

June 2023 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Barbara Menne, Chuck Jensen, Ginny Lohr, Elly Claus-McGahan, Jason Berkowitz, John Doherty, Marissa Jeffords, Mustafa Haziq, Nancy Atwood, Sue Lepore.

This ZOOM meeting screen was enhanced with closed captioning.

Clip from CCL National Call

Speaker, Bill McKibben (author, co-founder of **350.org**, founder of **Third Act**)

[Watch full talk on YouTube](#)

"If we are going to be serious about **permitting reform** there are a couple of important caveats to bear in mind:"

- 1) **climate test**--"it makes no sense to make it easier to build pipelines, LNG terminals, all the things that scientists have told us we can't build more of, so 'even-handed' permitting reform is contrary to the laws of physics at this point."
- 2) **fairness test**—"any kind of permitting reform needs to come with a fairness test . We know who has taken it on the chin all along from our energy system, who's been living next to everything that's no good in our society, so they should get an extra level of say and protection about what happens going forward. Indigenous communities, environmental justice communities-- it's really important to listen to them and to protect their interests."
- 3) **community ownership**—"make it easier to build projects that have community ownership, at least in part, and have a system not reliant on giant energy corporations forever." This helped make the Danish transition to wind energy work so well; local communities, schools, labor unions, were invested in and took ownership of a lot of those projects. It makes attitudes much more positive--"it doesn't feel like some alien thing intruding on the landscape, but rather something you've bought into quite literally yourself."

"We have an extraordinary amount of stuff to build, and that's going to be much of the work of the next decade or two, figuring out how to make that transition. There's 140 million homes in this country and maybe a billion machines that have to be changed out. It's a different task from a lot of the ones we've been engaged in, and an exciting task, one that allows us to do all sorts of good things--**but we have to do it with justice at the forefront, we have to do it together, and we have to do it fast.**"

Action Team Reports

Tabling, Linda Cohan—Tacoma Ocean Fest--It was a gorgeous day and a festive venue! The coloring craft attracted kids and held them for a while so that we could talk to the parents, and they could take a look at our signs, it's a good strategy. Chats with the little kids about clean energy (vague on the meaning of "pollution") and with older kids about salmon (they knew a lot) shows the really mixed level of education on climate issues, and an opportunity to work with that. The "Six Americas" interactive felt board continues to attract and help people realize

that they are actually in the majority if they're worried about climate change. This may give them more courage to talk to people about it, one of the most essential activities we can do. Many thanks to [Linda Cohan](#), **Chuck Jensen**, and other tabling committee members!

Lobbying, Chuck Jensen—He and **John Doherty** and **Ginny Lohr** are preparing for a meeting with Rep. **Jake Fey**, particularly to discuss the **Puget Sound Energy** issue (brought up by **Don Marsh** of the **Washington Clean Energy Coalition** at our May meeting.) [See details and the petition.](#)

Speaker, Christine Cooley

Chrissy Cooley is a good friend of **CCL Tacoma**. She has been the Climate Resiliency Program Manager of the **Pierce Conservation District**, the Water Quality and Protection Program Manager of the **Tacoma-Pierce Co. Health Dept**, Vice-chair of the Board of **Tacoma Public Utilities**, and is now the **Executive Director** of the [Puget Sound Clean Air Agency](#). Headquartered in Seattle, with 70 employees, it covers the four counties of King, Pierce, Snohomish, and Kitsap, working to reduce air pollution at the direct source. **The Agency's 2030 Strategic Plan** available here: <https://www.pscleanair.gov/DocumentCenter/View/5038/2030-Strategic-Plan-Final>
This summary is a blend of Chrissy's comments with quotes from the Strategic Plan.

The Agency's mission:

"We preserve, protect and enhance air quality and public health, enforce the Clean Air Act, support policies that reduce climate change, and partner with communities to do this work equitably."

The Agency was founded in 1967, before the federal [Clean Air Act](#) was passed in 1970! Just another example of how Washington state is ahead of the curve, and an inspiration to continue to be a national model on environment in the future. "Since 2014 we have embraced technology advances to vastly increase real-time air pollution data available on our map from 25 to over 500 sensors across the four-counties. We have piloted incentive programs that effectively swap out polluting technologies with zero-emission ones, setting the stage to take those programs to scale."

"With emerging air monitoring technologies that are smaller in size and increasingly affordable, the public has been more able to collect data regarding their local air quality. Through the Agency's monitoring and engagement support actions, we will work to ensure that **overburdened communities** have opportunities to gather their own air quality information."

