Monthly Public Meeting

Date: February 8, 2020
Place: Unitarian Universalist Church, Fellowship Hall, 107 West Barcelona, Santa Fe
Attendees: Robert Cordingley, facilitator; Paul Biderman, Gary Payton, Jim Eagle, George Weston, Sue Rempel, Julia Ying, Greg Sonnenfeld, Jim McKenzie, D. Reed Eckitrondi, Jean Darling, Adam Wasserman, Stephen Schmidt, Lucinda Folsom, Barbara Sinha

Robert opened the meeting at 9:10 am. Each person introduced himself or herself.

Current Business
Legislative Update

Robert projected onto a screen the page on the 350 Santa Fe (350 Santa Fe) website that contains a list of legislation supported by 350 New Mexico. Jim Eagle asked for the sequence of clicks necessary to find the list. In discussion, it was mentioned that the list is customized using a feature of the NM Legislature website called ‘My Roundhouse’. It allows an organization or individual to follow the progress of legislation using links to the NM Legislature website and to manually update, as well, and then share the list.

SB 2 (Electric Vehicle Income Tax Credit), HB 217 (Electric Vehicle Income Tax Credit), HB 233 (Energy Grid Modernization Roadmap), and HM 29 (Energy Operation Bonding Amounts) are four bills targeted for priority attention.

Greg reported that HM 9 (Renewable Energy Investment Strategic Plan) is waiting for amendments and then will probably be approved. Paul gave an update on HB 173 (Gas Taxes, New Funds & Distributions), a carbon pricing bill that passed the House Taxation and Revenue Committee and was then referred to the House Appropriations and Finance Committee. Greg described HB 99 (Renewable Energy Investment Policy Funding), which is linked to HM 9. HB 99 provides seed money for a study; it needs a few amendments for Republicans and then may be acted on today.

One bill of great interest to people interested in climate change is SB 104 (Prohibit New Hydraulic Fracturing Permits) calling for a four-year moratorium on hydraulic fracturing permits. Unfortunately, this bill is not supported by the governor and may not progress during this session.

Gary had information on HB 9 (Community Solar Act). He said the bill has broad support and will be brought to the House floor next week. Jim McKenzie explained that bill was studied by 350 NM and they determined the carbon impact of implementation of the bill
would be minimal, partly because it sets forth voluntary programs only. Jim Eagle mentioned that other states have similar laws in place and wondered what effect the proportion of Indian land in a state might have on results.

Merger Progress
Robert and Stephen Schmidt are working on Mailchimp lists and processes while Amanda Hatherly will be establishing or updating a Facebook account. About 18 people opted in to 350 Santa Fe as a result of an email blast. A coffee can was passed around for people to make cash contributions to support UU SF.

Two women associated with Climate Reality were at the meeting. Julia said they received training from Al Gore’s non-profit organization called The Climate Reality Project. They give presentations on climate change and would like to collaborate with 350 Santa Fe.

Kickoff Planning Progress
A Kickoff or Launch of the 350 Santa Fe Chapter will be held on March 25, 2020, starting at 6:30 pm in the Jemez Rooms at Santa Fe Community College. There will be an Oxford style debate with Matt Grubs, Senior Producer of New Mexico in Focus, as the moderator.

Team Organization
Robert explained the way 350 Santa Fe will be structured. He described some of the ways we might use a sociocratic approach; in the way teams can form subteams and how communication flows. Much of the chapter activity will occur in team meetings held on their own schedule as needed. There will be a monthly public meeting, perhaps with an informational or educational aspect.

Core Organizing Team
The Core Organizing Team comprising the chapter facilitators and team leaders will meet once a month.

Global Climate Simulation Team
Jim Eagle pitched the Global Climate Simulation Team. He anticipates this team would offer sessions to the public using C-Roads and En-Roads climate negotiation simulation software. He said young people might be especially interested in participating in this type of group role-play game and also helping with the technological aspects. Anything we can do to involve young people would be good. Jim McKenzie added that sometimes young people need to learn more about the complexity of climate change, climate change solutions and negotiations.

Positive Public Education Team
Adam pitched the Positive Public Education Team. He thinks projects of this team could target youth or adults. The team could arrange speakers for the monthly public meeting.
Paul offered one option: Citizens’ Climate Lobby has speakers online on the second Saturday of the month, starting at 11 am local time. Adam spoke about conference planning as another project for this team. Adam will be presenting classes each Saturday in April at the Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church about the obstacles encountered while trying to persuade people to take action on climate change. Jean reported the UU Environment Justice Team shows films occasionally on Sunday at noon and perhaps 350 Santa Fe could co-sponsor the films.

R & D, Technology Transfer, Commercialization and Adoption Team
Greg pitched the R & D et cetera team by noting people who have a clear idea of a concrete project they want to work on could jump in with this team. It might be something that was developed in another state but which needs exploration of whether it would work in New Mexico. One goal is to have solutions available for politicians to act on.

Carbon Pricing Team
Paul pitched the carbon pricing team by outlining the Citizens’ Climate Lobby bipartisan approach for a carbon fee and dividend law at the federal level. This type of legislation sends a price signal to everyone and returns money to people in low and moderate income brackets. At the state level HB 173 is currently being heard on the House side of the legislature.

Communications/Logistics/Liaison/Support Team
Robert pitched the Communications/Logistics/Liaison/Support Team. This team may build out the website, deal with facilities, create a strong social media presence for the chapter and be an action team during legislative sessions.

Sign-up
A page was circulated for people to sign up for any of the teams for which they have an interest.

Recurring Business

Upcoming Events
Robert announced there will be a Green Amendment presentation by Maya van Rossum in this same room starting at 11:00 am. More information can be found at forthegenerations.org.

Next meeting
The next meeting will be Saturday, March 14th at the UU Church.
Meeting ended at 10:45 am

Notes taken by Barbara Sinha