

MINUTES – June 18, 2020
Palouse Citizens’ Climate Lobby
5:30-7:00pm Meeting via Zoom

Attendees: Lauren Carlsen, Judy Meuth, Mary DuPree, Virginia Lohr, Amelie Schmolke, Kathy Dawes, Pete Haug, Casey Johnson, Simon Smith, Trish Hartzell, Marilyn Von Seggern, Steve Flint, Michael Kahn, Martina Ederer, Margaret Davis, Linda Jovanovich, Diane Noel, Paul Spencer, Mark Bordsen

Introductions and Check-in

Additions to the Agenda and Review of Minutes

CCL Virtual Conference and Lobby Day June 13 - 17

- Conference – Attendees recounted highlights of sessions they attended, effective speakers, and lessons learned, including:
 - Outreach to and involvement with agriculture communities,
 - Conservative Case for Carbon Pricing,
 - Youth Action,
 - Activist broadcast meteorologists,
 - Equity,
 - How to tell a different kind of climate story,
 - Thinking forward on race in America,
 - Braver Angels political depolarization,
 - Rachel Kyte on attaining climate justice worldwide,
 - High school-aged conservative outreach fellow Adrian Rafizadeh,
 - Danny Richter on H.R. 763 Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act
- Lobby Meetings with our Members of Congress – Several people who served on the team that met with Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA 05) reported on a positive meeting. Recounting the meeting with WA Senator Patty Murray’s office, Mike reported that staff members appreciated having voices from eastern WA and particularly from farmers present. No lobby team members who met with ID MOCs were present in this 6-18 CCL meeting to report on their efforts.

Announcements

- ID Avista Campaign – Mary explained that there will be a workshop July 9 regarding future energy sourcing by Idaho’s power companies. If enough people attend the workshop and support renewables, IPUC might be persuaded to hold a public hearing in August. Mary asked for any ID residents who would like to join the July 9 event to contact her directly.
- “What Should Carbon Cost”, *Scientific American* - Paul gave a brief description of this article (at the link below). Economists agree that a carbon tax is the most effective way to reduce emissions. There is wide variation in the amount of tax levied or planned

across the world. Social and environmental costs of carbon emissions must be calculated and taxes must be high enough to take into account those costs.

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-to-set-a-price-on-carbon-pollution/>

- Mike and Pete recommended another good read and resource, *The Future We Choose* by Christina Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac, UN leaders of the 2015 Paris talks.

Communications Exercise - CCL's Statement on Racial Justice (at the end of these minutes).

Judy shared several slides from the CCL Conference session on Beyond Diversity: Fostering Belonging and Inclusion in CCL. The slides were on environmental racism's impact on people of color, climate action opinion and commitment to act by people of color, and the H.R. 763 dividend effect on households of people of color. We then paired up in Breakout Rooms to read and discuss the CCL Statement on Racial Justice.

Several requests and suggestions came out of this discussion including

- thoughts and stories on environmental privilege and environmental racism,
- book recommendations on anti-racism: *White Fragility*, Robin DiAngelo; *Me and White Supremacy*, Layla Saad; *So You Want to Talk about Race*, Ijeoma Oluo; *How to be an Anti-Racist*, Ibram Kendi
- active support for people of color by attending/supporting what people of color are already involved in, asking how to help, and following through.

CCL-Palouse Reports and Business

- Grasstops Relationships and Endorsements – Mary explained the kinds of Statements of Support for H.R. 763 Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act that are needed by the end of October, 2020. She will contact our endorsement team leads to talk over efforts for garnering support.
- Moscow Sustainable Environment Commission Climate Impacts Assessment - Mary noted that this new climate assessment will be also available for use by the public.
- Tabling – Simon reported that because of COVID shutdowns, we don't have any tabling events scheduled at this time.
- Pullman 2040 – Simon has been attending the meetings of this community group that is now proposing environmental projects for Pullman. 2040 wants allies and we may serve as an ally. We would like 2040 to support our efforts to have Pullman develop a Climate Action Plan.
- Radio Spots – Steve discussed possibilities of CCL radio spots with Inland Broadcasting and got ideas for target audience, messages, and costs. Members suggested asking a university class to take on production of radio spots. We also briefly discussed fund raising for the spots. Mary and Steve will organize those interested in working on this project.
- Publications – Judy noted that we had four published letters to the editor during the last month. Diane reports these publications to national CCL which then compiles them for our congressional district and periodically sends them back to group leaders and liaisons. Mike asked if this compilation is also sent by national CCL to our MOCs. The

answer was 'no'; liaisons and group leaders decide how to use the pubs. Mike asked for this compilation so he could forward it to Patty Murray's liaison; Judy will follow through.

