

**Minutes, January 18, 2024, 5:30-7:00 pm**

**Citizens' Climate Lobby – Palouse**

Moscow's 1912 Center Fiske Room or via Zoom

(Zoom link and contact info. for individuals mentioned below are at the end of these Minutes)

**Attending:**

Trish Hartzell, Paul Spencer, Eric Odberg, Judy Meuth, Mac Cantrell, Mary DuPree, Simon Smith, Stephan Flint, Marilyn Von Seggern, Leonard Garrison, Aaron Flansburg, Audrey Pollard, Kynan Witters Hicks, Nick Odberg, Azdren Coma, Kent Keller, Scott, Karen Hansen, Russ Zenner, Gisell Zuniga, Bill Engels, Bill Voxman

**Values Statement:** We are committed to creating a consensus for and the steps needed to achieve fair, effective, and enduring climate change policies, and to a process that is inclusive, non-partisan, and respectful of diverse points of view.

**Announcements**

- CCL--P social gatherings: Every 2nd Thursday of the month, 5-7:30 pm, Trailside Taproom, 505 SE Riverview, Pullman
- "The Road to a Clean Energy Future": Idaho Conservation League presentation, Tues. Feb.13 at 6pm, 1912 Center Lecompte Auditorium
- Sierra Club Wild and Scenic Film Fest. Friday Jan. 19, 7pm. \$16, \$12. Beer. Kenworthy, drawing, doors open at 6.
- Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Plan: before Jan 29<sup>th</sup> can comment. Summary from Trish: The new plan will put new roads into wilderness areas, expand allowed acreage for single clearcut from 40 to 200 acres, and double the board feet that can be taken. It will not revitalize logging communities because there is only one single owner of most northern Idaho resources. It will take out some old growth. Roads will destroy some habitat. Wolverines will be impacted; they are endangered. It will also allow grazing. It will remove the buffer zone around streams.  
[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1153702.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd1153702.pdf)  
**To comment:** <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=44089>
- CCL-P leadership team—volunteers? Leadership Team meets twice a year, two volunteers are needed. (Note two people volunteered)
- CCL conservative conference coming up. There is a strong cohort of conservatives in CCL; we need them. Conference is march 19-20, online, zoom, link is on national website.

**Ongoing Palouse CCL Initiatives and Actions**

- Carbon Pricing and Cash-back – Simon Smith and Margaret Davis (leads)
- Building Electrification and Efficiency – Mac Cantrell and Mary DuPree (leads)
- Healthy Forests — Trish Hartzell (lead)
- Presentations—Nancy Nelson, Simon Smith
- Pullman City – Azdren Coma
- Moscow City – Mary DuPree
- Member of Congress liaisons – Mac Cantrell (Crapo), Judy Meuth (McMorris Rodgers)
- Tabling – Simon Smith
- Outreach to rural communities — Bill Voxman

- Publications – Judy Meuth, Pete Haug (print); Website – Joe Pallen; Facebook—Margaret Davis
- Social Media – Giselle Zuniga

### **Eric Odberg: Regenerative Farming on the Palouse**

Eric is a 4<sup>th</sup> generation farmer near Genessee, ID. Crops include wheat, malt, barley, garbanzo beans and canola. After experiencing erosion events, he began no tilling 22 years ago.

Conservation farming includes keeping the ground covered and using diverse rotation including nontraditional crops like sunflowers, flax, sorghum and millet. Eric is part of a coop called Shepherd’s Grain which markets grains raised sustainably to bakeries, restaurants and grocery stores.

Really wet, or really dry weather patterns last longer now on the Palouse. The use of conservation farming improves water quality in streams because of no erosion sediment. Tried full season cover crop, seeded June 1 using seven species seed mix including peas, hairy vetch, seed clover, sorghum, Sudan grass, buckwheat, oats. Benefits of cover crops: controls erosion, reduces evaporation, improves rainfall infiltration, and attracts wildlife. Cover crop grazing builds soil health, increases organic matter and nutrient cycling, feeds soil microbes → hormone → plant growth → more nutrient cycling, more water capacity. A herd of goats was grazed on the cover crops, which looked like scorched earth after they were done but crops came back quickly. Cover crop species which did best were sorghum, Sudan grass, hairy vetch, oats, and buckwheat. However buckwheat is toxic to goats, so it was weeded out. There were very few other weeds, the manure was distributed evenly, and the does gained 40 lbs (males lost weight but bred well). In another research project with the Palouse Conservation District the soil health nutrient looked good but organic matter looked low, probably it was all above ground. On a 294 acre field, the goats never got around to it and it all grew until end of October. After sorghum and Sudan grass freeze, they are also toxic to goats so on Nov 28, mowed stuff they didn’t graze. Most common cover used is an annual ryegrass. Buckwheat in wheat crops is a no go for exported wheat. ADM and big fruit companies are going into regenerative agriculture; consumers are demanding it.

### **CCL-P: Planning for 2024**

2023 accomplishments

Op-eds > 6

Articles/photos/ >4 “saving green”

LTEs > 28

Constituent contacts w members of congress > 228 (95% increase).

Note that calling is even higher value than emailing or texting.

Meetings with MOC and staff: > 20

Chapter development >63 meetings, actions, social gatherings, trainings

Grasstops outreach >20

Grassroots outreach >42

LTEs and other publications since last meeting: Simon Smith, and Bill Engels on BIG WIRES Act in the *Moscow-Pullman Daily News*. Bill’s also in the *Whitman County Gazette*.

Individual visioning – What skills do you have, what do you want to work on?

Discussion

Chapter growth: strengthen welcome team, diversify our membership especially students

Policy focus:

Carbon fee and dividend, CBAMs.

Permitting reform

Healthy forest and the farm bill  
Electrification and efficiency  
Election engagement

24 Jan training for working w/ Environmental Voter Project phone banking.

### **Continuing Individual Actions**

- Call your MoCs to act on bipartisan clean energy permitting reform: [cclusa.org/take-action](https://cclusa.org/take-action)
- Watch the monthly national call and guest speaker 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month on Community)
- Log actions on CCL's Action Tracker: <https://community.citizensclimate.org/actions/home>
- Send photos and info about CCL and our activities to Margaret Davis and Gisell Zuniga

### **Contact info.** <https://cclpalouse.org>

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### **Next meeting is February 15, 5:30-7 at Community Congregational Church, Pullman**

#### **CCL Meeting Zoom joining info**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81913593118?pwd=U2dSL2hPK0hQa1BhbVVyQmtsTDNRZz09>

Meeting ID: 819 1359 3118

Passcode: 506160

One tap mobile

+12532050468,,81913593118#,,,,\*506160# US

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kyRNtWdxJ>

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#### COMMUNICATION SKILLS EXERCISE

You may get some questions this month when you ask your friends and family to write Congress about bipartisan clean energy permitting reform (see mobilization action above). Let's practice saying CCL's updated Permitting Reform talking points so that you can explain it effectively

#### **Permitting Reform talking points**

1. 80% of the carbon pollution reductions expected from the Inflation Reduction Act rely on being able to build and connect clean energy projects. We need permitting reform to move faster.
2. Congress did part of what was needed in a 2023 government funding package — making it easier to build clean energy projects — but there's more work to be done, especially when it comes to ensuring new transmission lines can be built in a timely and effective manner.
3. The BIG WIRES Act is a bill in the current Congress and it is fostering permitting reform conversations in both the House and Senate.
4. Bipartisan conversations and collaborations on permitting reform are happening — let's encourage our members of Congress to work together on bipartisan permitting reform legislation that can pass this Congress!