"The Agency enforces air quality regulations based on the federal and state **Clean Air Acts**. We also conduct education and outreach, monitor and analyze air quality, and secure funding to

encourage air pollution reduction and disparity reduction projects.” Criteria pollutants include **particulate matter, ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and lead.**

Regional goals:

- **Air pollution overall** drops by 20% from 2022 to 2030, and the annual economic impact of air pollution health effects drops by \$500 million - \$1 billion.
- **Socioeconomic disparities** in air pollution exposure are cut in half from 2022 to 2030.
- **Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions** in the Puget Sound region drop by 50% compared to 1990 levels overall (and the region is on a trajectory to achieve the state goal of 95% below 1990 levels by 2050)
- **Cancer risk from toxic air pollutants** reduces by 50% from 2022 to 2030, especially in overburdened communities.

Diesel pollution—“diesel particulate matter is highly toxic, contributing over 70% of the potential cancer risk from all air toxics in our region.” To help: accelerate the adoption of zero-emission vehicles and equipment for trucking, rail, marine, and port terminal partners. Share information about the risks of diesel pollution and how to reduce exposure, especially in overburdened communities.

Woodsmoke pollution—“in some areas, woodsmoke accounts for over 50% of winter fine particle pollution.” Burn bans and replacing older, higher-polluting wood stoves with cleaner-burning new ones will help.

The Agency has a lot of overlap with the state Dept. of Ecology. It will coordinate IRA spending, taking on the role of the EPA. New climate policies at federal and state levels like Justice 40, the Zero emission vehicle Mandate, the Clean Fuel Standard, the Climate Commitment Act, and Building Code changes will help tremendously in meeting its goals.

Your questions or comments are welcome! christinec@psccleanair.gov.

Announcements

Ginny Lohr--National CCL Conference in Washington, D.C. June 10. She noticed the greater diversity and the larger numbers of young people this year, especially high- and middle-schoolers, and to a lesser extent, college students. Washington State CCL was well represented. Permitting reform is a huge topic, and it does appear that something bipartisan will go forward. (In fact, there should be about 20 different bills introduced on that!)

Ambassador Francis Rooney was quite an inspirational keynote speaker, see the [video](#). An [EICDA](#)-like carbon pricing bill should be introduced very soon, the goal is to get a Republican cosponsor. Keep your fingers crossed! She went to some good lobby meetings with WA Reps **Derek Kilmer** and **Pramila Jayapal**, and a Democratic Senator from New Mexico.

The **WA State CCL Conference** will be held in person on **Sept. 22-24** at the [Rainbow Lodge Retreat Center](#) in **North Bend**. A beautiful facility and location, a great educational,

networking, and social event! People can attend on an overnight basis or as a daily commute (about a 40-50 minute drive). **Larry Steele** is the coordinator and is inviting input at generositymtn@gmail.com.

**The CCL Tacoma annual potluck picnic will be July 19, from 5:30 to dusk,
at Point Defiance Park***

**Bring: a potluck dish to share, table service, and a folding chair. Bring your own
drink or enjoy our provided lemonade or water.**

Families welcome! Social gathering only, not a business meeting.

******(Directions in the park: do the loop past the Pagoda, past the garden entrances, and just past the Rose Garden, look for the **CCL** sign in the open area to the left under the big trees. We will be about 40 yards from the road, at the picnic tables).

Elly Claus-McGahan-- [Climate Pierce County](#) just hosted their initial “Climate Conversation” meeting in Puyallup. 11 cities and the Puyallup tribe sent councilmembers and representatives, about 40 people in all. There was a lot of excitement about keeping it going in the future. Still missing a lot of small municipalities such as Orting, Bonney Lake, Buckley, Eatonville, and Sumner. Chrissy was there, talking about an EPA [Climate Pollution Reduction Grant](#) they could use in multiple ways. An expert on the [Clean Buildings Act](#) was there, the fact that there will be penalties if cities don’t comply with energy saving features in buildings by 2026 was really eye-opening, and lots of discussion ensued. The [Peak Sustainability Group](#) from Whatcom County shared their database lining up cities’ interests with available grants and their deadlines. A lot of potential for using this in Pierce Co. and it would be even better if municipalities could collaborate, they would have a better chance of getting the funds.

Barbara Menne—We intend to invite candidates to speak at our August and September meetings, so everyone’s “homework” is to look at the various races and candidates and to give input on which ones to focus on.