

Climate Defenders New Mexico
and
350 Santa Fe

Date: January 11, 2020

Place: Santa Fe Public Library, Washington Street

Attendees: Paul Biderman, chair; Robert Cordingley, Mark Bourke, Elaine Giovando, Maj-Britt Eagle, Jim Eagle, Richard Cramer, Carole Wendler, James Bradbury, Jean Darling, Stephen Schmidt, Amanda Hatherly, Gina Ortiz, Greg Sonnenfeld, Ed Barker, Gregg Manoff, Nicholas Brown, Barbara Sinha

Paul opened a meeting of Climate Defenders New Mexico at 10:10 am.

Introduction

For the benefit of new attendees, Paul summarized the history of Citizens' Climate Lobby nationally and in Santa Fe and how that led into Climate Defenders New Mexico. People introduced themselves. Paul announced that Lynne Fischer died of cancer recently. She was a main factor in organizing the first CCL conference in Santa Fe. She built the New Mexico Climate Action website and was active in Retake Our Democracy. Paul acknowledged her vivacious spirit and commitment to social justice.

Merger discussion

Paul sent out an email on December 31 to members with the results of discussions about a merger of Climate Defenders New Mexico (CDNM) with the new group 350 Santa Fe (350 SF) as a follow-up to our December meeting. He emphasized that the group would still support a carbon pricing approach but members would also be able to branch out to support more activities. Then Robert Cordingley, facilitator of 350 SF, reviewed the three pillars of his organization as outlined in the December minutes. He stated meetings of 350 SF would take place in the Downtown Public Library on the second Saturday of the month, although perhaps in a larger room. The structure of the combined organization would be four teams, one for each objective. Robert and Paul would share the facilitator role.

Discussion of the Mail Chimp list included the fact the Citizens' Climate Lobby email list must remain distinct. The possibilities are to allow people who come in via the Citizens' Climate Lobby website to either opt-in to 350 SF or to make the default be to include them so they could then choose to opt-out. Paul was in favor of using an opt-in and asked Stephen to distribute a standard message when people sign up via the Citizens' Climate Lobby website. The message would explain the goals and objectives of 350 SF.

Climate Defenders New Mexico has an account with New Mexico Foundation (formerly New Mexico Community Foundation) and there is some money in that account from prior conferences. Paul is determining whether any action is needed to transfer that account to the new merged entity.

Robert mentioned that 350 Santa Fe uses the 350.org platform and branding. He would like to build out the 350 SF website to have more events listed and to develop more pages.

Regional coordinator

Paul has not heard from Climate XChange about any new developments in the search for a regional coordinator or funding the position.

Merger discussion, part two

Several people had questions about what topics the new 350 SF would become involved with. Amanda asked what would happen if a person is interested in some area not falling under the four teams. Paul replied that there are many other environmental groups in Santa Fe and a person has the option to choose to work in some other group. Alternatively, it is conceivable that 350 SF would choose to add to the original list of objectives in the future. Gina stated she is interested in the effects of Roundup and wanted to know whether there is a group devoted to that issue. Other people thought there is such a local group but it may not be too active currently.

Robert said the teams may be semi-autonomous. To avoid scheduling problems, there would have to be coordination regarding team meetings and the regular monthly meeting.

Mark said he believes the opt-out way of dealing with new members would be better. He also stated he really appreciates everything Paul has done for CDNM. Mark is strongly in favor of a merger. In fact, he said in his view there is no need to talk about it any more.

Paul put the question to attendees: Does anyone have objections to a merger? There were no objections so effective today, CDNM will dissolve and all members will be within the 350 SF umbrella. The Citizens' Climate Lobby Santa Fe chapter will also continue as a separate entity, focusing on the effort to get carbon fee and dividend legislation through Congress.

Endorsements and point people

Paul brought up a general issue regarding requests from other groups. He requested input about how to handle endorsement requests.

Elaine described how Indivisible handles this matter. They put events in their newsletter. Robert thought screening could be done by the two facilitators or perhaps by the five people on the 'core team.' Maj-Brit gave as an example the local plan for 90% tree thinning; is that considered related to climate change? Jean made a suggestion to poll people to determine what they think about requests from groups. Paul expressed his concern about activities we add our name to. Jean noted we do not have the structure yet to figure this all out. Paul added that once the teams are formed, then the 'point people' for each team could consult about what other groups are requesting.

