

January 2023 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Nancy Atwood, Barbara Menne, Chuck Jensen, Sue Lepore, Ginny Lohr, Jim Tuttle, Caranda Prater, Natalie Franz, Mustafa Haziq, Elly Claus-McGahan, Jason Berkowitz, Linda Cohan, Mary Forman

This ZOOM meeting screen was enhanced with closed captioning.

Action Team Reports

Tabling, Linda Cohan—CCL National is providing a lot of exciting new tabling and training materials for their expanded advocacy focus points. We need to organize all of our materials and provide ongoing tabling training, especially for new members (although veterans can use it too because the climate data and focus is always changing). Our next known tabling event is the **Sustainability Expo** which will be on **Earth Day, April 22** at the **UW Tacoma campus**. Let's find a time to hold regular tabling trainings; please notify [Linda Cohan](#) about your interest and preferred times to meet, probably twice a month. All are welcome!

Letters to the Editor, Chuck Jensen—Earth Day is a probable opportunity for op-eds to be published in the newspaper. They should be submitted by late March. Anyone interested in writing something or working together to help write a piece? Contact [Chuck Jensen](#).

Pierce County Climate Cooperative, Elly Claus-McGahan—A climate cooperative of mayors and councilmembers throughout the county is being formed. She recently talked to a Puyallup councilmember who may host the meetings, so it's moving forward, with the first meeting to be held in April. Perhaps use this as the subject for an op-ed? If you know of any elected official in your city who may be interested, contact [Elly Claus-McGahan](#). She will keep us posted on other ways our chapter can support this endeavor.

Tacoma Tree Foundation, Mary Forman—On **Feb. 4 from 10am-3pm**, 50 trees will be planted at **Madison Elementary School, 3101 S. 43rd St, Tacoma**. If you want to volunteer (in line with CCL's "natural resources" efforts) email info@tacomatreefoundation.org.

Clip from CCL National December Monthly Call, Marcelo Mena

Marcelo Mena was the **Environmental Minister of Chile** from 2014-2018 under **Michelle Bachelet**. He is now head of **Global Methane Hub**, designing a methane alert and response system (MARS). He spoke about the amazingly fast and successful transition to renewable energy in Chile. These efforts were not subsidized-- a carbon tax and pollution taxes were implemented. "We created market conditions for the energy transition." Much of the initial political push came from public protests against new coal plants and hydroelectric dams. To watch his inspiring talk, [click here](#).

Preparation for Climate Advocacy in the 2023 State Legislative Session

We discussed the activism outline seen below (it was sent out in the [January newsletter, p. 2](#)). Some members have lobbied for state bills for years, some are beginners. We shared advice and experiences so that our chapter as a whole can participate in this and make a difference! With screen sharing, we demonstrated the process. We will be available to [help](#) new members on this, and members intend to share news about important bills through email and the forum.

Our State Legislators Need Your Input on Climate Bills!

The 2023 session just started this week. This is our opportunity to support the most effective WA legislation addressing the climate crisis. It has been remarked by elected officials that communications from even a few of their constituents can make a big impact on their decision-making. So... let's make our voices heard...by the dozens!

How does it work?

First—link up with an organization(s) that finds and assesses bills, monitors their progress, and facilitates community input (“public testimony”). [Washington Conservation Action](#) does that very well in my experience, but also the [League of Women Voters](#), [350.org](#), [Futurewise](#), [Climate Reality](#), and to some extent state chapters of [Audubon](#), [Sierra Club](#), and [The Nature Conservancy](#). There should be a button to click to tell them you want to be notified about taking action.

Second—identify your district’s state representatives and senator. Find through <https://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder/>

Making public testimony online

When you are alerted by an organization, you will receive descriptions and ID numbers of bills and when to submit your testimony. They often provide **shortcuts**, but if not,

- Go to leg.wa.gov and:
- Click **“BILL INFORMATION”**
- Type the four-digit bill number in the slot for **“Search by Bill Number,”** then click **“Search.”**
- Click **“COMMENT ON THIS BILL,”** it’s a button to the far right.
- Put in your address to get your district representatives’ names; that way they are informed of your testimony—the statistics are very important for them.
- Put in your personal contact information.
- Under **“Position,”** click **“SUPPORT.”**
- Type a brief supportive comment in the box below--it can be very short and sweet, i.e. *“We must give salmon the healthy environment they need to thrive!”*
- Click **“SEND COMMENT.”**
- That’s it!! You will get a thank-you message, but better yet, you will feel great that *you took action!*

Want to do more?

Send your own letters or emails directly to your elected officials about specific bills and issues.

Attend webinars about bills, and/or lobby meetings with legislators or their staff. **WCA** and **LWV** organize those in **February**, for instance.

Parting thoughts, Ginny Lohr—We are so fortunate to have this great online mechanism for public testimony here in Washington (legis.wa.gov). It has been in existence only since the pandemic! Some in-person meetings have recommenced, but the online option remains a good thing for democracy, since people can easily comment on bills even if they live in remote parts of the state.