

Monthly Public Meeting

Accelerating the transition away from fossil fuels as we collaborate, cooperate and coordinate with climate crisis fighters in and around Santa Fe

Date: March 14, 2020

Place: Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Fellowship Hall, 107 West Barcelona, Santa Fe

Attendees in the room: Paul Biderman facilitator; Robert Cordingley, Jim Eagle, Mary Ray Cate, Hallie Love, George Weston, Mark Bourke, Elaine Germano, Jean Darling, Julia Ying, Greg Sonnenfeld, Barbara Sinha

Attendees via Zoom: Bob Kreger, Maria Cruz, Lynn Pickard, Chris Mann, D. Reed Eckhardt, Adam Wasserman, Alex (last name unknown), Okwan and Lucy (at single location), Jack Kennison

Current Business

Welcome and introductions

The meeting began at 10:00 am. Each person introduced himself or herself.

Legislative Update

Paul used the Conservation Voters New Mexico Legislative Outcomes summary as a guide to present the final disposition of legislation from the session earlier in 2020. Legislation that passed and was signed by the Governor include the following:

- 1) The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department and also the Environment Department were given substantial funding increases compared to the previous year
- 2) HB 93 (Efficient Use of Energy Act Changes)
- 3) HB 233 (Energy Grid Modernization Roadmap)
- 4) SB 29 (Solar Market Development Income Tax Credit)

Greg reported that HM 9 (Renewable Energy Investment Strategic Plan) passed the full House. Note that a House Memorial does not need approval from the Senate.

Two bills addressing healthy soils funding did not pass. However, related segments were folded into the main budget bill, which eventually included a provision for recurring funding of the Healthy Soils Program.

Paul reported that HB 173 (Gas Taxes, New Funds & Distributions) passed one committee. Dozens of students from Santa Fe and Albuquerque testified but the bill died in the House Appropriations and Finance Committee.

Other desirable legislation that did not complete the legislative process:

- 1) HB 9 (Community Solar Act) died in the House
- 2) HB 217 (Electric Vehicle Income Tax Credit) stalled when the House did not concur with Senate amendments
- 3) SB 153 (Low Income Residential Energy Conservation) died in a Senate committee

Paul agreed to send the link to the full list to everyone.

Earth Week Collaborations

Jean reported there was a small initial meeting of people interested in doing some action on Stop The Money Pipeline Day during Earth Week. However that plan is now on hold. She noted we will need creative ways to take actions that do not involve large groups given the guidelines about social distancing

Methane Emissions Action

Paul described the large emissions of methane from oil and gas operations in New Mexico. Leakage and releases of methane occur during production, delivery and use of natural gas. Methane remains in the atmosphere less time than carbon dioxide but it also has a much larger effect on global warming; therefore it would be very beneficial to reduce these emissions. One approach to accomplishing this is to ban fracking. Putting a price on carbon leads to less greenhouse gas but that approach does not work if methane is not captured and sold. A third approach is already in process within the New Mexico state government and that is to set up a rule about methane. As the agencies develop a rule(s) Paul suggested we either form a new team or create a project for an existing team to advocate for a strong rule. Paul volunteered to be the lead; Jack Kennison and Chris Mann volunteered to be involved in this effort. The Oil Conservation Division within the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department would be the entity responsible for holding the industry accountable. We can expect the oil and gas industry to attempt to formulate the new rule in their favor.

Carbon Pricing and CCL Liaison

As of today, Citizens' Climate Lobby has planned their annual conference in Washington, D.C. They will be considering whether and how to modify that conference based on recommendations for dealing with COVID-19. It is also possible the conference may not happen at all. A bill for carbon pricing that follows the Citizen's Climate Lobby approach closely has been introduced in the U.S. House but given the political situation that bill is unlikely to move forward.

Team Reports/Highlights

Robert reported the **Core Organizing Team** has been doing planning for the kick-off event scheduled for March 25 but now that event is postponed.

Adam said the **Positive Public Education Team** had one meeting and there was plenty of enthusiasm about educating the public. The coronavirus situation will probably mean events in the near future will be held using Zoom or equivalent. He also reported his April class on the Green New Deal has been postponed. He may have to re-work the class for a distance learning approach and he will be looking into that option.

Robert is the lead for the **Communications Team**. He said the website and Facebook page are both active. The team will build on Robert's research to put together a Wiki resource. Another possible project is development of a newsletter. An attendee (missed who this was) volunteered to work on a newsletter.

Regarding the **Legislative Action Team**, Paul has talked to Robb Hirsch, who has worked on promoting a number of pieces of legislation relevant to climate change. Robb is interested in being the lead for this team, which would identify issues and bills relevant to the goals of 350 Santa Fe. Greg volunteered to be on this team in order to utilize his own experience writing legislation and collaborating with legislators.

The first effort of the **R&D, Technology Transfer, Commercialization and Adoption Team** [team lead Greg suggested the acronym Climate TRADCA as more succinct] has been to start making a list of projects people would like to pursue. During the next few months team members will communicate by email. The team will make efforts to be aware of what has already been done or is being worked on by other organizations to avoid duplication.

Paul's update on the **Carbon Pricing Team** team included the fact we want to stay involved with Citizens' Climate Lobby, at least for their proposed federal legislation. This team would gear up if receptive legislators and a new president are elected in 2020.

The **Climate Action Simulation Team** has four people signed up according to Jim Eagle, the team lead. Jim reviewed the history of people from Santa Fe going to Taos in 2019 to participate in the climate negotiation simulation held in that city. The goal is to have a similar or updated version of the simulation done in Santa Fe this year. Jim would like to get youth involved both as game players and as technology assistants. The suggestion was made to use the 'Contact Us' form on the website if someone is interested in being part of this team.

Invited Talk

The Emotions of Climate Change: How to Build Resilience and Channel Eco-Anxiety into Solutions

Speaker: Maria Cruz

This talk was especially targeted toward people who want to learn more about addressing the emotional responses to climate science, whether you're having a one-on-one conversation or giving a presentation. When you're dishing out the scary facts and science, and talking about the future of our planet, people are usually having a very human, very reasonable reaction. They are feeling some combination of powerless, overwhelmed, isolated, anxious, angry, scared, guilty, ambivalent and even ashamed.

It's hard to have any impact or inspire and engage others who are shut down or overwhelmed.

Maria presented steps to take to build emotional resiliency for your own well-being, as well as for others, and how to help others transform their emotions into positive climate actions. She recommended GoodGriefNetwork.org as a good place to start.

After the talk, several people asked questions about specific situations they have encountered and Maria responded.

Bio

Maria is a Climate Reality Leader and the founder of Big Heart on Fire, an organization that offers coaching and workshops for speakers and leaders. She helps professional women become sought after speakers, go-to-experts, and leaders in their field, so they can stand out and scale their impact in the world.

She is a certified speaker coach and a TEDx coach. In addition, she has enjoyed a career as a jazz vocalist and voice over artist.

Recurring Business

Donations

A coffee can was passed around for people to make cash contributions to support UU SF. A total of \$42 was collected.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be Saturday, April 11 at the UU Church and/or via Zoom.

Meeting ended at 12:00 pm

Notes taken by Barbara Sinha