

## January 2022 Meeting Minutes

**Attending:** Nancy Atwood, Barbara Menne, Chuck Jensen, Elly Claus-McGahan, Sue Lepore, Linda Cohan, Marti Lambert, Ginny Lohr, Jim Tuttle, John Doherty, Adrian Lavergne, Jerry Broadus.

This ZOOM meeting was enhanced with closed captioning.

In our introductory section, when we each talked about how membership in CCL Tacoma has enriched us, the most frequent words were *friendships, support, camaraderie*.

### CCL National Call Clip

#### The Status of Build Back Better on the Reconciliation Bill

From **Jen Tyler**, CCL Director of Government Affairs:

We never expected this to drag out so long, but there has been progress and our efforts do matter. We are entering a new round of negotiations, a price on carbon is “not dead!” Senator Manchin feels that the climate provisions of BBB are the least controversial and easiest to find agreement on. A price on carbon is still an uphill battle but we have reports that Senator Manchin has not closed the door on that; our WV CCL folks are doing great work! “Most likely we are looking at a 2-3 month timeline”(so much on Congress’s plate—voting rights, budget, State of the Union, dealing with COVID). Look at the victories: getting nearly every Democratic Senator in favor of a carbon price is a huge one and shows how important our outreach has been. Need to keep up pressure on the White House which appears to remain a weak spot. “With or without a price (on carbon) this is going to be the largest climate investment in our nation’s history either way.”

### Action Team Reports

**\*Lobbying, Elly Claus-McGahan**—She is working as **Senator Patty Murray’s** co-liaison statewide to prepare for the most effective relationship/meetings with her and/or her aide **Christine Nahn**. Ideas like finding a connection between climate and her interests (human services, health, veterans, education).

Please let her know if you would like to participate in any of the following lobby meetings:

Murray staff **Christine Nahn** on Thursday, Feb.3, 1pm

**Senator Maria Cantwell’s aide, Casey Duff**, soon.

**Fircrest** city councilmembers, **Nancy Atwood** is heading that up.

**Tacoma** city councilmembers, there are some new ones.

CCL national is not holding the regular lobby meetings in March. But the **CCL June National Conference** in D.C. will be in person on June 12-14, and it’s a very exciting and inspiring trip to make. **Climate Pierce County** is working on outreach to smaller towns to get climate in their comprehensive plans for 2023. For instance, Orting and Bonney Lake could focus on wildfires.

**\*Social media, Sue Lepore and Adrian Lavergne--Ginny Lohr** is doing a great job with **Facebook** but would like some help. We would like to increase our social media presence to include Twitter and Instagram. More varied forms of outreach will strengthen our chapter. A meeting will be scheduled soon to discuss our goals and procedures in this. Please come with your thoughts even if you don't intend to participate in the implementation!

**\*Linda Cohan, Tabling**—The **Tacoma Sustainability Expo** will be on April 16<sup>th</sup>, outdoors at the UWT campus. We hope to add an **En-ROADS** presentation to the booth. For future opportunities, perhaps we could just set up in a city park? Go by our own schedule, have good weather. Linda would like more help, she plans to step down from tabling chair. Meanwhile, the work could continue by committee, dividing up the tasks.

**\*Sue Lepore, Study Group**—We are enjoying informal discussions each month that focus on current climate articles that we share. Please join us at our next meeting Wed., Feb. 2, noon.

## **WA Climate Legislation Overview--2022 Short Session**

Many great climate bills passed last year: **Climate Commitment Act, HEAL Act, Clean Fuels Standard, Single Use Plastics, Hydrofluorocarbon pollution (HB1050)**

### **New bills:**

**Growth Management Act (HB1099)** Prospects are good that it will pass this year

Fastest-growing counties and cities must now account for climate change in their plans and policies. Required to lower vehicle miles traveled, meet state goals for GHG emissions reduction. Required to address climate impacts of climate hazards on people, property and natural areas. Fosters resiliency to climate impacts.

### **GMA Amendment (SB5042)**

Closes a sprawl loophole for developers in the GMA so that all review processes must be finished before developers can begin to build.

**Cash for Lawn Clunkers Act. (SB 5543).** Now in Ways and Means, moving along well

Gas powered mowers contribute 5% of US air pollution. Americans used 3B gallons of gasoline on lawn equipment (2018 estimate). Running a gas mower for 1 hour equals driving a car for 300 miles, and 1 hour using a leaf blower equals driving 1100 miles! Lawn equipment emits nitrogen oxides, particulate matter, carbon dioxide and other pollutants.

Bill establishes a zero-emission incentive and exchange program, at least one operable gas-powered piece of landscaping equipment must be scrapped to qualify for rebate.

**Lorraine Loomis Act for Salmon Recovery (HB1838)** Out of committee, trying again next year

Proposed by Governor Inslee in tribute to a recently deceased Swinomish tribal elder who was NW Indian Tribal Fisheries Commission chair.

The salmon population being in severe decline, this bill focuses on restoring salmon habitat by requiring riparian borders along over 2K miles of WA streams and rivers to shade and cool the water. Cold water is critical for salmon survival.

There is a lot of passionate opposition from landowners, although the bill provides money for compliance and has hardship exemptions.

### **Healthy Homes & Clean Buildings Act, 2021**, reworked for 2022

**HB1766**—Changes how gas companies are regulated to achieve emissions reductions

**HB1767**—Allows public electric utilities to offer incentives for conversion from FF to electric appliances

**HB1770**--Requires all new construction to be “net-zero ready” by 2035 (no natural gas for space & water heating)

**HB1774**—Expand building energy performance standards in existing buildings

### **Useful Resources to Keep Up with Commenting on Bills**

A hotlist from the Environmental Priorities Commission--Coalition of over 20 environmental groups in WA that select joint priority issues to highlight for residents

<https://www.tfaforms.com/4956737>

From 350 WA--Uses recommendations from concerned organizations to put commenting opportunities before residents

[info@350wa.org](mailto:info@350wa.org)

### **Adrian Lavergne--His Lobby Work as UWT Student**

He was the legislative liaison for the **University of Washington Tacoma**, representing all the students on campus there, lobbying for whatever would benefit them: childcare, financial aid, protecting the WA state college grants, and the environment. The **Climate Commitment Act** was a major bill they lobbied for.

The majority of his work entailed speaking directly to state senators and representatives and trying to rally students to give their testimony. He was on the executive committee of the **WA Student Association**, a lobby organization made up of 15 colleges. Students wouldn't know how to navigate the WA state legislature's clunky website and testify, so he made social media graphics to simplify the process. It is important to make these actions accessible for others; simple and quick.

*(He was in the National Guard, and actually got deployed to protect the state capital during the riots last year when he needed to be inside lobbying!)*

### **John Doherty**

We enjoyed listening to one of **John Doherty's** “Climate Minutes!” These and his climate radio program “Climate Talk” air on two Radio stations, **Radio Tacoma** and the **Voice of Vashon**. The website has a [link](#).

Before adjourning, we talked about ideas for future meetings:

--Consider topics such as the Pierce County Climate Action Plan, or nuclear/fusion energy?

--Include creative elements like poetry or music?