At this point, the point people for the teams are:

- 1) Greg Sonnenfeld for the R & D team
- 2) Jim Eagle and Ed Barker for the Global Climate Simulation exercises (part of the larger education objective)
- 3) Robb Hirsch for carbon pricing legislation

State legislation

Paul summarized the main points of the proposed state legislation for carbon pricing, aka increased gasoline tax. He remarked there have been communication glitches in the process of developing the bill, and therefore there is still no bill number assigned. He is confident it will be introduced on the House side by Representative Matthew McQueen. Turnout for committee meetings about this bill will be important.

{Gregg Manoff joined the meeting about this time}

Mark wanted to know whether the committee meetings would be before our February meeting and Paul was almost certain they would be. He will send out information to the email list and/or through Retake Our Democracy since they actively follow bills.

Response to letter

Dick Cramer asked whether there was a response to the letter CDNMM sent to the two agency Secretaries who were leads for the New Mexico Climate Status Report. Paul stated he received a personal note from Sarah Probst, the Secretary of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department. Ms. Probst replied they will be taking into account the points made in the letter as state government moves forward with the planning process, which will also include public input.

State legislation, part two

Robert said that 350 SF also monitors bills as they go through the state legislative process. Some examples are:

- HB 60: Differential rate for investments
- HB 99: Renewable energy investment policy funding

- HM 9: Renewable energy investment strategic plan
- SB 29: Solar market development income tax credit

Regarding communication, Paul asked whether people on the new email list will get mailings automatically from 350 New Mexico. Robert said he would pursue that possibility.

Elaine commented on community solar, saying it seems crucial but PNM is opposing it. Greg had additional information and added it has become a high priority for Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. Negotiations may lead to scaling it down to two or five megawatts of power to be transmitted; that may satisfy PNM. Greg explained in layman's terms the technical issue of ramp rate occurring as the sun goes down. Jim Eagle commented community solar was used in some areas during the PG & E shutdown in California in 2019.

Jean noted that Retake Our Democracy tracks bills and Maj-Brit added Sierra Club also tracks bills. Paul suggested we could link to their websites.

Science on a Sphere

Robert brought up some of the options to use for the 'educate the public' objective. One is En-ROADS, a global policy simulation tool [see climateinteractive.org]. Another is The Science on a Sphere (SOS), an educational product of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration using datasets from that agency and NASA. Ed Barker has experience running SOS at Santa Fe Community College. In response to a question from Mark, Ed explained that people enter a dark room and they see the earth projected as a large rotating sphere. Several sets of real-time data can be displayed. The SOS is available at Santa Fe Community College as an open house certain hours of the week. He invited attendees of this meeting to come and see the SOS on Wednesday, January 15, at 6:00 pm in Room 803 of the college

Kick-off meeting

There are regular meetings of people planning a kick-off meeting for 350 SF in March. Robert revealed that one of the activities at the kick-off will be an Oxford style moderated debate. The plan is to have two debaters on each side of a statement having to do with fracking. The audience would be polled before and after the debate. When he said they are still searching for a venue, Amanda offered Santa Fe Community College and Robert agreed to follow up with her.

Environment Day at the legislature

Sierra Club is coordinating events to occur on Tuesday, January 28, which is designated Environment Day at the state legislature. It was decided to have a table that day. Jean

volunteered to pull together the people who will sit at the table and the materials available at the table. Jim Eagle, Robert, Gina and Elaine volunteered to sit at the table for a segment. Robert says he has one or more 350 SF logos to use.

Request from Extinction Rebellion

Greg attends meetings of Extinction Rebellion in Santa Fe and explained the group's plan to have a discussion about concrete ways to transition New Mexico out of fossil fuel based energy. It would be an example of small groups practicing deliberative democracy. Greg asked whether 350 SF would like to endorse these discussions and there was a consensus that would be fine.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be Saturday, February 8th, at the Public Library downtown. Maj-Brit will reserve the room.

Meeting ended at 12:00 pm

Minutes taken by Barbara Sinha