

October 2021 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Nancy Atwood, Barbara Menne, Chuck Jensen, Sue Lepore, Pete Weymiller, Linda Cohan, Elly Claus-McGahan, Marti Lambert, Mary Forman, Ginny Lohr, Hezekiah Rust, Jim Tuttle, Jason Berkowitz, Cody Cook, Malakay Betor, Mason Burns, Becky Crompton, Hilly Kravitz, Karen Rogers, Marsha Maupoux, Ted Larson Freeman, Brett Johnson, Jennifer Wohl, Francine Chinitz, Aure Engstrom.

Announcements:

The **CCL National November Conference (online)**, “Grit and Gratitude,” will be on Saturday Nov. 13 from 10am-1pm and Sunday Nov. 14 from 10am on (seminars). You can register [HERE](#). The keynote speaker is marine biologist **Ayana Elizabeth Johnson**, the co-editor of **All We Can Save**, a collection of essays by women on the front lines of the climate movement.

Tacoma Climate Action Plan update from **Elly Claus-McGahan**, who is on the **Sustainable Tacoma Commission-- City Council** is currently scheduled to review the draft **CAP** at their Nov.9 study session. Our chapter sent a letter of endorsement (written by Elly) to **City Council** for this far-reaching plan to get our community to net zero by 2050 with full emphasis on climate justice. Once adopted, the plan’s execution will be assessed frequently by the **Commission**.

CCL National Call Clip

Mark Reynolds—Members are continually breaking records with outreach and media! Thanks for the great response to the most recent campaign to contact President Biden encouraging him to include a carbon price and dividend in the reconciliation package. A new option to tweet him as well: *Want to use Twitter? “Log in to your account at twitter.com, and, where it says “What’s happening?”, type. @DearPOTUS46 and your message and add a photo of something important to you. When you’re finished, click the blue Tweet button. That’s it!”*

Ben Pendergrass –The word from members of the Senate finance committee is that the reconciliation bill is likely to have a carbon price. What a tremendous milestone that would be, and CCL “can take a lot of credit for raising climate as an issue and making it a top priority for Congress.” We are not there yet, and nobody knows exactly what the final reconciliation package will look like. It’s a very dynamic process right now, with fluid timelines. CCL is working with an ever-growing coalition of groups for a carbon price and demonstrating the depth of grassroots support. Sen. Manchin has not slammed the door on a carbon price (it could be structured in a way that would benefit WV).

Action Team Reports:

Tabling, Linda Cohan—[FIRfest](#) will take place on Saturday Nov. 6, 10am-12pm. It’s a tree-giveaway and tree-planting event at **Fircrest Park**. We will have a table, not a booth, and can move indoors if it rains. We will set up at 9:30am. Contact [Linda Cohan](#) if attending.

Letters to the Editor, Chuck Jensen—A letter is in the works—a group effort by **Mary and Robert Forman** and the **CCL Olympia** chapter.

Lobbying and endorsements, Elly Claus-McGahan—A meeting has been set up with **Casey Duff, Senator Maria Cantwell**'s staffer, for Thursday Nov. 4, at 1 pm (Zoom). Let [Elly](#) know if you want to attend. Another **Cantwell** meeting, on Nov. 16 at 11 am, may just be a grass-tops event, more to come on that. There is a meeting with **Representative Derek Kilmer** on Nov. 17 at 12:30 pm. November lobby meetings with **Representative Marilyn Strickland** and **Senator Patty Murray** or their aides are possible, more information coming soon.

Climate Pierce County (an umbrella group including **CCL Tacoma**) is concerned about the proposed huge expansion of **Canyon Road** for increased truck traffic between Frederickson and the Port. This would lead to sprawl, which is so destructive of farmland, local food production, and a healthy environment.

Featured Speaker

John Perona, CCL Portland member, Portland State Univ. faculty, author of **From Knowledge to Power: The Comprehensive Handbook for Climate Science and Advocacy** to be published next month. [Book website](#)

Dr. Perona, a professor in Environmental Biochemistry and Law, gave a general overview of his book and then took questions. The book website has excerpts, fuller details, charts and graphs. "The book fills an important niche, since there is no other detailed synthesis of the climate field written specifically for committed layperson activists." The scope is as comprehensive as possible for the national current day climate field but does not treat international climate issues or give a historical background.

Ideas for effective advocacy are spread throughout the book. The author has been an active CCL lobbyist since 2013 and has discovered its powerful role. "Decision-makers can sometimes be surprisingly ill-informed. We climate lobbyists can be a resource for them."

Organization of the Book:

- 1) Science: Earth's climate, Basic science, Climate Models & Carbon Budgets, Impacts of Climate Change, Denialism
- 2) Fossil Fuel Industry: Business and Politics, Roadmaps for the Energy Transition
- 3) Policy solutions: Carbon Pricing, Electricity—Technology and Policy, Industry/Buildings/Cities /Transportation, Carbon Removal (natural/industrial)
- 4) Advocacy: Strategies/Organizations/Narratives, Opportunities and Inspiration

Policy and Politics:

The book takes an emissions-centered approach. What should we do? All of the above, except fossil fuels—including nuclear power, carbon pricing, carbon capture and storage, and hydrogen technology. Keep equity at the forefront of the conversation, seek political compromise between moderates and progressives, and *"don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good."*

Other Comments:

In regard to a very recent graph of the **Rhodium Group's Joint Action Scenario**:

“We can succeed without a carbon tax or clean energy payments! We will get some kind of carbon tax, but even if we didn't, the combinations of **Senator Wydens'** clean energy tax credits, all the spending on clean energy grants, subsidies for EVs, electric grid infrastructure, aggressive regulations, and work in the states is enough to get us there by 2030. After that, we need to bring the new technologies to bear to get farther.”

It is time for a different kind of advocacy—focusing on the problematic details, how to really ramp up clean energy. Siting of new facilities is problematic, there is resistance to so much land for solar and wind, there are transmission bottlenecks. In particular, we must put a lot of effort into transmitting the (solar and wind) power from less populated Midsection areas to urban and coastal areas.

A big surprise to him was how much we are going to need to rely on industrial carbon capture sequestration, despite its drawbacks, to really clean things up long-term. Natural sequestration, such as reforestation, “doesn't do as much as we'd hoped.”

Selected Questions and Answers:

EV's: Very optimistic about them taking off. Automakers are on board, and the government for infrastructure. A missing piece is still consumer incentive, but there are very aggressive (\$10K!) tax credits from **Senator Wyden** in the reconciliation bill that should handle that.

Nuclear power: has good prospects, especially the small modular reactors which should be ready by the end of the decade. They are much cheaper and safer, use much less uranium. Keep the old plants running but don't build more of the big expensive ones, get wind and solar up to 80%, then let nuclear fill in the gap for baseline power (that last 20% is hard to complete). We can always phase out nuclear later if we no longer need it.

COP26: It is positive that it is taking place. A lot of it is about financing for developing countries, so we will wait and see if it can mobilize the political will to do that. Hopefully Biden will go with something in hand because the U.S. really needs to close its credibility gap, and that will help catalyze movement from other countries.

China: They are recognizing that they have a serious pollution problem, and there's a lot of momentum there. “I don't see China as the huge impediment that it would appropriately have been seen as just a few years ago.”

Pre-ordering and buying his book:

You can pre-order on Amazon. If you'd like to avoid using Amazon, King's Bookstore will order it for you at <https://www.kingsbookstore.com/book/9781947845299>