

August 2022 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Nancy Atwood, Barbara Menne, Chuck Jensen, Sue Lepore, Ginny Lohr, Elly Claus-McGahan, John Doherty, Jim Tuttle, Jason Berkowitz, Claire Hovde, Marti Lambert, Cathy Carruthers.

This ZOOM meeting screen was enhanced with closed captioning.

Action Team Reports

Tabling

[Fircrest National Night Out](#) was successful, with high traffic and a lot of interaction. We passed out a lot of the new flyers and the new banner looked great! The emphasis was on voter registration (talked esp. to youth) and bringing climate into prominence as an election issue. Here are future opportunities to join in on tabling, no experience necessary:

Hilltop Street Fair is Saturday Aug. 27

EV National Drive in Steilacoom is Sept. 10

Get Out the Vote group

Met at the Forman's house and wrote close to 300 postcards to Georgia voters. Next meeting, Sept. 16 at [John Doherty's](#) house. Join us!

Presentations

Barbara Menne gave an **En-Roads** presentation to a local book group studying [All We Can Save](#).

Announcement: On **Wednesday, Sept. 7, 6pm**, there will be an [In-District Pierce County Council meeting](#) hosted by Ryan Mello, at the **Fircrest Community Center**. Also on Zoom.

Clip from CCL National Call

Summary of [YouTube recording of Q & A with Bob Inglis and Princella Talley](#), both governing board members of CCL

"Princella Talley is a Fellow at Large with the **OpEd Project** whose writing has been featured in numerous publications throughout the country. She previously worked for Citizens' Climate Education as a Development Coordinator and Diversity Outreach Coordinator. Princella is concerned about the inequity of the **Inflation Reduction Act** for low income and minority populations." (from [citizensclimatelobby.org](#))

Her answers:

CCL's current direction: She is "pleased about the fact that we are not just science and politics anymore, it's about the human experience." Any ordinary citizen can be a big player in this. Use impactful creativity and think outside the box. Read [All We Can Save](#)!

"Sore spots" of IRA: "happy with the push towards renewable sources because when there are lower emissions there is less pollution in impacted neighborhoods. But at the same time there is a rightful concern that's still out there about clean energy sources still ending up inaccessible

in the same neighborhoods that are most impacted.” And that less than 1% of that budget is going toward environmental justice investments. “They gave their support, the bill passed, but now there seem to be some empty promises.”

How to best engage with low income and minorities: “At the end of the day, we are not a set of policies, we are a world of multi-dimensional people.” We share a common goal, need to have a willingness to hear the feedback and have respect for all.

Bob Inglis is a former Republican Congressman from South Carolina, and is now the Executive Director of **republicEn**, an organization empowering conservatives to advocate for market-based solutions to climate change. Bob explained that Republicans didn’t support the Inflation Reduction Act because they see the Reconciliation process that resulted in this act as a tax. But he believes once the sting of losing the votes fades, Republicans will embrace the Climate Change provisions. He supports Congress moving forward with a Carbon Tariff bill and supports Senator Whitehouse’s CBAM bill, S. 4355. A key issue with Republicans on climate change legislation is it needs to bring China into this. (from citizensclimatelobby.org)

His answers:

CCL direction: The ECO-right is welcomed by CCL. Pleased about the passage of the bill, especially that it will bring “next steps” into focus and show the need for carbon pricing and a worldwide solution in border adjustments.

“Sore spots” of the IRA: the Reconciliation process itself. “it’s a tool that both parties use, it crams policy down your throat, not very polite!” But the green energy industry gains will be appreciated and soon supported.

How to best engage with Republicans: “We need to speak a lot about what unites us, we are all experiencing climate change; for instance wildfire smoke impacts both rich and poor. We need everyone in on this, Republicans too, so it’s important not to have “cancel culture” or signals that ‘you are passe’.”

