

MINUTES January 16, 5:30-7:00 pm
Citizens' Climate Lobby–Fiske Room, 1912 Center in Moscow or via Zoom
(Zoom link and contact info for individuals mentioned below are at the end of this Agenda)

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

-These changes approved by acclimation.

Introductions

Azdren Coma, Tim Kohler, Marilyn Von Seggern, Bill Voxman, Kent Keller, Terry Keller, Mac Cantrell, Shannon Scott, Steve Flint, Paul Spencer, Judy Meuth, Leonard Garrison, Chris Strong, Mary DuPree, Tim Hatten, Jill Maxwell, David Nelson, Eric Odberg, Bill Engels, Emmanuel Osei-Bonsu, Tom Benemann, Mary Collins, Ian Clark, Asa Clark

Announcements

NW Regional CCL Conference Feb.21-23, Vancouver WA at the Heathman Hotel.

[Cultivating Climate Champions: CCL Greater Pacific Northwest Regional Conference - February 21-23](#)

- Idaho OEMR has submitted their application for IRA rebates rather than lose the \$81 million that will help low to middle income Idahoans improve their homes' energy efficiency.
 - IRA rebates for renewables (e.g. home solar and electrification) have been slow to become available in Idaho. We sent emails to encourage the Governor's Office of Mineral and Energy Resources to apply for those funds. Mac corresponded with that office and they now have sent applications in. This has to be approved by the ID state legislature to accept the money. \$81 million will come to the state to help low and middle income people increase energy efficiency. We will need to contact our legislators at some point. Because the new administration wants to pay for tax cuts, they will want to cut IRA programs, but once money has gone to a state it is difficult to claw back. If ID doesn't take the money, it will be sent to other states. ID legislative approval starts with the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC). First are budget hearings then they start making decisions mid-February so we'll need to do something before then. To influence JFAC, the best way is to testify in person, the 2nd best is to call. They have learned how to ignore e-mails. Jim Woodward would be a good legislative cheerleader.
 - richard.stover@oer.idaho.gov, emily.her@oer.idaho.gov

The Road Ahead: CCL national goals for 2025

Defend the IRA

Promote Permitting Reform

Support development of Carbon Border Adjustments legislation – in place of carbon fee and dividend legislation. (The EU now has border carbon tax so the US is going to have to address it)

Improve CCL and CCE financial health

CCL is in financial difficulty. We encourage people to donate to the national organization. If you donate to CCE then it is tax deductible.

Steve: the People's March is this Saturday- need climate signs. This is in response to threats to climate legislation and rights and diversity posed by the incoming administration. March begins at 2 at the City Hall then walking to East City Park.

Judy: accomplishments in 2024: 106,000 plus calls and messages to congress, > 1200 meetings w congress, 1700 local media hits. All CCL-supported issues/bills advanced. ADVANCE passed, PROVE IT came out of committee, energy permitting reform is a bipartisan issue, etc.

Proposed Harvest Hills Wind Farm in Whitman County

Ian Clark is a farmer in Whitman County and spoke to us about the proposed wind farm.

At a meeting, the company (Steelhead, subsidiary of Vestas) gave the impression that they were only interested in subsidies rather than addressing climate change. Ian was approached to sign a lease for all acres which would be paid even if Vestas did nothing with the land, but the company was not willing to negotiate how the land would be used or placement of roads and turbines. Turbines can only be put on land with at most a 7% grade which

limits where they can be placed. Steelhead/Vestas also seemed to use tactics that played farmers against each other, e.g. “so-and-so has signed so if you don’t, you’re harming them”. Ian also reported that Vestas’ offers were on the low side and that a lawyer used to doing business with wind power companies considered Vestas the worst one. Placing turbines in prime crop land may not be the best use of the land because tractors can’t be driven through easily. Must consider land as a long term resource and the long term effect of turbines (e.g. highly compacted soil) is important. Ian suggested that rather than using land for wind energy, addressing farming methods to improve sustainability and preserve soil health would be a better goal. Windier places that might be better for turbines than for farming were considered too far from transmission lines. Enhanced weathering to sequester CO2, electric tractors are possible but difficult. Ranches may be a better fit for wind farming than crop lands. Landlords may have a different point of view about wind project than farmers because of the guaranteed income it represents.

Steelhead asked if CCL-P would endorse their project. We will discuss this at our next meeting and make the decision. The Whitman County Commissioner has placed a 6 month moratorium on the project.

The Road Ahead: CCL-P Goals for 2025

Report on December Leadership Team meeting—Marilyn

- Summary of “Climate Bootcamp” concept—Simon, Judy
- Leadership Team met on the Dec. 19th, and discussed how to get students more involved on an ongoing basis. One idea was connecting w organizations that do have student groups, e.g. the Sierra Club. We could also keep in touch with environmental clubs at universities and high schools.
- Climate boot camp: from concern to action. Activities could include:
 - Contacting members of congress, outlining letters to the editor, practicing communication and elevator speeches
 - Using social media
 - Learning to table
 - Finding opportunities to present and presenting
 - Serving on a lobby team.
 - Work that we do that creates political will. Like a workshop specifically targeting level (HS, Univ). could also do it at a senior center.
 - Participants could create a video.
 - Establish longer-term projects in the community that could be mentored by a CCL—P member

Brainstorming on Climate Boot Camp concept:

Have talked to Moscow high liaison: Students like to get together because they have few opportunities to do that.

