

May 2021 Meeting Minutes

Welcome chat, introductions

Attending: Nancy Atwood, Barbara Menne, Chuck Jensen, Sue Lepore, Virginia Lohr, Pete Weymiller, Claire Hovde, Aja Irons, Marti Lambert, Elly Claus-McGahan, Jason Berkowitz, Stephen Bessasparis (this was his farewell meeting—he's going to graduate school at IU in public and environmental affairs), Cathy Carruthers, and Marissa Jeffords (welcome, new member!).

CCL National Call video clip

Mark Reynolds proudly introduced the new staff who were added to support the big push by CCL for carbon pricing in legislation currently being drafted. HR 2307 now has 49 cosponsors. Discussion of the new "Airmeet" format for the June CCL Conference (12-13th, virtual), which they feel will "mimic an in-person event much better." Can move from session to session, there's a lounge for networking, virtual tables, etc.

Reynolds requested that chapters consider taking actions including "nurture your people" and "reach out to your mayors." He shared his excitement about last month's very high numbers of LTEs (304) Op-eds (123) and a stunning 9K letters to members of Congress (vs. normal 3K!)

CCL Tacoma Workflow Overview (2020-21)—Barbara Menne

Our chapter seeks to empower everyday people and help them learn new skills in order to build political will for a national bipartisan solution to climate change.

Our major activities around the year:

Fall

Pierce County Council candidate interviews at meetings (election results- added a new environmentally friendly member, Jani Hitchens)

Various get-out-the-vote efforts (pursued individually)

CCL December conference and lobbying meeting

Winter

Jan-April focus on WA state legislative session, commenting and testifying on proposed legislation (much of which passed!)

CCL March lobby meetings (with Kilmer, Strickland, and others)

Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act was reintroduced as HR2307

Spring & Summer

Ongoing focus on local issues and legislation such as the Pierce County Sustainability Plan (passed!), stopping fossil fuel permits at the Tideflats, and encouraging the Pierce County Regional Council to be a center for climate collaboration with small cities and towns.

CCL June National Conference will take place June 12-13

Tabling can start in person again, Tacoma Ocean Fest coming June 6 and Steilacoom EV event on September 11

All year round

Letter and editorial writing, seeking endorsements, collaborating with other environmental organizations, pressure campaigns on fossil fuel companies and utilities

Action Team Reports

Sue Lepore, Climate 411 (reporting for **John Doherty**) was a great success! Fully enrolled and in-person, it was a valuable example of CCL Education and the grass roots “lever.” The 4-hour session provided information, insight, encouragement, and community to local citizens who are seeking a way to help fight climate change. We hope John will offer it again in the fall!

Book club: meets June 2 at noon. We are reading Roy Scranton’s Learning to Die in the Anthropocene and discussing the Netflix documentary “Seaspiracy.”

The May **newsletter** is out and is archived on the website.

Elly Claus-McGahan, Endorsements:

Lobbying is done in teams and it really works. The Sustainability Plan victory in the **County Council** is a good example. Also, on May 20th the **Pierce County Regional Council** received a presentation by Climate Pierce County (which includes CCL Tacoma) about working with small cities and towns on climate issues and it went well. Another effort is directed at **City Council** on ending the use of fossil fuels at the Tideflats. The mayor is on our side on that, and the vote is in August. Volunteers can become involved by attending meetings, speaking at meetings, sending emails. (Writing council members beforehand tends to help get fuller attention).

June lobby days—there are lobbying training sessions at the June Conference. June 16th, we have a meeting with **Derek Kilmer** at 11:30. Let Barb know if you’d like to participate or simply attend. There’s a meeting with **Maria Cantwell** being led by the youth of CCL Bellevue. If it is open to us to attend, Elly will let us know. Don’t know yet about a meeting with **Patty Murray**.

CCL Tacoma has liaisons to the WA state lobbying organizing groups:

Elly—Senators Cantwell and Murray

Barb and Chuck—Representative Kilmer

Chuck—Representative Strickland

Ginny Lohr, Facebook: She is noticing that the best-liked posts are about local issues. The Fircrest lobbying post received a huge number of hits! Please send her some photos of tabling at Ocean Fest to post.

Breakout Rooms

Our group activity was to discuss the key benefits, or “NAMS,” of HR 2307, and how best to communicate them to others.

N--Net zero by 2050--the goal of 50% reduction by 2030 makes this possible

A--Affordable clean energy--businesses will be pushed to innovate

M--Money in your pocket--the rise in prices will be 85% covered by this plan (monthly dividend check)

S--Saves lives--1 in 10 US deaths are caused by pollution, especially in people of color and frontline communities

This exercise helped us focus on the benefits in detail. Can you guess which was the favorite? Money in your pocket, of course!