

February 2023 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Nancy Atwood, Barbara Menne, Chuck Jensen, Sue Lepore, Ginny Lohr, Mustafa Haziq, Elly Claus-McGahan, Linda Cohan, Mary Forman, Marti Lambert, John Platt, Carolyn Queener, John Doherty.

This ZOOM meeting screen was enhanced with closed captioning.

Action Team Reports

Tabling, Linda Cohan—Meetings for organizing materials and training for the upcoming tabling season are now on the fourth Tuesday at noon and second Saturday morning at 9. The next meeting is **Tuesday 2/28 at noon**. Our January meetings focused on updating our flyers, visual boards, and handouts with excellent graphics provided by CCL National. We also started watching their video training sessions about CCL's new areas of focus.

Our next known tabling event is the **Tacoma Sustainability Expo** which will be on **Earth Day, April 22** at the **UW Tacoma campus**. But we have confirmed that we can legally table in any city park on any day and time of our choosing. Ideas about when to do this, or other venues to consider, or to join the tabling committee, please notify [Linda Cohan](#). All are welcome!

Lobbying, Elly Claus-McGahan—There's a meeting with **Casey Duff**, staffer for **Senator Maria Cantwell, 2pm Tuesday, Feb. 21**, on Zoom. We've met with him before, and he is quite interested in climate issues and openly communicative. We've had an organizational meeting along with CCL members from Olympia and Bainbridge who are attending. Contact [Elly Claus-McGahan](#) if you'd like to attend in a non-speaker role.

Clip from CCL National January Monthly Call, Joe Robinson

He is the Executive Director of **CCL International**. He reported on the connectedness between national and international climate policy. There was praise for the **IRA** at the recent **World Economic Forum**, where the head of the **World Trade Organization** said trade partners should negotiate with the U.S., not file formal grievances (on domestic subsidies) and the head of the **International Monetary Fund** said that "speed is the essential ingredient now, domestically-focused subsidies can help make global trade climate smart."

His stories of the particular challenges of CCL group leaders and volunteers in Africa during the pandemic was truly eye-opening. In response to the dangerous crises; food shortages, criminal gangs, they became community organizers. It revealed the bigger picture—that "resilience is a baseline imperative; everyone, everywhere deserves to be safe from harm." Watch his informative speech [here](#). (start at minute 27)

2023 State Legislative Session Report

We discussed how we were doing in promoting bills online, an action we focused on in the January meeting. Some members were trying it for the first time and were doing well! To see

the step-by-step directions again, they are on the website--click [here](#). It was suggested that if we want to go further, we can send comments to committee members and even staff too.

Chuck Jensen has been glad to be back to lobbying in person in Olympia this year. He gave a report on the major climate bills so far and their prospects. After Friday the 17th, we will know which ones have passed to the next level.

WRAP ACT (HB1131/SB5154), Washington Recycling and Packaging Act, would put more responsibility on manufacturers to address the plastic waste crisis. It will repair the recycling system (now hovers at 50%) and introduce a beverage deposit (10c) program, which has been working well in Oregon. It's a high priority bill, a jobs bill, with great advocacy.

Climate components to update the **GMA Growth Management Act** (HB1181/SB5203) just barely missed passing last year). Comprehensive planning for how we develop, how we cluster housing, to address climate and environmental justice concerns. High priority, likely to pass.

HB1329/SB5366-- Prevents utility shutoffs for nonpayment during extreme heat. (mirrors a state law already in place during extreme cold)

HB1170/SB5093--Improving climate resilience in frontline communities.

HB1176/SB5247-- Creating the **Climate Corps**, an equity-centered workforce development for clean energy jobs.

HB1368/SB5431—Requiring and funding the purchase of zero emission school buses beginning in 2035.

Main Activity: Replacing old climate stories with new positive narratives for public outreach to create public will for climate action.

We started with an overview of an outstanding [article](#) on this topic by **Rebecca Solnit**, "If you win the popular imagination, you change the game: why we need new stories on climate. In order to do what the climate crisis demands of us, we have to find stories of a livable future, stories of popular power, stories that motivate people to do what it takes to make the world we need. We can't erase the bad news, but to ignore the good is the route to indifference or despair."

Why is it so important to foster hope vs despair?

