

Minutes – January 17, 2019 Palouse Citizens' Climate Lobby
5:30-7:00pm, 1912 Center, Senior Center, 412 East 3rd St. Moscow

Present: Marilyn Von Seggern, Brian Dietel, Katie Gieske, Mark Bordsen, Judy Meuth, Mary DuPree, Carlos Simms, Steve Flint, Deb Olson, Casey Johnson, Mac Cantrell, Carolyn Joswig-Jones, Jeff Joswig Jones, Paul Spencer, Carolyn Shoemaker, Trish Glazebrook, Robbie Baker, Cris Matochi, Kathy Dawes, Judy Stone, Linda Jovanovich, Diana Armstrong, Hanna Smith

Additions to the Agenda -- None

Review of Minutes – No changes

Introductions

Announcements

- Idaho Governor Little acknowledged climate change and said that we need to slow it down.
- The international CCL end-of-year appeal made \$1.2 million!
- January 18 at 3:30 UI TLC room 140 – There will be a Psychology speaker on beliefs on climate change.
- Moscow Comprehensive Plan hearing - January 23 at 7:00 p.m. at Moscow City Hall. It will include energy plans.

Reports:

Education: Kathy Dawes and Kathryn Bonzo are developing a hands-on set of lessons on climate change. They will base these on the Magic School Bus adventures and cover the greenhouse effect, alternate energy, etc. They will test the lessons in Kathryn's 4th grade classroom. K. & K may write a climate book for elementary students. Kathy will present to the Climate Cats elementary age group on wind power this month. Chris commented that WSU is using the Dr. Seuss book *Lorax* in one of its classes to teach systems thinking.

Pullman Climate Action Plan: Judy Meuth – CCL suggested that Pullman adopt a climate action plan as a city goal and it did. However, the city has not started development of the climate action plan. Judy has been trying to encourage development and will ask for an appointment with the City Supervisor to find out more and to volunteer to help with the plan development.

Climate Programs on NWPB: Two new climate programs are now on NWPB as a result of regional CCL members asking for such programming: "Living on Earth" on Sat. 7-8 p.m. and Sunday at 5-6 p.m.; "Climate One" on Fri 10-11 p.m.

<https://www.nwpb.org/2019/01/09/new-schedule-brings-climate-and-environment-programs-to-nwpb-news-service/>

Discussion of the current climate change agenda in Congress—Mary

Regarding U.S. Congress – 200 young activists (The Sunrise Movement), backed by young new Congress members, demonstrated and demanded action right now. They want no carbon dioxide emissions in 10 years. The House Energy and Commerce committee has long been the committee dealing with climate change. They have been focusing on Trump actions, carbon-containing fuel use, and the Paris Accord. House speaker Pelosi saw an opportunity for new committee jobs and agreed to form a new committee but it will have no subpoena power.

The decades-old organization Green New Deal is important in Europe and has been working on de-carbonization. In the USA this Green movement was started in 2012 and is a powerful part of the Democratic Party. The movement wants alliances with organizations like Greenpeace, Sierra club, Friends of the Earth.

Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act

The bipartisan Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act will be reintroduced soon. (Note, this happened on Jan. 24, 2019). The shutdown has had a large influence. The new bill will be almost exactly the same as that introduced in the last Congress. This bill has all three of the major principles of our CCL proposal and also of the Climate Leadership Council proposal by conservatives. There is some concern that Democrats will use climate change to attack Republican opponents rather than working to cooperate with them.

Possible regional CCL mini-conference here this spring

The ID state CCL coordinator has proposed having a Saturday one-day meeting in Moscow this spring for CCL groups from Lewiston to Sandpoint and the Palouse area. If we decide to go forward with this idea, we will need a committee to plan it and coordinate it. The idea would be to help each other learn the issues and to have guest speakers and workshops on specific topics. Some ideas that came out of our discussion were:

- Offer free housing in members' homes.
- Use the 1912 Center if possible.
- Friday and/or Saturday dinners, probably potluck
- Potential topics:
 - Getting people charged up to act in support of the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act
 - How to talk to people who disagree
 - Climate change effects on agriculture
 - Lobbying and talking to legislators
 - Working toward compromise
 - Reaching out to youth
 - Health impacts of climate change

Please send other ideas for topics to Mary or Judy! There was general agreement that holding the conference is a good idea. Mary passed around a sign-up sheet where attendees could note how they might be involved in the planning and the conference.

