

Minutes—September 17, 2020
Palouse Citizens' Climate Lobby
5:30–7:00 pm via Zoom

Attendees: Judy Meuth, Mary DuPree, Simon Smith, Amelie Schmolke, Kynan Witters-Hicks, Anthony Kuipers, Joe Pallen, Steve Flint, Trish Hartzell, Nathan Weller, Pete Haug, Utkarsh Mehta, Linda Jovanovich, Paul Spencer, Martha Lovett, Tim Trese, Patrick Robichaud, Dave Wilson, Diane Noel, Mac Cantrell

Additions to the Agenda and Review of Minutes

No changes.

Announcements

Judy let us know that Dave Wilson, Democratic contender for Washington's District 05 seat in the House of Representatives, would join us later in the meeting to explain his stance on climate change.

CCL-Palouse Reports and Business

- **Website**—Joe. The new website has been approved by Mary and Judy. The address of the new website is currently dev.cclpalouse.org, but the domain name will switch to cclpalouse.org soon, when the new site replaces the old one. The website could include a blog. People should send input on the new site to Judy or Mary.
- **Grasstops relationships**—Mary. The focus now is going back to members of the Moscow Chamber of Commerce who endorsed a general climate change letter 2 years ago and asking them to endorse the EICDA. Mary hopes to have a list of endorsers at the October meeting.
- **Chambers of Commerce**—Marilyn, Simon. A group of our WA CCL people are approaching the Pullman chamber via a chamber subgroup that deals with legislative activity. The subgroup is working out their mechanism for how groups would approach the chamber. Once they do, CCL will be the guinea pig. Judy and others are working with both Pullman and Moscow chambers on an ag forum. Planning is on hold until it's safe to hold a public forum.
- **Ag outreach**—Judy. The Tri-cities and Palouse CCL chapters are talking about working together with the the mid-Columbia and Palouse ag communities. Some topics of interest are relevant legislation dealing with ag and climate, research on climate mitigation techniques (researchers), and leadership by ag organizations. There could be a virtual gathering this winter.
- **Pullman climate action plan**—Amelie, Judy. Pullman CCL group met to discuss how to support the city of Pullman in adopting a climate action plan and noted that Pullman has a new planning director who will start soon. The group would like CCL to present at a city council meeting. A plan adopted in Bainbridge Island might serve as a template, but first the council needs to put a directive in place. Nathan Weller, a member of the Pullman City Council with a master's in environmental collaboration across borders, expressed support for a presentation and offered assistance.
- **Tabling**—Simon. Simon and Trish have been tabling most Saturday mornings near Moscow's farmers market. They are seeing low student numbers. They are getting a couple of signatures each morning and having a fair number of conversations. They consider the effort worthwhile. Judy asked for ideas on other possible events for tabling.
- **Publications**—Judy. Since the last report, we've had 7 letters published in the Daily News, 2 in the Lewiston Tribune, and 1 in SpokaneFAVS. Pete is happy to review draft letters and provide input. Judy will send a list of possible letter topics in her post-meeting email.
- **Radio spots**—Steve, Mary. Steve has drafts of several possible spots. He is now waiting to hear from Inland Northwest Broadcasting about technical requirements. Patrick Robichaud has already sent three of our spots to KUGR (Cougar College Radio at WSU). He thinks they will be aired in the next week. Mac noted that the Pocatello CCL chapter has done a radio spot. Mary will get in touch with Linda at the

Pocatello chapter. A 60-second PSA from Yale is also available and might work for the WSU station. Anyone else interested in working on this project should let Mary or Steve know.

Candidate Perspective—Dave Wilson

CCLP wants to know the climate action positions of all our congressional candidates. All were invited to join one of our meetings to share that information. Cathy McMorris Rodgers had a scheduling conflict for tonight's meeting, but WA 05 candidate Dave Wilson joined us 6:00–6:20 pm.

His presentation and responses to our questions were covered by Anthony Kuipers of the Daily News. Find the story (Congressional candidate compares climate change to COVID-19) here:

<https://dnews.com/search/?q=Dave+Wilson&d1=2020-09-18&sd=desc&l=10&t=article&nsa=eedition>

Formerly an Independent, Wilson understands climate change is real and critical and said he could get behind CCL's fee-dividend approach if elected. He likes that it's market driven, common sense, and revenue neutral. He sees it as the "most sellable policy out there." He sees renewable energy as an area for economic growth. A big believer in bipartisan legislation, he considers himself a moderate and would like to join the House Problem Solvers Caucus.

Expanding our Reach → Action

- **Sign campaign**—Ideas:
 - (1) Hold "vote climate" signs at regular times/places around town.
 - (2) We've been offered 4 large windows on 6th Street between Monarch Motel and the One World Cafe in Moscow. Mary is looking for someone who could draw or paint on the windows and create a fun display, perhaps with a vote message, a climate message, and a CCL message. It was suggested that Amy McMurtry might be interested in getting her upper-level art students at Moscow High involved. Mac will get in touch with her about it.
 - (3) Posters could go up around town. A number of people volunteered to put them up in their towns.
 - (4) Yard signs
- **Social media**—Facebook, Twitter, Instagram. Post LTEs and other info on your social media. Judy will add ideas to after-meeting email.
- **Get out the vote**—See several ways to get involved below*
- **University communities**—Contact student orgs, give presentations. WSU environmental engineering prof wants CCL to return and present. Judy suggests sending out the kinds of presentations we can do to the universities. Mac suggests going through Students for Carbon Dividends (S4CD), a national student effort promoting the bipartisan fee-dividend approach to climate action. They can get in touch with student groups for us, even on campuses where there is no S4CD chapter. Other audiences might be Spokane Community College and Kiwanis.

