

April 2023 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Nancy Atwood, Barbara Menne, Chuck Jensen, Sue Lepore, Ginny Lohr, Claire Hovde, Elly Claus-McGahan, Linda Cohan, Jason Berkowitz, Carolyn Queener, John Doherty, Peggy Lovell Ford.

This ZOOM meeting screen was enhanced with closed captioning.

Happy Earth Day! We shared some of our best Earth Day memories from the past.

Action Team Report

Tabling, Linda Cohan—We are almost ready for Saturday’s **South Sound Sustainability Expo** at the **UW Tacoma campus!** We will staff two booths, one with a kids’ craft, the sustainability scavenger hunt answers, the “don’t be a fossil” dinosaur, and EN-Roads materials, and the other with lots of new and improved posters and science boards and the popular “6 Americas” interactive feltboard. We have a good crew signed up to fill the shifts, but you can still visit and help! To join tabling committee activities, please notify [Linda Cohan](#). All are welcome! Special thanks to **Mary Forman** for purchasing new tablecloths!

2023 State Legislative Session Report

Chuck Jensen gave a report on the session, which is closing on April 23rd. Descriptions from [League of Women Voters update](#).

Major climate bills that have passed

HB1181 Climate components to update the GMA Growth Management Act. Comprehensive planning for how we develop/cluster housing, to address climate and environmental justice concerns.

SB5165 Improving electric power system transmission planning. To obtain the additional transmission infrastructure for clean and renewable energy sources will require comprehensive forecasting, planning and efficient permitting.

HB1170 Integrated Climate Response Strategy updates for climate resilience. The current Climate Response Strategy was completed in 2012, so is due for an update. This bill will increase the focus on climate justice considerations.

HB1176 Creating a Washington Climate Corps. Project to create climate-related service opportunities for young adults and displaced workers, to build low-carbon and climate-resilient communities and ecosystems while providing education, workforce development, and new career pathways.

HB1216 Consolidates and streamlines the siting of clean energy projects. Streamlines the permitting process for Clean Energy Projects of Statewide Significance.

HB1416 Apply the Clean Energy Transformation Act to consumer-owned utilities. CETA requires Washington's electric utilities to: 1. transition 100% of their power sources to non-

emitting and renewable by 2045, 2. eliminate coal-fired resources by 2026, 3. Make all retail sales of electricity greenhouse-gas neutral by 2030. This bill applies these requirements to consumer-owned utilities as well as investor-owned utilities.

HB1329 Preventing utility shutoffs for nonpayment during extreme heat. Requested by the Attorney General. Prohibits utilities and landlords from terminating water or electric service to any residential user during days for which the National Weather Service has issued certain heat-related alerts.

HB1012 Creating an extreme weather response grant program. This bill will provide funding for communities with a demonstrated lack of resources, to meet the costs of responding to community needs.

SB5447 Alternative Jet fuel bill. Ginny Lohr's husband is working on this issue and thinks it is an "atrocious bill—will not get the fuel any cleaner, and will just give the industry more opportunities to greenwash. Need truly clean not just 10% cleaner."

Bills that did not pass

HB1368 Zero emission school buses. (Ginny—"This one seems to be an easy one to understand and get behind. Pollution makes kids sick, and affects the public schools more than private, so there's also an equity element. Seems a no brainer to support this one!" Should our chapter focus on this, next session?)

Other "disappointing failures" we need to come back to next year—the "**Right to repair**", **Decarbonization planning, Access to clean fuel for public transportation, Green hydrogen, Electrification rebate navigator bill, the WRAP Act recycling and plastic trash reduction bill.**

It often takes multiple years to get a bill passed, so we need to keep trying. If you want to be an activist and get involved, the pattern is that it's often a multiyear effort, so when you win it's a great feeling! For these long term projects, it is good to expand your advocacy to include not only your representatives but the committee members for the bills too.

Understanding Carbon Fee and Dividend

Barbara Menne introduced the educational training [video](#) on CCL Community by Jonathan Marshall. Main points:

A strong economy-wide price on carbon could reduce America's carbon pollution by 50% by 2030, putting us on track to reach net zero by 2050.

When government puts a price on carbon, corporate polluters pay a fee for the carbon pollution that will result from burning the fossil fuels they sell.

The money collected is given back to the public as dividends to spend with no restrictions. Studies show that the monthly carbon cashback payments are enough to essentially cover increased costs of 85% of American households, including 95% of the least wealthy 60% of Americans.