Motivation. If overwhelmed, apathetic and hopeless, we won't act. "Our action or inaction will determine how much more loss will occur." Danger of a self-fulfilling prophecy. Grief and fear are natural reactions to this emergency, but to stay stuck in those emotions is counter-productive. **One of CCL's core values is optimism!**

Why do we find the grim easier to believe?

Media emphasis, self-protective posture, general cynicism. There IS a lot of "grim" in this! Ignoring the good news may appear to be "realistic," but actually ignores an entire side of the situation, downplaying important successes. Paying due attention to those successes gives us

useful information about strategies and methods to emulate. (When we say positive “stories,” we don’t mean fiction, these narratives are based on scientific facts and current events)

Is the public aware and concerned about climate?

Yes, but they don’t know how to help. They think they are in the minority, yet several recent polls including [Yale’s Six Americas](#) have found that over 2/3 of Americans want to see more government action on climate, and true climate deniers are now rare. What they need now are energizing and inspiring reports of collective action, legislative successes, and technical breakthroughs. *And clear ways to take action!*

Group discussion

We took a few common discouraging narratives that are outdated and/or inaccurate and *“busted those myths!”*

1) It’s too late and the problem is too big

Comments—

“If you work for change with people in your community, it makes you feel that you are tackling the problem”

“Use local examples—we see more EVs on the road now, Lakewood activists pushed an ordinance to get 40% tree coverage by 2050, Tacoma Tree Foundation’s success, and

“US Oil is going ahead with the green hydrogen project, to supply JBLM with cleaner fuel in the future”

“Talk to some young people, they are aware yet hopeful”

“David Wallace-Wells (NYT columnist), who described an extremely dire scenario in his scathing **The Uninhabitable Earth** (2019), has recently and surprisingly changed his outlook to something much more hopeful”

“A lot of successful research is going on because there’s money to be made”

“New Zealand ban on fishing in some waters was so successful that the fish population made a widespread comeback, and the fishers had even greater catches than before. CA is copying this success story”

2) We’d have to give up normal life

Comments—

“What about what you have to gain? Clean air, no floods or extreme heat. You could go for a walk any day of the year. We are not leading a normal life now!”

“What about how much easier it is to have an EV, no oil changes, no buying gas?”

“Normal for whom? We could move toward a more equitable distribution of the good life”

“What is normal anyway, there is no normal, it is always changing”

“Watch the movie **2040** which is extremely well done and shows the positive future we can build for ourselves. It is mythical that we have to give stuff up. Life can be better for more people”

3) We can't afford the transition, it will hurt jobs and the economy

Comments--

"In terms of jobs, the fossil fuel industry is not labor intensive, whereas the clean energy industry is very labor intensive and creates jobs."

"EVs are cheaper to run, show people a chart showing that (1 ½ cents per mile)

"We can't afford NOT to, the disasters cost us billions, not to mention the lives lost"

"Cost of renewables has lowered exponentially since the early days"

4) Individuals are responsible (if we would just recycle more, fly less)

Comments—

"Myth started by fossil fuel companies to keep us scrutinizing ourselves and each other rather than them!"

"Individual lifestyle choices alone won't do enough, we only have personal control over about 1/3 of emissions, large polluters must be changed too"

"Advocate together for systemic change, collective action will make a bigger difference

5) Have to fix everything or it's pointless

Comments—

"Stories of premature defeat, pitting the perfect vs the good, like pointing out the negatives in mining for lithium. They are now researching non-lithium materials for batteries, recycling of batteries, etc. And mining of fossil fuels is just as bad and on a huger scale."

"We don't stop trying to cure people of cancer just because we can't cure everyone"

"Don't expect a Hollywood ending, it's more of a relay race, a little bit at a time"

"Every little bit is worth doing, all we can save, even if not saving it all

"There's no silver bullet, just silver buckshot"

"Don't ignore present day solutions while waiting for perfect future solutions"

6) Lack of success/defeats are discouraging

Comments—

"Defeats can still move the dial along, like when Inslee ran for president, he lost but his platform was very influential, much of it has been taken up by the Biden administration now"

"The New Green Deal failed to pass, but it changed the conversation, showing that climate action is a job creator"

"Concept of **avulsion**--over time, objects falling into a river can change its course completely.

We can repeatedly throw things into 'the river of the way things have always been' and change its course!"