

**Palouse Citizens' Climate Lobby**  
**Minutes Dec. 17, 2020, 5:30-7:00pm Zoom Meeting**

**Attendees:**

Amelie Schmolke, Casey Johnson, Francy Bose, Judy Meuth, Mary DuPree, Simon Smith, William Engels, Pete Haug, Mac Cantrell, Steve Flint, Paul Spencer, Diana Armstrong, Nancy Nelson, Martina Ederer, Kiana Hesler, Patrick Robichaud, Diane Noel, Marilyn Von Seggern, Kayla Bordelon, Trish Hartzell, Kathy Dawes, Eric Odberg, Lauren Carlsen, Kynan Witters-Hicks, Mike Kahn, Linda Jovanovich, Mark Havens

**Introductions and Check-in**

CCL virtual December Conference Highlights - Videos are up on [YouTube](#)

- Linda reported that the Saturday session run by Braver Angels reinforced the communication skills helpful in reaching people with different background beliefs.
- Kathy added that the keynotes on Saturday were excellent and hopeful.
- Mary reported that the strategic information regarding congressional lobbying was helpful.
- Trish found that some of the workshops provided excellent data. The findings of studies were really good and may be helpful for members of Congress (MOCs) to see.

**December Lobby Highlights:**

Judy reported that about 400 lobby meetings happened in the last week of the congressional session. CCLP members served on lobby teams meeting with four MOCs.

- Amelie participated in a meeting with Michael Taggart, McMorris Rodgers' Legislative Director, with CCLP members and local farmers. He was receptive and Amelie found his response motivating. Simon also attended and said that having members of the Ag community made the meeting more weighty.
- Trish and Mac participated in a meeting with a Crapo aid Kristin Segal and Crapo for 15 mins. The meeting was good, but Trish was disappointed that Senator Crapo is not on board for EICDA yet but he is open to receiving more information.
- Mike participated in a meeting with Melissa Guerrero, an aide from Patty Murray's office. Members of the AG community and some HS students also attended, which was clearly impactful.
- Eric participated in a meeting with Senator Risch. Risch wants more education on climate change and wants changes to be voluntary. Risch has a lot further to go toward being convinced, and there was not a lot of engagement from Risch or his aides.

**Additions to the Agenda and Review of Minutes – None.**

**Announcements**

March Virtual Lobby Week (dates TBD). CCL is planning for virtual lobby meetings in March. If interested, get in touch with Mac and/or Judy.

### **CCL-Palouse Reports and Actions**

- Ag Outreach –
  - Judy: Steve Ghan had a meeting early last spring with Central Washington farmers about the climate impacts they're seeing. Steve proposed that we hold a joint meeting with those folks and farmers from the Palouse with whom CCLP has been meeting. Steve wants to ask Central Washington farmers to endorse the EICDA. CCLP and Palouse farmers want to meet early this spring but may focus on discussion of more bills than the EICDA and/or other topics of interest to farmers.
  - Mac: A number of climate/Ag bills are floating around. It would be very helpful to hear more from the farmers themselves about what they'd like and where they are on climate issues.
  - Eric: Some Latah County farmers are likely on board with carbon pricing, but Eric recommends reaching out to more. Eric recommends getting in touch with the Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association.
  - Judy has been talking with Washington Wheat Commission members and trying to contact the USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council to try to figure out if there is an official position from these organizations on climate change. Food and Agriculture Climate Alliance is a national group that a lot of farmers may be able to get on board with.
  - Eric, Mac, and Judy will work on outreach and a spring meeting with farmers.
- Pullman Climate Action Plan –
  - Kynan: He, Simon, and Paul are working on a short questionnaire developed with WSU help. The survey is for members of the Pullman community to gauge feelings and priorities about climate change and local climate-related issues. The purpose is to get community feedback that we can take to the Pullman City Council. Judy will send the survey to attendees at this meeting for feedback; specifically, please identify confusing questions or gaps in the questions.
  - Simon: WSU's advice is to knock on 300 doors throughout the city to deliver the survey and then pick it up the next day. Another possibility is to put the survey online, but the response rate tends to be much higher with direct delivery. Martina expressed concern that the direct delivery is not safe at the moment, and that people may be reluctant to even open the door. Paul pointed out that there may be different results given these different distributions.
  - Judy: We want to present to the city council soon to remind them about PCCL and our work.
- Moscow Climate Action Plan –
  - Mary: The Climate Action Working Group (CAWG) of the Sustainable Environment Commission the City of Moscow has decided not to have a public meeting until February. Things are moving slowly with the city. Under "resources" on the website you can find the "impacts" report.