- Website – Judy reported that Joe Pallen is working on the website update and hopes to have it ready to launch soon.
- Chamber/Farmers – Judy recently contacted the group of farmers we have been working with and the Pullman Chamber of Commerce to let them know we are still interested in doing a forum on the impacts of climate change on local ag and agriculture's efforts at adaptation.

Voter Support

Kathy described a non-partisan group, Reclaim Our Vote, that is working to make sure people are registered to vote, that their registrations have not been canceled without their knowledge, etc. Volunteers with Reclaim Our Vote write postcards to alert people about registration and voting. If you want to get involved, contact Kathy at kdawes208@gmail.com or go to <http://centerforcommonground.org/main/index.php/campaigns/reclaim-our-vote>.

Fall Candidates and Campaigns

Simon asked about approaching the WA 5th District candidate Chris Armitage to brief him on H.R. 763. We have already been meeting with the incumbent to do the same. Judy indicated that approaching Armitage would be okay. However, she emphasized the non-partisan nature of CCL; CCL members can work to support any campaign as long as they do not portray themselves as representing CCL.

Monthly Actions

- [Submit letters to the editor about the conference](#) - CCL's LTE tool, plus suggested LTE topics are at <https://community.citizensclimate.org/resources/item/19/456>
- [Write to Congress today and get another person to write too!](#) cclusa.org/write

Continuing Actions for members

- Join an Action Team by topic of interest
<https://community.citizensclimate.org/groups/action-teams>
- Join a Community Forum where there is an ongoing conversation on a topic
<https://community.citizensclimate.org/forums>
- Check out CCL Radio broadcasts [Citizens' Climate Radio recording](#).
- Share CCL's new voter registration link on your social media. Let's help get environmentalists who don't vote to the polls. The first step is registering. Share cclusa.org/register-to-vote on your social media profiles and invite your connections and friends to register to vote for the climate.

Help Wanted

We need:

- Mentors for folks who come to our meeting for the first time – a one-time face to face/virtual visit.
- Sign up for the Monthly Calling Campaign: cclusa.org/mcc.
- Be the “administrator” for the Monthly Calling Campaign in ID 01 or WA 05. Diane noted that Anne Mackenzie is already the admin for ID 01. Anne was interested in having a local chapter administrator to recruit and remind callers. Diane let Anne know that recruitment and reminders are already a standard agenda item. A calling campaign administrator is still needed for WA 05.
- Join our team of presenters – learn to make presentations about CCL, climate change, CF/D, EICDA etc. to organizations and school groups
- Become our liaison with the Moscow Chamber of Commerce

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 16, 5:30-7:00 pm, via Zoom

COMMUNICATION EXERCISE: Read and discuss CCL’s statement on racial justice

Racism directly and personally harms many communities across this country, including the roughly 10% of CCL volunteers who are people of color. Let’s discuss what we are witnessing around us and how CCL can be a welcoming place where we can support everyone.

Statement: CCL supports racial justice and those who fight for it. By Mark Reynolds

Citizens’ Climate Lobby supports racial justice and those who fight for it.

Our staff, volunteers and supporters are deeply saddened and angered by the most recent incidents of racist violence in America: Ahmaud Arbery’s murder while out for a jog in his Georgia neighborhood, the fatal shooting of Breonna Taylor in her Kentucky home, the threat of police violence against Christian Cooper in Central Park, and George Floyd’s murder in Minnesota. We denounce these incidents themselves, as well as the chronic injustice that plagues America and harms communities of color every single day. CCL’s mission is to build the political will for a livable world, but it’s clear that for so many people of color, America is a far cry from livable.

To our CCL volunteers who are Black and people of color: I know climate change is probably the furthest thing from your mind right now. That’s completely understandable, and it’s completely okay. I want you to know that you—your whole self—are welcome in CCL. That means we know and respect that you’re dealing with a lot right now, including structural barriers to your safety and well-being. Things shouldn’t be this way, and I’m so sorry that they are.

I also know that sorry isn’t enough. It’s not enough simply to list diversity as one of our values. The best way we can proclaim that Black lives matter to CCL, and that we care deeply about your well-being and your safety and your happiness, is for us to take concrete action. So we’re taking this moment to educate the predominantly white members of our organization about

recent events and what they can do to help. We are making plans to offer additional training to our volunteers on racism, privilege, bias, diversity in the environmental movement, and more, including in a special seminar at our 2020 virtual conference.

We will continue to look for ways to do more, and to do better. Like climate change, there is no simple fix for racism—but we will not shy away from doing our part in this vital work.