This type of carbon tax is called a “carbon fee and dividend” and CCL has been advocating for it for over a decade.

Scientists, economists, businesses, and most Americans support a price on carbon.

CCL supports policies that charge a steadily rising fee on fossil fuels, return 100% of net revenue to households as carbon cashback, and adopt a border carbon adjustment to protect U.S. manufacturing and promote international ambition to reduce carbon.

Other benefits—will save lives by reducing air pollution (as many as 1 in 10 deaths today)

will create well paid, stable, local jobs in clean energy

businesses will prefer its predictable, gradual approach vs. new regulations

it will keep our economy strong

CCL supported the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act in the 117th congress, and will be looking for any new legislation that fits our criteria being introduced in the 118th this year.

In related news, in Canada on 4/14/23, citizens received a deposit in their bank account from that country’s “Climate Action Incentive!”

How to Talk to people about climate

Linda Cohan discussed the main points of a pamphlet put out by the Nature Conservancy, [Let’s Talk Climate, a How-to Guide](#), 5 simple tips to help friends and family start talking about climate change. *Because we can’t fix what we don’t talk about.*

7 in 10 Americans believe that climate change is real, but less than half of us talk about it with friends or family with any consistency.

5 Simple tips for starting the conversation

1-meet people where they are—let them talk and **truly listen**, find out more about them and their concerns rather than launching your speech. “what brought you here today?” “what do you think about climate?”

2-connection outweighs facts--Moving people **emotionally** is the key to getting people to act for the common good. Focus on stories, on shared experiences and concerns, like health and safety impacts of climate change.

3-start with what’s already happening--Bring up local, **immediate**, visible and current concerns, ask what they care about, but do try to keep a balance of hope and fear.

4-the goal is conversation, not conquest--You are not likely to convert anyone on the spot so don’t push. **Keep asking questions** or repeat back to them what they are saying; people appreciate being heard.

5-focus on the person across from you--as a person, with feelings. There is already more than enough combativeness out there--let your humanity, compassion, **respect and kindness** stand out.

Very similar advice as that from CCL and Dr. Hayhoe, particularly when working with conservatives. Talk about it more, so few do, grab every opportunity. Tabling is all about this and over time, it is working. Every climate conversation is important and makes a difference.

Comments:

Carolyn Queener—*these concepts exactly match up with books like Crucial Conversations “Let the person feel safe” is key.*

Barbara Menne—*Tabling is like sowing seeds, broadcasting ideas repeatedly, or seeding clouds--scatter it out, eventually it will have results.*

Chuck Jensen--*If someone is curious enough to visit the booth, that is the interest we want to encourage.*

Elly Claus-McGahan—*by raising climate as a topic, it becomes more of a **community endeavor**. Warehouse meeting, one of the commissioners expressed that 20 people being against it unanimously, really influenced him. This was just 20 people but it mattered.*

Group discussion about meetings and July picnic

John Doherty gave an outline of the key issues to think about. **Please give your feedback to him [by email](#) soon!**

Picnic

July 19th, Instead of a chapter meeting, meet for dinner at a local park

Decisions to make:

--just social or social with a business meeting?

--just potluck or potluck with grilled food?

--which park? (have been to Franklin and Wapato Parks so far)

A few comments:

“The social aspect should not be undervalued, it is very important to strengthen and inspire the group.” “Keep the food potluck and simple”

Chapter Meetings

Decisions to make:

--stick with **Zoom**?

--switch to **in-person**?

--try **hybrid**? (in-person but with a Zoom connection on a big screen)

--**split the year**? some monthly meetings on Zoom and some hybrid?

A few comments:

*“**Zoom** is convenient, has a low carbon footprint, but is a little harder to really communicate, affords less personal interactivity, and makes it easier to lose focus.”*

“Zoom provides captioning which is important for those of us who are hard of hearing.”

“How many people would we lose if we stopped Zoom? Some live far away. How many would actually come?”

In-person *is less convenient and takes more time, but there’s much more interpersonal connection and more variety of activities possible.*

“Hybrid *is challenging to do right. You have to have sufficient bandwidth at the venue. Setting it up is time-consuming and challenging—we would need a dedicated individual. (Jason Berkowitz has offered to be that volunteer)*

There have been some problems with communicating between the in-person and the online attendees. In past experience, if people had the choice, they just Zoomed vs attending a hybrid meeting in person.”

Split the calendar *“Maybe a couple of in-person meetings during the dry warm months, then Zoom or hybrid the rest of the year.”*