Candidate Interview, for Pierce County Council District 5, Marty Campbell

[Video on our website](#)

Introduction by Elly Claus-McGahan

Councilmember Campbell is now vice-chair of the **Pierce County Council** and hopes to be chairman next year. He has made big efforts behind electrification and roads.

Questions:

1. Now that there is federal money specifically earmarked for combating climate change, what projects are already in the works that need federal funding? What priorities and other projects do you envision to bring (climate) federal funding to Pierce County?

I think when it comes to federal funding we are going to see it on several fronts in Pierce County. A big one will be flood control. We are very unique in the nation in that we are dealing with not only rising sea levels but also melting glaciers. We have the largest elevation difference of any county in the US, in fact.

Another important area is culvert removal and replacement. Removing fish barriers and replacing bridges and roads will be very expensive. We made terrible mistakes regarding salmon needs when we built our road system and now urgently need to correct them.

Another area is vehicle electrification. Again Pierce County is unique here, we own a ferry system, an airfield at Gig Harbor, and roads; transportation on sea, air, and land. Electrification of aviation is coming; how can we be part of the forefront with workers who are ready? So we can be preparing for electrification in ways many other counties can't, thus qualify for funds.

We also need to be sure that we also extending that network to zero emission non-vehicle principles; safety for walkers, cyclists. Will qualify for federal money for programs to add bike paths and lanes and more crosswalks.

Besides these large capital projects, also just need funding to expand solar projects, etc.

Most important is to be sure we are ready to find a grant, identify it, and have the organization that can move it through.

2. PC Sustainability 2030 is a GHG emission reduction plan. How will you help the council move the ball faster to see a measurable reduction in GHG emissions by the next inventory?

Keeping vehicle electrification on the forefront. Electrifying airplanes--many here are medium-range. We have so much truck traffic through here, we could be a test pilot for electric semis. Inslee says he wants 2035 to be the end of gasoline cars in WA-- how can we be the county that leads on that?

Decarbonization of homes is the other main lever we have. That conversation is beginning.

3. What is your plan for bringing green, renewable energy jobs and industries to the county? As part of that, there is an opportunity for Washington to become a green hydrogen hub and Tacoma already has an interested customer. What will you do to make that happen?

Making sure we keep it on the forefront. Provide incentives, tax credits for businesses who bring green jobs to the area, including the Port.

Supportive but cautious of green hydrogen. There's a place for it. Created from so much water and not every community has ample water. We need a lot more research on it.

4. Transportation is the sector with the highest GHG emissions, and freight traffic particulate pollution is responsible for health care costs related to lung diseases, heart attacks, and premature deaths as the TPCHD health equity map shows. Then there's simply traffic congestion. What does Pierce County's transportation future look like to you?

We need to make sure that we are moving forward on several fronts simultaneously. We are working on making our urban areas more walkable, more bikeable so people who want to be without a car have that opportunity. We are building out and expanding our public transit

networks at the same time as buying electric buses. We need public transit in greater areas with greater frequency, we need to improve on this.

Warehouses are coming to areas that have been designated industrial/commercial for a very long time. Meant to attract manufacturing, high paying family-wage jobs. I have been noticing a shift several years ago to warehouses and said that “jobs per acre” should be high to be approved. For instance, a solar panel manufacturer bringing a hundred jobs per acre vs a warehouse that bring five jobs per acre. We seem to be headed to “warehouse capital of the world” because of our location and the global economy. I am frustrated by that, but I do not have an answer for that.

5. The Tideflats subarea plan is of huge interest to many stakeholders. As a council member what will you be looking for in terms of how the port develops to accommodate the 10,000 additional jobs laid out in the PSRC planning target?

Bring in green jobs and maritime-oriented industries--we have the facilities for that. Let's maximize what we are good at. Make sure that we are applying a very green filter to everything we do at the Port, because it lies right on some of our most precious resources. We need to make sure we are cleaning up or remediating the toxins, the problems of the past, and putting in green businesses that drive us to a better future.