

June 2022 Meeting Minutes

Attending: Nancy Atwood, Barbara Menne, Chuck Jensen, Sue Lepore, Ginny Lohr, Caranda Prater, Elly Claus-McGahan, Jason Berkowitz, Marissa Jeffords, John Doherty. Tamara Staton and Noel Morin, PNW Regional Co-leaders, joined the meeting at 8pm. This ZOOM meeting screen was enhanced with closed captioning.

Action Team Reports

Tabling, Chuck Jensen: The [Tacoma Ocean Fest](#) took place on **Sunday, June 12**, it's a beautiful venue on the waterfront with all kinds of booths and entertainment. Our spinner, questions and prizes attracted lots of kids. Several adults were interested in our work and signed up for more information. Contact [Chuck Jensen](#) if you can take a shift at a CCL booth in the future. You don't need any experience to help!

Voter Outreach Effort, John Doherty: Our June meeting had a great turnout. We wrote quite a few postcards for candidate Robyn Denson (county council district 7) and enjoyed the social time. In a new departure from past CCL-sanctioned activities, this group sends letters and postcards in support of pro-environmental candidates and to get out the vote in general. CCL National now does encourage this kind of political activism. Join us at our next meeting on **Friday, July 15 at 2pm**. [Contact Mary Forman](#) for details.

Presentations, John Doherty: John gave a virtual presentation for Franke Tobey Jones residents, titled [What's True, What's Not True About Climate Change](#). It was well-attended, and interest was lively, in fact the Q & A section went well over time.

Lobbying, Elly Claus-McGahan: On June 15 there was a joint meeting along with CCL **Bainbridge Island**, with **Representative Derek Kilmer** and his **Environment aide Dana Rollison**. New member **Caranda Prater** did a great job giving the appreciation! In line with the new directives, our second "ask" was to support the bipartisan [FOREST Act](#). **Rep. Kilmer** is still working hard for environmental legislation in the face of persistent obstacles and truly appreciates all our efforts. A summary of his remarks are in our June newsletter, [see here](#).

Elly is preparing a report on wildfires for the **Pierce County Comprehensive Plan** which is in the process of being drawn up. If we want other specific issues included in the Plan, we need to speak up soon! (It currently treats greenhouse gases but not other climate impacts).

CCL National June Conference

We watched an excerpt of **Executive Director Madeleine Para's** speech on new expanded focusses of advocacy for CCL. Watch [here](#).

She said that CCL will certainly continue to push for carbon fee and dividend in the Reconciliation Bill and beyond, but the time has come to broaden our focus. The new areas of

focus were very carefully chosen, after “lots of input from lots of leaders” in the movement. As a result of this analysis:

*“Two distinct policy areas emerged that nicely complement carbon fee and dividend. Those areas are **building the clean energy economy, and pursuing nature-based solutions**, starting with protecting and growing forests. Policies in these two areas can help us lock in emission cuts before and after a carbon price is enacted. They will help us build the additional political will we need in Congress, broaden and strengthen our supporter base, and, crucially, help us drive greater emissions reductions faster.”*

These issues tend to have more bipartisan support. They also were the ones that “the IPCC said had the greatest and cheapest effects on climate change.”

She also remarked that CCL volunteers should engage in “get out the vote” efforts directed at environmental voters for the upcoming elections.

Report on Other Conference Speakers

Elly Claus-McGahan gave a summary of main points of interesting speeches by **Bill Shireman** (Volunteer CEO of **In This Together**), and **Senator Sheldon Whitehouse**. See [Elly’s full presentation slides](#).

Shireman ([watch speech](#))

A poll found that 70% of Americans can agree on the following solutions to climate issues:

1. Natural solutions—conservation of natural systems
2. Clean energy choices, but include fossil fuels where needed
3. Incentives to make the transition to net zero

CCL’s finest moment is just ahead—Grow the **Conservative Caucus**, get a true integration, and get to a bipartisan solution. **CCL** is real, sincere, believes democracy can work.

Sen. Whitehouse ([watch speech](#))

Reconciliation is still alive, needs to get done in August. Items likeliest to pass:

1. A great amount of the **Finance Committee’s Clean Energy Tax** credits
2. **Methane fee** has 50 votes
3. Carbon price with a **Carbon Border Adjustment** is tough but still possible
4. **HFC’s** are a done deal.

CCL’s current role—keep pushing on Carbon pricing and CBA. It’s on the brink of success because of CCL’s efforts.

Inflation—gas prices are high because gas companies set them high and are making massive earnings right now.

Breakout rooms

We discussed the new directives. Reports from the breakout groups:

While some members regret losing the “laser focus” that made CCL unique among environmental organizations, most felt very positive about “opening up” our options for

multiple types of activism. Carbon fee and dividend is still the best overall method to achieve net zero as quickly as possible, and will remain the centerpoint of our efforts, but we can use our energy, experience, and contacts to support these additional policy areas. We are all curious to see the various ways that our chapter can implement this new direction in specific detail.

PNW Leadership Consultation

Tamara Staton (CCL Portland) and **Noel Morin** (CCL Hawaii) are co-leaders of the PNW region. They kindly agreed to visit our chapter meeting to answer questions and give guidance on the new directive from National.

Summary of their remarks and answers to questions:

“Things are still being fleshed out by leadership. This took a long time to decide. We have been working on the same one policy for over ten years. Adding more opens up the door to a very wide thing, and we’re excited about it.

Rest assured that you will be offered a lot more guidance from National soon. Training, slide decks, webinars, videos, tabling materials are all going to be available to you.

Training on forests should be complete quite soon (SEE LINK BELOW). There are three bills for forests in Congress that we can get behind already, and some are bipartisan. The government affairs team is looking them over carefully as well as a wealth of brainstorming ideas. Some are hands-on activities like local tree-planting events, tree equity through urban forests. There are local government actions, farm bills, coalitions and partnerships, corporate engagement around trees, wildfire prevention, forest/agriculture intersections, preserving existing forests, keeping bark beetle away. Everybody loves trees! It's just a matter of messaging.

This change may be an opportunity as well for chapter development, bringing in new voices like conservatives and youth, getting more people engaged. We can pull the grassroots lever, create coalitions with other groups and expand the scope of influence of this fantastic group of citizen lobbyists. We are ready to go to work!

If you want to add your thoughts to CCL National’s planning on this, the contact would be **Tony Sirna, VP of Organizational Strategy**.

Link to available training--[Trees and forests as Natural Climate Solutions](#)

[Link to Staton’s outline of Para’s speech.](#)