

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: May 9, 2020

Place: via Zoom

Attendees: Robert Cordingley, co-facilitator; Paul Biderman, co-facilitator; Julia Ying, Greg Sonnenfeld, D. Reed Eckhardt, Gary Payton, Stephen Schmidt, Elaine Germano, Mark Bourke, Maj-Brit Eagle, Jim Eagle, Adam Wasserman, Jean Darling, Barbara Sinha

Current Business

Welcome and introduction

The meeting began at 10:00 am. Robert explained that when participating in a Zoom meeting, it is best to have yourself on mute, then toggle to unmute when you want to speak. He pointed out the Chat button as a way to communicate.

Team Progress Reports

The **Climate Action Simulation Team** is led by Jim Eagle. Jim stated he is willing to give a talk on what he's learned about using the latest versions of the simulation. He would like to assemble a small group of people who are conversant with the software in order to proceed with public events once the stay-at-home order is lifted.

Greg Sonnenfeld, team lead for the **Climate TRAC team** said his team met on April 23rd and May 7th. At the latter meeting, the team focused on regenerative/community farming. The discussion resulted in preliminary identification of two projects. Mark asked questions related to the feasibility and impact of proposed projects and pointed out it is also necessary to know how much people are interested in working on each project. Greg mentioned there will probably be coordination and collaboration with some members of Extinction Rebellion and staff from Santa Fe County.

Jean has organized a **Drawdown Workshop** and is advertising the event broadly, beyond just 350 Santa Fe. The workshop will be via Zoom on Thursday, May 14, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

Robert is the lead for the **Communications Team**. He described all the emails he and probably many others receive about events, meetings and resources related to climate change. He proposed it would be useful to have someone willing to summarize and

organize all those items into a weekly digest to be sent out via Mail Chimp. Interested persons can contact Robert.

Paul, team lead of the **Carbon Pricing Team**, announced that Citizens' Climate Lobby has asked that we contact our representatives in Congress. For example, Dick Cramer is the liaison to Representative Ben Ray Lujan and Paul is the liaison to Xochitl Torres Small. These contacts have previously been in-person visits to the Congressional offices during each year's national conference in Washington in June. Since this year's conference has been cancelled, we are scheduling Zoom calls on June 16 for Senators, June 17 for Representatives. There will be several calls with the national organization before then to discuss strategy.

Regarding the **Legislative Action Team**, Paul said Chris Mann has been following the methane rule proceedings closely. After a delay, there should be another report out by the end of May. In addition, Paul will participate in a call between the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators and people in New Mexico on the topic of a Green New Deal for our state.

The **Positive Public Education Team** is led by Adam Wasserman. Adam and his team are working on speakers for the monthly meetings. He said the woman contacted about speaking at our June meeting is indeed interested but she has a conflict in June so that presentation might be delayed until July.

Jean Darling gave an update on **Earth Day** and **Stop the Money Pipeline** events. She is aware of one person (Julia) who received a response to the letter she sent to the CEO of Wells Fargo as part of the Stop the Money Pipeline campaign.

Invited Talk

Connecting the Dots: COVID-19, Public Health and the Climate Crisis

Speaker: Dr. Julia Ying

Speaker note: Julia Ying is a volunteer public speaker trained by former US Vice President Al Gore and the Climate Reality Project. She is Co-Chair of the Climate Reality Northern New Mexico Chapter. She is also a member of 350 Santa Fe. She is a retired General Medical Practitioner in Sydney, Australia, and a happy grandmother to five grandchildren. She is now living in Los Alamos, NM. She is passionate about taking care of Mother Earth in order to preserve the beauty of nature she loves and to know her grandchildren can grow up in a safe, sustainable world.

Dr. Ying used the screen sharing feature of Zoom to give a slideshow as she discussed the parallels between COVID-19 and the climate crisis. Whereas COVID-19 is a clear and present danger, the climate crisis is just as real and just as dangerous but people often do not grasp that reality. The climate crisis has been and will continue to manifest as a number of different tipping points, at which time sudden and long-lasting changes occur. Poor communities are being impacted the most by COVID-19 and will also be hardest hit by the climate crisis.

Some common lessons:

1. Prevention is way easier than cure
2. Fear is a motivator
3. The pandemic and the climate crisis will both require large financial investments
4. There is an interaction because climate change impacts public health
5. Government ideally takes a leadership role based on science
6. A State of Emergency declaration gives special powers to government
7. To deal with both COVID-19 and the climate crisis, there is a need to develop resilience through the use of mitigation and adaptation measures
8. There is a need for government and communities to take action, e.g., through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the United States and globally through the World Health Organization

Sources for this talk:

1. [2019 Lancet Countdown Report](https://www.lancetcountdown.org/) available at [Lancetcountdown.org](https://www.lancetcountdown.org/)
2. Article entitled “What a 1.5 Degree Pathway Would Take” in the April 30, 2020 issue of [McKinsey Quarterly](https://www.mckinsey.com/) available at [McKinsey.com](https://www.mckinsey.com/)

Q & A section

- Is stimulus money sufficient?
- How to balance people with the natural environment
- Thawing of permafrost affects climate change and releases biological material that might cause epidemics
- The 2020 election will be critical
- Tropical diseases are affected by climate change; these diseases are migrating to new countries that have not dealt with them before
- Waterborne diseases increase when there is flooding and heavy rainfall
- Developed countries could contribute to developing countries directly or through global organizations
- Contrast changes that happen for a fairly short time against changes of long duration
- Are people scared of COVID-19 affecting them personally?

Webinar Review

Citizens' Climate Lobby Virtual Earth Day 2020

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=prsCP44oitc>

This section of the webinar was presented by Dr. Katharine Hayhoe. She engaged the audience in thinking about ways to reach people who are not already convinced there is a climate crisis.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be Saturday, June 13th via Zoom.

Meeting ended at 12:00 pm

Notes taken by Barbara Sinha