

Minutes – Oct. 17, 2019
Palouse Citizens' Climate Lobby

5:30-7:00pm, Umpqua Bank Meeting Room, 225 N. Grand Ave., Pullman

Attending: Judy Meuth, Katie Gieske, Brian Dietel, Diane Noel, Tim Trese, Simon Smith, Joe Pallen, Scott Krauss, Amy Krauss, Casey Johnson, Mike Kahn, Mac Cantrell, Steve Flint, Kathy Dawes, Diana Armstrong, Mary DuPree, Bertie Weddell, Linda Jovanovich

Additions to the Agenda and Review of Minutes

Announcements

- Mary announced anyone can join a contingent of concerned environmentalists marching in the **U of I homecoming parade**. Meet at 8:30am at Rants and Raves parking lot.
- **Dr. Robin Meyers**, NPR Commentator – Nov. 4 12:00 pm, “Climate Change: A Moral Imperative”, WSU Foley Institute
- **CCL November Lobby Day** - Nov. 11-12 in Washington DC. Palouse CCL can help with costs. The meeting offers training and education in a new way of lobbying. Palouse CCL can help fund anyone from our chapter who would like to attend.
 - Mac Cantrell is going. When he has gone before it offered opportunities to see where things are heading legislatively.
 - Mac will collect letters to our members of Congress and take them to DC.
- **Bob Inglis**, RepublicEn, former Member of Congress
 - Nov 13 – 6:30 pm, joint Moscow High School/University of Idaho climate town hall
 - Nov 14 - 9:30 am, UI presentation to journalism class
 - Nov 14– 12:00 pm, Keynote at WSU Foley Institute
 - Nov 15 – breakfast meeting with Bob Inglis and conservative business leaders in Pullman.
 - Inglis started an organization to convince conservative audiences to lobby for carbon fee and dividend.
 - Local news will interview Inglis at the Foley event. Simon will confirm with the Foley, and then get press people to attend.
 - Mary will invite the Lions, the Kiwanis, and Rotary to Inglis events.
Diana will invite Tom Trail, who is involved with AARP
- Danny Richter from CCL was among several experts on NPR’s program **IA with Joshua Johnson regarding HR 763**. Listen to recording at <https://the1a.org/shows/2019-09-26/no-plan-b-putting-a-price-tag-on-carbon>
- Phoenix conservancy, an environmental organization, is now in Pullman. They are working with Pullman to develop Conservation Park, trying to re-establish Palouse prairie.
 - They will hold an informational meeting at 10/27 at 6pm at Trailside Taproom
- Steve reports that *Falter* by Bill McKibben has been nominated for the U of I common read.

CCL-Palouse Reports and Business

- **Treasurer's Report** – Steve
 - We have \$483 in the treasury. We had one expense to join the Moscow Chamber of Commerce, but Mary made a donation to cover that. The goal is to use some of our funds for radio spots.
- **Youth Action** – Climate Strike and more
 - Organizers of the climate strike sent a report about the climate strike :

250 students and community members. The HS next action is to go to the Idaho state legislature lobby day. They may take the lobby training webinar from CCL.

- **Tabling and Presentations**
 - When tabling, Diana found that two people who side with CCL nonetheless disliked that EICDA was described as “bipartisan”. They didn’t believe it because while there is Republican support, only one Republican is co-sponsoring. This stresses the importance of having clear and accurate information while tabling.
- **Publications and legislative reports**
 - We have several LTEs in local papers. It is good to have the topic in front of people as it lets people know that things can be done and that they can get involved
 - Judy sent around sign-ups for LTEs and letters to MOCs
 - Cathy McMorris Rogers’ new legislative director communicates that they know climate change is a problem, but they are concerned about economics. So, when meeting in November, the economic benefits will be emphasized.
 - Senator Crapo is now saying that climate change is anthropogenic, in part, and that we need to do something about it.
 - On 9/29 Senator Risch expressed agreement with the military assessment that climate change is a threat – climate refugees are a worry – and we need to do something about it.
- **EICDA Endorsements**
 - We will hold a workshop for how to approach businesses/leaders on 11/7 at 5:30pm, location TBA.
 - When Simon approached Paradise Creek Brewery, they expressed concern about the economic costs of their energy use.
- **Latah County**
 - Mac and Carolyn met with Dave McGraw, a member of the county commissioners. County commissions are influential with MOCs. (McGraw works across the political spectrum and wants more information on the impact of the EICDA.) They are meeting again in 2 weeks. Our goal is a direct statement to MOCs – either endorsement of the bill or in principle. If that is not workable, they will try for some kind of statement of support.
- **Pullman and Whitman County**
 - Pullman Climate Action Plan - Judy
 - Whitman County Commissioners:
Linda, Pete, Mark, Paul, and Marilyn are working on issues of concern to the Whitman County Commissioners. We will likely ask commissioners to be involved in the programming described below for Chambers.
- **Chambers of Commerce** – Teams to work on Chamber program on Ag/Health economies - Mary
 - Potential program(s) with the Pullman Chamber will focus on agriculture and related businesses. These efforts are coming together: one possible plan is to propose to the COCs to do an educational program on climate costs to agriculture. These costs include economic costs, soil costs, but also health and mental health for farmers facing this stress. We would be organizing other experts to speak to members of the COCs. These might include lenders, farmers themselves, seed houses, physical and mental health experts, county commissioners. We are now a member of the Moscow Chamber, and will take a parallel track with them.
 - We could collaborate with WAMI and WSU school of medicine folks. We could also collaborate with soil researchers.
 - Mary is starting to talk with Gritman board members to try to get an endorsement.