Need to demonstrate what things are important

Have a short summary of facts at the beginning.

Have a list of issues, talking points, leading from there to hands-on activity. Can combine activities, eg one calling, one editorial, have each student choose an activity in community with assigned mentor, eg. planting trees, going to Moscow City Council about solar panels,

Scope of anxiety level. Is it global or local?

U of I is in the middle of long-term planning about sustainability. They talk but don’t act. Students would be a more powerful voice.

About 5 people signaled that they would be willing to mentor. Two or more students at a time would be best. Long-term we could look into students mentoring younger students.

Nick Odberg (son of Eric) is president of Moscow High environmental club. They work on projects at Philips farm and like hands-on stuff. Tree planting might be a good fit.

WSU has person that coordinates high school students who work w state reps? (Ask Judy).

Should invite retirees to boot camp.

We don’t have single CCL-WSU liaison

Fossil Free WSU committee

Bill Engels (re movement on part of WSU foundation in response to letter) just learned that foundation has decided to get moving on their investment decision to go toward ESG funds

Fossil Free WSU committee - students have attended in past. Giselle might be a liaison.

To engage students invite them to present to CCL on their own projects. One candidate in mind did dissertation research on scientific literacy among undergraduates at WSU. Bill E. will arrange for that student to present.

- Mary wants to end years of being co-chair. Leonard has volunteered to take that responsibility and the transition will take place over the coming months.
- Leonard talked about social media; we need to learn about Instagram and TikTok. Ask to be taught how to use the social media. Gisell may help.

Ongoing Palouse CCL Initiatives and Actions

- **Lobbying Congress** - Ian S.(Senator Risch), Mac (Senator Crapo, ID), Judy (Rep.Michael Baumgartner, WA)
- **National CCL Initiatives: local team leaders:**
 - **Carbon Pricing:** Carbon Border Adjustments– Margaret Davis (lead)
 - **Building Electrification and Efficiency**—Mary DuPree and Mac Cantrell (leads)
 - **Healthy Forests**—Leonard Garrison (lead)
 - **Permitting Reform**
- **Pullman City** – Azdren Coma, Marilyn Von Seggern
 - Pullman’s Environmental Resiliency Committee started in a year ago April and Azdren has been a member of that committee but the current mayor sent Azdren a letter saying his tenure there is over. So we need more applicants from CCL-P. The Pullman city government is not productive at sharing that they need applicants; there was nothing in the newsletter. Never got approval from survey. Someone from here should apply.
- **Moscow City** – Mary DuPree
 - Saving Green Columns
- **Tabling** – Simon Smith
- **Agriculture and rural issues**—Judy Meuth, Bill Voxman, Kathy Dawes
- **Publications** – Judy Meuth; Website – Joe Pallen; Facebook—Margaret Davis
- **Social Media** – Gisell Zuniga
- **Presentations** – Judy Meuth
Organizational meeting for team

Communication Skills Exercise (at the end of the Agenda)

Continuing Individual Actions

- Watch the monthly national call on the 3rd Saturday of the month on CCL 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

Next meeting Feb. 20, 5:30-7, Community Congregational Church in Pullman

COMMUNICATION SKILLS EXERCISE

Contact info <https://cclpalouse.org>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85948476493?pwd=9oBlwOswUuteymndoJST9UonkX1Jj0.1>

Meeting ID: 859 4847 6493

Passcode: 939133

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcPzsxgRxy>

Communication Skills Exercise

Friend: Hey, my climate friend. What do you think about all this talk about climate stuff in that Inflation Reduction Act?

CCL Volunteer: Oh, the Inflation Reduction Act? Yeah, I’ve been keeping up with it. Sounds like you’re wondering what it’s all about, right?

Friend: Yeah, I've heard a lot about it, but it's hard to figure out what's real. Is it actually going to make a difference?

CCL Volunteer: Totally get that—it's hard to cut through all the noise. Honestly, I think it's a really big deal for a few reasons. First off, it's a massive push for clean energy. It's got tax breaks for stuff like electric cars and solar panels, which means less dependence on fossil fuels. That helps the climate, saves us money on energy, and even reduces our reliance on foreign oil. Makes sense so far?

Friend: Yeah, saving on gas and electricity sounds good to me.

CCL Volunteer: Right? And that's just one part of it. Another big thing is that by cutting pollution, the IRA is expected to save around 180,000 lives by 2030. Cleaner air means fewer health problems, especially for people living near areas where fossil fuels are extracted or burned. That's a big deal for public health. What do you think about that?

Friend: I hadn't thought about it like that, but yeah, I've heard pollution can be pretty bad for people's health.

CCL Volunteer: Exactly. It's not just about clean energy; it's about protecting people, too. Lastly, the IRA puts money into green tech and manufacturing in the U.S. That will create jobs, help keep energy costs steady, and strengthen our economy while helping the environment. What do you think of that?

Friend: Honestly, that all sounds pretty good. But can they just undo it later?

CCL Volunteer: Yes, that's why we need to keep building on this progress and let our representatives know we support it. If you're interested, I can share more about how to help protect and expand it. Want to hear more?