identify and contact groups to whom we can make presentations

Your Interests and Expertise This is attached below. Please fill out the questionnaire and send it to Judy or Mary.

National Call – Mary: The guest speaker is Amber Sullins, who is working to communicate about climate change from her position as a meteorologist, the only type of scientist most Americans hear from. The video of the call is online at: <https://youtu.be/IJAUGa1s0hY>

Mary said that she talked about her role in explaining climate change. She explained that most people do not want to know the science so we must simplify a complex thing to make it concise and easy to understand. People want to know the effects of climate change on them personally – free time, finances, chocolate, drought, heat and wild fire etc. **[Secretary's note: This talk is very practical and well worth watching.]**

There are several good websites:

www.ClimateMatters is CC information for TV stations

www.ClimateCentral.org

www.SkepticalScience.com

www.climate.nasa.gov

These are 3 tiers of complexity, and She suggested that we examine these websites

Fact of Interest

Even though the average time that an individual CO₂ molecule stays in the atmosphere is only 3 to 4 years, the argument that this means that there cannot be long term (20, 100, or 500 years) temperature changes is false. This is because the CO₂ transferring from the ocean (the only other reservoir of mobile CO₂) is almost the same as the transfer from atmosphere to ocean. The problem is that the fossil fuel use adds about 3.3 Giga Tons of carbon (3.5 times 10 to the power 9 or 3,500,000,000) to the atmosphere every year. The total amount of carbon in the atmosphere is about 750 Gt. The transfer of this new C to the deep ocean takes 500 to 1000 years so the CO₂ in the atmosphere and the earth's average temperature will increase for a long time unless we stop adding CO₂ to the atmosphere.

Pete recommended an opinion article in the Monday NY Times by Paul Krugman, Earth, Wind and Liars. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/16/opinion/trump-energy-environment.html>

The cost of electricity from wind turbines and solar power is now equal to that from fossil fuels. Therefore the economics of conversion away from fossil fuels is now OK, but politics is the problem. Every year of waiting causes the situation to get worse.

National Actions for the Month

1. Grasstops Engagement Tracker - ask influencers to take impactful actions
2. Campaign season activities - engage with candidates
3. Communications exercise - get ready to have effective conversations at Earth Day tabling

Other Items

- Marilyn made a list of goals for the City of Pullman and sent them to the City.
- Pete suggested a method for discussing climate change with a person combative against CC. Let the person talk and actively agree with the things you can accept, letting any thing else go by.
- Judy sent around a sheet for people to choose a month to send in a letter to the editor. Several months are available!

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.
- Mary will send an email about the Idaho meeting times and locations for the Avista and Hydro One merger hearings.
- Judy will send the Campaign for the letter to Members of Congress to Patrick O’Keeffe.
- Marilyn and Judy suggested a hand held sign saying approximately “Take Legislative Action on Climate Change Here” so that a roving person could “drum up business” for signatures at the farmers market.
- 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)

Next Meeting - May 17 at the Senior Center in the 1912 Center, Moscow, 5:30-7pm.

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Appendices:

Effective conversations with table visitors on Earth Day

During the month of April, many CCL volunteers will set up tables at Earth Day events and talk about climate solutions with table visitors. This will offer a chance to practice our speaking skills AND our listening skills! To have an effective conversation with people who visit your table, 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 you heard, and (3) give an affirmation. The goal in the communications exercise below is to help a table visitor discover how they might like to be engaged in CCL.

Pair up with another volunteer, picture yourselves at an Earth Day fair, and take turns reading the two roles below. After you’ve practiced, feel free to modify the dialogue and develop your own affirmations, open-ended questions, and reflective listening!

Passerby: I've heard about Citizens' Climate Lobby and find it interesting, but I'm not into lobbying.

CCLer: I'm glad to hear you've heard about us! It sounds like you could be interested in getting involved if you could volunteer in a way other than lobbying. Is that true? [reflective listening]

Passerby: Yeah, I guess. I really care about climate change and just don't know how I should be helping. I recycle and drive a hybrid, but that's about it.

CCLer: Well, you've made a great start, every bit helps [affirmation]. One of the great things about Citizens' Climate Lobby is that there are many ways to get involved. Members of our chapter help at outreach events, like tabling here or giving public presentations, or writing letters to the editor and op-eds for the newspaper, or even getting endorsements for our legislative proposal from businesses and community leaders who are influential in the district! What do you think about those options? [open-ended question]

Passerby: Well, that last one still sounds a little like lobbying, ... but I think I might enjoy writing to the newspaper. I used to write for my university's paper back in college.

CCLer: Fantastic! We could use someone with your skills [affirmation]. Would you write down your email or phone number so I can follow up and get you connected with our local chapter?

Passerby: Sure, I can do that.

PLEASE FILL OUT AND TURN IN THE INTERESTS AND EXPERTISE QUESTIONNAIRE ON THE NEXT PAGE IF YOU WISH TO.

Interests and Expertise: Growing our CCL Impact

CCL Member _____ Phone _____
1A/hat are your interests generally?

What are your areas of expertise? (It's ok to pat yourself on the back here!)

Please circle the tasks you enjoy (and make any clarifying notes):

- a. **Chatting one on one** (w/ strangers w/ familiar folks)
- b. **Speaking publicly** (presentations, asking questions at town hall mtgs)
- c. **Writing** (letters to Congress, letters to editor, op eds, social media posts)
- d. **Events** (planning, hosting, staffing)
- e. **Advertising** (designing flyers, designing social media)
- f. **Organizing** (organizing information, data entry, coordinating volunteers)
- g. **Research** (finding information online, reading up on a topic)
- h. **Outeach** (tabling, contacting people you don't know)
- i. **Any other types of tasks you enjoy?**

Opportunities for Engagement

Liaise with specific group/organization (County Commissioners, Hospitals, Civic Groups, University Students, etc.)

Arrange refreshments for meetings

Arrange Tabling at Farmers' Markets (Moscow, Pullman)

Specialize in an issue (e.g., health effects, agriculture issues, business concerns)

Be a Member of Congress liaison (5th District WA)

Create Palouse CCL postcards for tabling and other events

Recruit others who are interested in climate action

Organize letter-writing parties (to Members of Congress on a news report, specific issue, upcoming vote)

Identify groups/venues for CCL presentation