

Climate Defenders New Mexico

Date: September 21, 2019

Place: Santa Fe Public Library, Washington Street

Attendees: Paul Biderman, co-chair; Bob Kreger, co-chair; Pat Murphy, Mark Bourke, Maj-Britt Eagle, Jim Eagle, Dick Cramer, Steven Rudnick, Marianna Eneeva, Noa Dalzell (phone), Barbara Sinha

Meeting started at 10:10 am

Introductory remarks

Paul mentioned that *Time* magazine has a climate issue that came out recently.

Two events in September

People who attended the Global Climate Strike in Santa Fe on September 20 gave their opinion of the event. Some estimates were that one thousand people participated. Members who attended the World Climate Simulation in Taos on September 14 gave their opinion of the event. Bob estimated that 50 people participated.

Carbon Pricing Summit

Noa Dalzell joined the meeting by phone. After attendees introduced themselves, Noa gave an overview of the Carbon Pricing Summit (aka Carbon Solutions Summit) to be held in Santa Fe next month. Here are the highlights:

- 1) Wednesday, October 2nd, morning: **Carbon Pricing Deep Dive** (aka Advocacy event) ~ 50 people have RSVP'd, Climate XChange staff will be presenters, still encouraging more people to register because Noa anticipates not everyone who registered will show up, all CDNM members are welcome to attend
- 2) Wednesday, October 2nd, evening: **An Evening with Climate XChange** (reception) ~ keynote speaker is Claudine Schneider, a former U.S. Representative from Rhode Island; remarks by Joel Briscoe, a representative in the Utah House of Representatives; idea is to have government leaders and community leaders at this event so they can mingle
- 3) Thursday, October 3rd, morning: **Key Stakeholder Conversation** ~ participants will meet in roundtable fashion to discuss what they have tried; 20 government leaders, mostly from New Mexico, have been confirmed for this event; Laura Tabor, the Sustainability and Resilience Officer who was hired in August and is within the New Mexico Department of Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources, will attend; Glenn Schiffbauer is helping to reach legislators

Questions for Noa:

- 1) Mark's question: What would Climate XChange consider a "win?"
Noa: If people are ready to move forward on carbon pricing and there is increased collaboration among leaders and groups. Also, having advocates in place within New Mexico state government.
- 2) Paul's question: What would be the role of a Climate Xchange regional coordinator?
Noa: The person would mobilize a coalition and obtain carbon pricing as a policy. Climate XChange staff are developing this position and still securing the funding so there is some uncertainty about questions of this nature.
- 3) Bob's question: Would the regional coordinator be a short-term gig?
Noa: It depends on the funding.

Status of state legislation

Paul reviewed the history of state carbon pricing legislation in New Mexico, from students getting involved and obtaining legislation about a study of the subject, people and organizations donating money to have Climate XChange do a study specific to New Mexico, and what happened with SB 393 during the 2019 legislative session. He reported that he is working with a few other people to put together legislation only about carbon pricing for transportation, with a dividend returned to low-income people and with another portion of the revenue devoted to renewable energy infrastructure. They have met with Laura Tabor and have an appointment to meet with Michael Sandoval, Secretary of the Department of Transportation. Paul noted that Representative Abbas Akhil will be the sponsor of the bill and Representative Andrea Romero will cosponsor it.

Energy Day 2020

Paul said there has been some discussion of whether to have a renewable energy day at the legislature during the 2020 session. Although no firm decision has been made, Camilla Feibelman of Sierra Club is considering the idea of joining with us to develop some type of evening event during the 30-day session.

[Noa left the phone call at 10:55 am]

Progress toward national legislation

For the benefit of people attending a Climate Defenders New Mexico meeting for the first time today, Paul summarized what has happened regarding H.R. 763. He mentioned the resolution now has 62 sponsors, one of them being a Republican. Dick reviewed their meeting with Rep. Ben Ray Lujan during the Citizens' Climate Lobby 2019 Conference in Washington, DC. Paul continues to work to get the bill on the agenda of the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis.

Barbara mentioned that Climate XChange has a summary comparing the approximately six pieces of current national legislation containing a carbon pricing elements. They have much in common with H.R. 763 but with some variations.

Pat and Dick commented that the media and presidential debates have been presenting much more about climate change than previously.

April outreach

Barbara read an email she received from Laura Marshall, who is with San Juan Indivisible. Laura asked if anyone from Climate Defenders New Mexico could lead a workshop at a climate change conference her organization is cosponsoring on April 3rd. Location and other details are not known at this time. Bob and Mark tentatively said they might be interested in leading a workshop. Barbara will let Laura know of our intentions.

El Dorado outreach

The Democratic Party Committee is having an event in El Dorado this afternoon. Paul will be on a panel at that event. From now on Paul will be asking for more support from other members with this sort of outreach due to the amount of time he will be spending on his work for the Ethics Commission and the state legislature.

Art community outreach

Pat is in communication with the people at the Museum of Encaustic Art. They want to use climate as an organizing issue for an annual event. For the upcoming event 39 artists have submitted pieces and the Roaming Writers Group does the text that is posted near each piece. Bob will give a presentation at the Museum on September 22.

January outreach

Pat has been asked by the Women's Club to give a presentation in January. She agreed to do it and would like some handouts for that event.

Terminology

Maj-Britt discussed the terminology of climate change and suggested we rethink what word to use. Climate disruption and climate emergency are two terms some groups favor. Steven related his experience at Renesan. He said he tried to add a qualifier to the title of a course he would be teaching but the board perceived it as negative and they did not want to use it. Pat is also an educator. For her online classes in climate change she uses: 1) The Uninhabitable Earth by David Wallace Wells, 2) Prisoners of Geography by Tim Marshall, and 3) Drawdown edited by Paul Hawken.

New and returning members

Marianna met Paul at the World Climate Simulation event in Taos. She is glad to be at this smaller meeting. She is from Russia, where there is not the same level of public involvement in the problem of climate change. She estimated only one out of a hundred people in Russia feel climate change is a priority issue. Her professional experience is in public relations.

Steven, who has attended meetings in previous years, described himself as an educator who has been very involved in the last few years with Renesan in Santa Fe. He thinks carbon pricing is an important element of the solution to climate change so he is at this meeting to get information about what is happening locally with carbon pricing and within Citizens' Climate Lobby. He said he tends to approach matters as a scientist. Pat added that she, too, is an educator. She found that after some of her students did projects about climate change for her class they became activists.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be Saturday, October 12, at the Public Library downtown.

Meeting ended at 11:30 am

Minutes taken by Barbara Sinha