

July 2022 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Nancy Atwood, Barbara Menne, Chuck Jensen, Sue Lepore, Ginny Lohr, Elly Claus-McGahan, John Doherty, Jim Tuttle, Linda Cohan.

This ZOOM meeting screen was enhanced with closed captioning.

This month's chapter meeting followed the **PNW Regional Chat** with **Madeleine Para** which took place on Zoom during the previous hour, attended by many of us. See a full summary of that chat below.

(Minutes of our brief chapter business meeting are on page 3).

PNW Regional Chat with **CCL Executive Director Madeleine Para**

The intention of this chat is for her to get a sense of what's on our minds, so ask her anything, especially about future CCL policy and advocacy issues.

First, the breaking news! Senators Manchin and Schumer have struck a last-minute surprise deal in the Reconciliation process called the [Inflation Reduction Act 2022](#). It has some climate elements but we don't know what they are yet. (Quite sure there will be no carbon fee and dividend, however). We should know details in a day or two, then can study it and decide if we support it (we probably will). They say it will reduce emissions by 40% by 2030—this is very unlikely.

Q—Will any Republicans like this?

A—Even if they do, they won't admit it.

Future plans:

Focusing on **election work** is the "smartest and most strategic way to work for climate now in a nonpartisan way." We are trying to get climate in front of voters and candidates and showing up more in the polls. Also increasing voter turnout, working with [Environmental Voter Project](#) to turn environmentalists into dedicated voters at every election.

Chapters might enjoy getting together in person again, if deemed safe, for these activities.

Q(John Doherty)—What are the guidelines for doing election work and staying bipartisan under the auspices of CCL?

A--Just don't actually endorse or campaign for individual candidates as CCL members. (As individuals, of course, you can and should do as much of that as you please!). Get out the vote activities and candidate forums are fine as CCL.

What are we doing the rest of the year?

Thanks to CCL volunteer efforts, carbon fee and dividend (cfd) is well-known and recognized now--even implemented; for instance, in Canada.

But now that cfd seems to be “dead” in Congress we are in the process of broadening our focus into complementary, bipartisan areas to give us more opportunities to push other good climate legislation. We have to study the details really carefully; it will take some time to flesh this out. These new areas--**green energy economy** and **natural resources** --also provide opportunities to collaborate and form relationships with multiple well-established groups, expand our bipartisan network, and benefit from their strength.

Q—I applaud the diversification and feel that it is needed to make progress, but what about **agriculture** as a focus? There’s a lot of interest and new approaches, particularly applied to the 300 million acres of commodity farms.

A—It was an area we studied, and it was a close call, but it got a more mixed reaction than forests. There is an AG bill coming up (with forestry) so we can look at that.

Q(Chuck Jensen)—What about the use of **executive actions**?

A—Sometimes they are necessary (ie. Sequoias), but it is better politically if it’s legislation, not an executive order, which doesn’t “stick” as well.

Q--What are some examples of ways that we should **collaborate with other groups**? Tree-planting with others locally?

A--Yes, that would be great! I am having lots of conversations with national groups; [American Forests](#) is a great one. Also looking into the [EcoRight](#) movement of conservative environmentalists. [Renew America](#) (anti-Trump Republicans and third-party advocates) works to strengthen democracy. We might support or work together with these groups at times when our interests mesh, emphasizing our bipartisan approach.

Q--What if we are worried that we won’t have a **democracy** any more in 2024?

A--VOTE! Part of who we are is listeners and encouragers. We need to encourage people who feel like giving up to stay engaged.

Q--It seems like **methane reduction** would be a better focus, as a low-hanging fruit and short-term win.

A--It really seemed like it was going to pass anyway, it still might be part of the package. It is very important and not off the table.

Q--A lot of money seems to be going to **nuclear power**--what is CCL’s stance on that?

A-- CCL is neutral on nuclear. We resist “picking winners and losers.” But lately there seems to be a change in the way that membership is leaning--more in favor of nuclear. There is a lot of interest in it and its new technologies. We now have a [Nuclear Energy Action Team](#) at CCL. **EcoRight** groups are really supportive of it.

Q--Will there be a new [EICDA](#) bill introduced in 2023, with perhaps a higher starting fee and interest rate?

A-- The fact that there were 96 (all Democrat) cosponsors in 2022 was a real triumph. But for next year, the conditions are probably wrong. It’s up to Congress, of course, but with such a

focus on **inflation**, most will be leery, and won't support it, or if they do it won't be the same bill at all. [CBAMs \(Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanisms\)](#), however, will be supported by both parties. There's a lot of conversation about this, and it may lead to renewed strength for cfd.

Q--Advice on dealing with **350.org**, that doesn't like cfd?

A--Remember that we all want the same outcome, and we can ask, "can you please at least not oppose it?" Emphasize the history and relationships between our groups that may exist in some local areas. We are colleagues; we shouldn't get in each other's way.

Q--What actions should we take at tabling this weekend?

A--Ask people to call their Senators, encourage them to vote for the **Inflation Reduction Act** next week!

CCL Tacoma Chapter business meeting

The **potluck picnic** (cancelled because of excessive heat), has been rescheduled for **Wednesday, Aug. 3rd, at 5:30** at the [Rosa Franklin Park](#) picnic shelter. A letter with details was sent out to the membership.

We plan to hold a quick chapter meeting at the picnic, so we discussed agenda items such as a presentation of a **General Yearly Calendar of Activities** (soon to be featured on the website), a demonstration of clip-boarding and of new tabling materials, and information promoting volunteer work with the [Environmental Voter Project](#).

Tabling at [Fircrest National Night Out](#) will take place on Tuesday August 2nd, from 6-9pm. An effort is underway to start frequent clip-boarding at farmers' markets, parks, etc. The emphasis right now will be on voter registration and bringing climate into prominence as an election issue.