- With help from experts, active CCL members could be on a health team or an ag team to learn some of the research to help as we seek endorsements. In planning, keep in mind that climate catastrophes are scary, but we also need hopeful messages and solutions
- It might be good to bring together disparate parts of the community to make this a community issue.

Communication Exercise: Dividend Delivery

National CCL Monthly Call: Kiera O'Brien/Alex Posner – Diana reported on this talk and wrote up a set of notes/summary that she handed out.

Younger GOP voters are as concerned about climate change as their progressive counterparts. As vice president of [Students for Carbon Dividends](#), Kiera O'Brien is working to harness that passion among young conservatives to generate political will for carbon dividends legislation, which places a fee on carbon and gives revenue to households (sound familiar?). Kiera, who is President Emeritus of the Harvard Republican Club, recently testified at a congressional hearing. "There are many climate-oriented groups rallying around the problem, but Students for Carbon Dividends is rallying around the solution."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=03ezLLDYmOs&feature=youtu.be>

National CCL Action:

Organize for November Lobby Day – 1) Call Congress on Nov. 6 (cclusa.org/call) 2) Brainstorming messages (“asks”) to ID and WA MoCs. We broke into ID and WA members and brainstormed personal/local stories of climate impacts that can be relayed to our members of Congress.

Next Meeting: Thursday, Nov 21, 5:30-7 at Senior Center in 1912 Center, 412 East 3rd St. Moscow

Dividend Delivery

LASER TALK EXERCISE

In our June lobby meetings in D.C., members of Congress and their staff asked more questions about the Energy Innovation Act’s dividend than any other topic. CCL wisely commissioned Alan Lerman, who served in the U.S. Treasury Department for 42 years, to write a detailed dividend delivery study that addresses concerns about the cost and method of returning carbon fee proceeds to households.

Let’s prepare to discuss dividend delivery in congressional offices and in other situations where you are discussing the bill with curious folks.

Exercise

Pair up with another volunteer and take turns reading aloud the laser talk paragraphs below and then say aloud in your own words what you remember and want to use.

Laser Talk - How are carbon dividends going to be delivered to households?

The carbon dividend is one of the three legs of H.R.763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019, so it’s important to get it right. CCL previously commissioned an expert study to dive deeply into how

this would be done. Our goal was to minimize administrative cost and make it work smoothly for everyone involved, while still getting the money to as many households as possible.

The expert study confirmed that remitting carbon dividends directly to households is, as CCL had anticipated, the least costly and least burdensome way to recycle the revenue to consumers.

All the fees collected from fossil fuel suppliers go into the Carbon Dividend Trust Fund which is administered by the Treasury Department. The entirety of that fund, after administrative overhead, is distributed to recipients, who are identified from existing tax records or through a special form submitted by those who haven't filed income taxes.

Most recipients will get their carbon dividend in the form of a direct bank deposit or as money added to an existing government-issued debit card, with paper checks as a backup. Eligibility changes – births, deaths, adoptions, age changes – will be taken care of on a monthly basis, and any discrepancies between the money they are entitled to and what they have received will be reconciled on the next income tax return.

CCL is satisfied that these steps will make the carbon dividend delivery fair, flexible, and highly visible to households.

For more details, refer to the [Dividend Delivery Working Paper or accompanying FAQ](#). Note that this paper was written prior to H.R. 763's introduction, so there are some minor policy differences.