National Actions for January

1. Continue building momentum for the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act

www.energyinnovationact.org and this excellent source:

[Responding to Q. about Energy Innov. & C Dividend Act](#)

- *Tabling* – Marilyn will find out about tabling opportunities for April 22 Earth Day and coordinate this. We could also table at churches, grocery stores, Winter Market. . .
- *Presentations*
 - Public presentations at libraries – Mary will check with Moscow Library and Linda will check with Pullman Neill Library.
 - Organizations – we can go back to orgs where we have already presented, such as Kiwanis, Rotary, Audubon, LWV. Deb will check with Pullman LWV and Kathy will check with Moscow LWV.

- *Grasstops*: work for local resolutions from smaller communities; county commissions; local major businesses and institutions
 - Linda is working with the Palouse mayor now.
2. Plan to lobby in-district for the House and Senate bills. Longest recess in district this spring is April 14-26
- Washington—Judy
 - Idaho—Mac, Katie, Brian

[CCL-Palouse actions: focus for the coming year]

Lobby health care organizations, large local businesses, and weather reporters
 Choose a month to write letters to each of your members of Congress. Stamped envelopes are available for this.

Develop educational forums and outreach to K-12 schools and universities
 Find new opportunities for presentations, especially to new audiences
 Expand the impact of local Carbon Fee and Dividend resolutions
 Plan to Lobby industry
 Build relationships with legislators
 Think about opposite beliefs and show concern about them in conversations
 Use common concerns as a starting point.

Communications Exercise (below): There was no time for this at the meeting, so please try it at home

National CCL Monthly Call: Amanda Ripley, journalist, discusses a way to address conflict that results in a more satisfying outcome: complicate the narrative.

(Listen to monthly call: go to “monthly meetings and actions”, bottom left of CCL home page)

Next Meeting: February 21 from 5:30 to 7, Umpqua Bank Meeting Room, Pullman

Two tabling situations (COMMUNICATION SKILLS EXERCISE)

Pair up and read aloud the question responses below to get ready to talk to people about the bill at grassroots outreach events.

Situation one: You are asked to explain the bill. Practice answering by drawing on our five key messaging points (effective, good for people, good for the economy, bipartisan and revenue-neutral) instead of describing the policy. For example:

“The bipartisan Energy Innovation Act will cut emissions at least 40% in 12 years and is supported by economists and scientists as simple, effective and comprehensive. It will also be good for people because it will save lives by reducing pollution from fossil fuels and has a carbon dividend that will put money directly in people’s pockets to spend as they see fit, helping low and middle income Americans. What do you think about what I’ve told you so far?”

Situation two: You are asked to explain how the Energy Innovation Act relates to the Green New Deal.

“We are grateful to Green New Deal supporters for raising the urgency of climate change in the media and within the halls of Congress. Citizens’ Climate Lobby and our supporters also understand the urgency of the climate crisis and agree that it requires big solutions. While the Green New Deal has not yet articulated

specific policy recommendations, we believe the recently introduced Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2018 will achieve the emissions reductions America needs.”

“The bill targets emissions reductions of at least 40% in the first 12 years, and 90% by 2050, which tracks closely with the recommendations from the U.N.’s recent IPCC report. Because it is built on a broad coalition of support from community leaders, businesses, local legislators and 100,000+ CCL supporters across the country, this bipartisan bill has gained traction in the House and has good prospects in the Senate. Americans are asking for immediate action on climate, and this bill answers them. What other questions can I answer for you?”