- Chambers of Commerce—
  - Mary: Russ Moore, a CCL member and a member of the CAWG, coordinated a meeting with Jenny Ford, Director of Moscow Chamber of Commerce (MCOC) and Amber Ziegler, Chair of the CAWG. MCOC Board is important for our Grasstops efforts because it represents the business leaders in Moscow. They have luncheons at which we could present, or we could schedule a separate presentation with CAWG or just CCL--P. Jenny hopes a presentation would be engaging and not boring. We need to develop a really slick presentation for MCOC, Kiwanis, Rotary, etc. Help with this would be great. Jenny has since resigned. A new director of the MCOC will be appointed by the end of December.
  - Simon: Pullman COC is developing a procedure for groups who want to present, but they may need a nudge. He'll contact them.
- Publications –
  - Judy: Two publications in Daily News. One from Michael Jennings, and one from Diana Armstrong. National has suggested that publications really make a difference so we're going to try to get more organized on publications. Whenever you get a letter published, be sure to send it to all three of your MOCs.

#### Guest Speaker report-

- Pete: The Future We Choose and All We Can Save are books on climate change that Pete recommends.
- **Christiana Figueres, former UNFCCC Executive Secretary.** Where do things stand globally on national commitments to fight climate change and what's needed going forward? Figueres was Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) from 2010 until 2016, during which she marshaled 196 countries to sign the Paris accord in 2015. "This is the decisive decade for the history of humans on this earth."  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0GldLYFhs4g&feature=youtu.be>
- Globaloptimism.com is Figueres' website where she recommends an optimistic approach which she claims is essential to moving forward on these issues.
- Judy: EU is putting a border adjustment in place in 2023 because EU countries price carbon. If the US does not have a comparable price on carbon then, our exports to the EU will have a tariff.

#### Planning for 2021 – Palouse CCL Actions

See "Draft for discussion - Palouse CCL 2021 Priorities" later in these minutes.

**Communications Exercise:** Explaining the impact of the EU's border carbon tax (see end of the Agenda)

### **Bonus Action: CCL Year-end Fundraiser**

Give as you are able to boost CCL action in 2021 and then spread the word about our fundraiser by posting on your favorite social media platforms. Ask others, “Will you join me in making a donation at [citizensclimate.org/give?](https://citizensclimate.org/give?)”

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, January 21, 5:30-7:00 pm on Zoom

### **Adjournment**

#### **Draft for discussion - Palouse CCL 2021 Priorities**

#### **Build Active Membership – Grow our chapter**

- CCL members reach out to one or two new people or current inactive member. Simon suggests that we begin by trying to get more of our roster engaged with Monthly Calling.
- Mentor new attendees (Kynan volunteered.)
- Engage more youth (At the U of I, Kayla and Lauren said that students are often interested in resume building. They generally like clubs. Lauren and Kiana are interested in forging a UI-WSU alliance of students. Kiana suggests also mentoring High School students. Kayla, Lauren and Kiana will meet to discuss these possibilities.)

#### **Grasstops – Engage prominent business and community leaders**

Approach likely business, media, faith group, and organizational, and other supporters

- Alta Engineering (Margrit has been working with them), NRS (Mac will resume efforts), B & L Bicycles (Simon and Judy will approach them), Paradise Creek Bicycles (Diana will approach).
- Lewiston Tribune, Spokesman Review
- UUCP, Community Congregational Church, Sacred Heart (Bill will work on an endorsement from Sacred Heart)
- Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions (Kayla will help with creating more dynamic presentations for our outreach to them and to the Moscow Chamber of Commerce.)
- Chambers of Commerce
- City governments (Linda will approach the Palouse City Council)

#### **Media – Amplify voices for carbon pricing**

- Write Letters to the Editor and Op-Eds (from a diversity of voices in CCL); sign up for a month when you'll write
- Encourage community and business leaders to write LTEs and Op-Eds
- Send your LTEs and Op-Eds to members of Congress

#### **Grassroots – Prepare to mobilize**

- Enroll lots of people in CCL Monthly Calling Campaign [Monthly Calling Campaign](#)
- Increase communication via [social media posts](#)

- Reach out – Tabling at grocery stores to hand out information? Contact senior centers (Pete will do post-pandemic). Advertise CCL on buses and other places many people pass by (Nancy volunteered.)

### **Lobbying – Be strategic**

- Liaisons and others increase contacts with members of Congress and their offices
- Find trusted messengers to participate in lobbying

### **COMMUNICATION EXERCISE**

#### **Laser Talk - EU's border adjustment pressures U.S. to price carbon**

One of the pillars of effective carbon pricing is a border carbon adjustment that protects domestic manufacturers from unfair competition. It's a tax applied to carbon-intensive imports from nations that do not have an equivalent price on carbon. This not only maintains a level playing field for businesses, it also discourages companies from "off-shoring" their carbon emissions by relocating to countries that do not price carbon. The Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, currently pending in Congress, includes a border carbon adjustment.

As Europe moves to increase its climate ambition with a steeper price on carbon, the European Union plans to protect its businesses with a border carbon adjustment, and that will have an impact on American exporters. Europe's border adjustment will go into effect in 2023. If the U.S. were to enact a fee and dividend policy with a price that matched or exceeded Europe's, American manufacturers would be exempt from the European tax. In short, to maintain trading parity with Europe, the U.S. needs to price carbon.

Should the U.S. and Europe both price carbon with a border adjustment, the trading leverage of these two economic giants would pressure other nations to follow their lead with ambitious carbon pricing systems of their own.