More info on these Expanding our Reach items will be included in the post-meeting email.

Lobbying

In this week's liaison call, CCL Director Mark Reynolds asked participants to consider how they would react to several possible outcomes of the November election. The point was to help people think ahead and help them get over the shock of a particular outcome or get stuck in inactivity: (1) Democratic sweep of the presidency and Congress, (2) Trump, Democratic House, Republican Senate, (3) Biden, Democratic House, Republican Senate. Participants were asked what would each outcome would be like and what would we be doing as an organization? The thinking was that if Trump were elected, CCL would continue its national work and expand its focus at the state level. Judy encouraged all of us to think about these possible outcomes.

- **Engage economists who signed WSJ statement to speak up**—Judy. We may approach economists in our legislative districts who signed on to the economists' statement on carbon dividends published in 2018 in *The Wall Street Journal*.

- **Post CCL calling campaign info on social media**—Trish. When you post the link from the CCL website you get an image and a link to a CCL site with calling tools. Trish has started inserting it in comments on Facebook. Here's the link for "call Congress": <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/call-your-representative-about-the-energy-innovation-and-carbon-dividend-act/#/54/>
Here's the link for the "monthly calling campaign": <https://citizensclimatelobby.org/monthly-calling-campaign/>
- **Lobbying MOCs**—Mac. He and others are helping some southern Idaho economists to get together with MOCs. Three economists from southern Idaho met with Sen. Risch. Mac would like to set up a meeting with the economists and Sen. Crapo's office. Sen. Crapo's office has shown some interest in diversifying energy usage.
- **Post photos of smoke on social media, ask all to call MOCs**—Diane did this and had a pretty good response.
- **Candidate engagement**—Be at every forum to ask questions. Many forums require questions be submitted prior to the event. Check with them and make sure you can get a question in. You may need to get in questions days ahead of time. Mary was asked to submit questions on behalf of CCL for some League of Women Voters events and is doing so.

Monthly Guest Speaker: Tina Johnson, National Black Environmental Justice Network. As the COVID-19 pandemic unfolds, we see disproportionate numbers of Black people becoming infected and dying from the disease. Leaders in the environmental justice community know this disparity all too well, and in June the National Black Environmental Justice Network was relaunched to help communities of color address the inequities that place them in harm's way. Tina Johnson, director of NBEJN, joins us to talk about those disparities and how the network is fighting for environmental justice. Access the recording at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KaxlEm4uQ_o&feature=youtu.be

Help Wanted

- Everyone: Sign up for the Monthly Calling Campaign: cclusa.org/mcc.
- Be the "administrator" for the Monthly Calling Campaign in WA 05.
- Join our team of presenters – learn to make virtual presentations about CCL, climate change, CF/D, EICDA etc. to organizations and school groups
- Become our liaison with the Moscow Chamber of Commerce
- Expand our social media presence

The Communications Exercise didn't happen due to lack of time. Judy encourages us to practice the exercise on our own:

COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE: The Benefits of H.R.763

The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act will cut emissions at least 40% in 12 years and is supported by economists and scientists as simple, effective and comprehensive. The policy is good for people because it reduces the air pollution Americans breathe, so it improves health and saves lives. It will be good for the economy by creating millions of jobs. The policy is bipartisan, bringing Republicans and Democrats together. It's also revenue neutral — instead of the government keeping the revenue, it goes into the pockets of all Americans to spend as they see fit helping low and middle income Americans. (Think EGGBR!)

Next Meeting: Thursday, Oct. 15, 5:30-7:00 pm on Zoom

*** Get Out the Vote**

Option 1: Partner with the Environmental Voter Project (EVP)

[EVP](#) is focused on increasing turnout of environmental voters in 12 states*, but you can help by texting or phone-banking from anywhere in the country. Your chapter can make this a group activity or encourage people to do it on their own. Some chapters have met on Zoom before and after phone banking to share the experience and build camaraderie. Learn more tips and tricks by watching the recording of CCL Community's "[CCL and Voter Participation Outreach](#)" training.

If your meeting attendees would like to phone or text bank as a group, have someone share their screen and go to environmentalvoter.org/events to see the many open training webinars and frequent days of action (which include training) and then as a group decide which one is most convenient for everyone.

*EVP's 12 target states are: ME, NH, MA, PA, VA, NC, GA, FL, CO, NM, NV, AZ

Option 2: Help students vote

CCL's campus leaders and campus groups will be working with [Rock the Vote](#) this fall to encourage students to vote. Rock the Vote is a U.S.-based nonprofit nonpartisan organization whose stated mission is "to engage and build the political power of young people." It uses research-driven programs and innovative solutions to ensure each youth generation is represented in our democracy. If your chapter is interested in engaging young people in voting, check out rockthevote.org or contact highered@citizensclimatelobby.org.

Option 3: Work locally or work your own circles

If you want to call or text voters in your own state, locate a local nonpartisan get-out-the-vote campaign and sign up! The League of Women Voters is one well respected organization that you might partner with. Another way to work locally is to ensure that all of your friends and family members are registered to vote at their current address so that in September they can request a ballot by mail (in states that allow it). Everyone can register and request a ballot by mail on [our TurboVote page](#). Prompt family and friends to get ready to vote from home by sharing the link cclusa.org/vote on your social media or via email.