

Monthly Public Meeting Notes

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

Date: December 12, 2020

Place: via Zoom

Attendees: Robert Cordingley, facilitator; Paul Biderman, facilitator; Adam Wasserman, Beth Beloff, Christopher Mann, Castille Aguilar, Gary Payton, Greg Sonnenfeld, Jean Darling, Jim Eagle, Julia Barnes, Julia Ying, KC Nelson, Maj-Britt Eagle, Maria Spray, Mark Bourke, Marie or Margie xxxx, Nancy Singham, Reed Eckhardt, Stephen Schmidt, Tom Solomon, Barbara Sinha

Current Business

Welcome and introduction

The meeting began at 10:15 am.

Team Progress Reports

Jim Eagle, **Climate Action Simulations Team** lead, reported that regular updates are done to the parameters in EnROADS and lately this resulted in the 'business as usual' scenario creating an increase of 3.6°C by the end of the century. Tom suggested contacting Elena Kayak, Santa Fe Public Schools Sustainability Program Specialist, about student involvement in simulations.

Jean Darling, a member of the Neighborhood/Regenerative Farming project within the **Climate TRAC Team**, reported that the subgroup has decided to meet once a month. The next meeting will be Monday, December 14 at 6:00 pm.

Robert Cordingley is the lead for the **Communications Team**. He gave the following updates:

- 1) 350 Santa Fe endorsements of the Green Amendment and the Public Bank have been posted.
- 2) Weekly News Digest ~ Issues continue to be distributed on a regular basis with an open rate of about 40 percent.
- 3) Quarterly Newsletter ~ People who want to submit an article for the next Quarterly Newsletter should give it to Robert by the last week of January.

Paul Biderman and Christopher Mann are co-leads of of the **Legislative Action Team**. Paul referenced a report at nmpolitico.com and stated that he believes the top priority identified by the team is for the state legislature to address methane emissions. Another issue being followed is the budgets of state agencies to ensure there can be enforcement of the rules and funding for more inspectors. The team will be supporting a bill changing the 'no stronger than' restriction and how to tighten up loopholes in the proposed regulations. Tom Solomon added there will be an opportunity to speak up at a public rulemaking hearing of the Oil Conservation Commission starting January 4th.

Christopher stated 350 Santa Fe has signed on to a letter to the Biden transition team, urging them to stop oil and gas leases on public lands.

What's Happening at YUCCA (Youth United for Climate Crisis Action)

Adam introduced **Castille Aguilar**, campaign organizer for YUCCA in Santa Fe. Castille gave a summary of the focus of YUCCA, mentioning the membership is young people primarily of Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) communities. In the next state legislative session they will be advocating for community solar, allowing 16- and 17-year-old people to vote in school board and state elections, produced water bills and the Green Amendment. It is important that the voices of youth and BIPOC are heard about these issues. Castille said YUCCA is part of Santa Fe Mutual Aid and this has encouraged many youth to step up and help people adversely affected by the pandemic.

Invited Talk

2021 Climate Legislation Outlook

Speaker: **Julia Barnes**

Speaker note: Julia is the policy analyst for Speaker of the House Brian Egolf in the New Mexico state legislature. Ms. Barnes specializes in facilitation of large groups working towards drafting consensus legislation. Ms. Barnes has a private law practice, which includes both a public and private practice. The law practice also includes pro-bono immigration work and civil litigation.

Ms. Barnes went to high school in Dallas, graduated from Stanford University in 1983 and from the University of Colorado Law School in 1989. In addition to working in private practice, she was a process improvement attorney for the Administrative Office of the Courts and a quality school development manager for the New Mexico Coalition of Charter Schools.

Ms. Barnes made the disclaimer that she is not speaking for Speaker Egolf; she is only talking about what she knows or has heard of herself. She summarized the following bills or issues being actively looked at:

1. One step past the Energy Transition Act: Representative Stansbury will carry it. This will codify elements of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's Executive Order 2019-003. It would create funds for energy projects and make communities impacted by fossil fuel industries a priority. The bill would feature an increase in funding for the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, the Environment Department and the Department of Transportation.
2. 'No more stringent' standard: Have been trying to amend it since 2005. Senator Wirth will carry it.
3. Official status for community impacts due to industrial operations: Power for New Mexico (?) is pushing for this.
4. Update the Sustainable Building Tax Credit: This is a follow-up to the building code put in place in 2020.
5. Broadband and water infrastructure for low-income communities and rural areas: Is in the draft stage; need to figure out the funding; a group is meeting regularly
6. Water hook-ups on the Navajo Nation: Attempt to get it into one of the infrastructure bills
7. Help with utility bills: Extend the moratorium on turning off utilities for non-payment; cap arrears amount; take it to Public Regulation Commission as a loss for the utility company and spread it out over all ratepayers
8. Energy efficiency for low-income households: Push for federal funding
9. Increase penalties for oil and gas sector violations

Ms. Barnes also presented other issues she has heard about:

- a) Forest fire prevention and mitigation planning
- b) Increase bonding for new oil and gas wells
- c) Update the building code every three years: Senator Soules
- d) Electric vehicles for state fleet: Senator Soules
- e) Solarization of state buildings: Senator Soules
- f) Produced water: Senator Sedillo Lopez
- g) Changes to the Energy Transition Act: Senator Stefanics
- h) Grid Modernization: Public meeting on January 17 (? This is a Sunday) to present report from Advisory Group; related legislative actions may come up in 2021 session

The bipartisan Center for the New Energy Economy in Colorado has a lot to offer. Legislators and analysts are utilizing their resources.

Q & A section

- Christopher: Is it possible to roll bonding increases into the increase in fines for violations? Answer ~ Yes, especially if environmental groups raise the question. State Lands Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard is adamantly in favor of increases.
- Tom: I have been working with Senator Stewart about a just energy transition. We are considering the creation of a new division within the Department of

Workforce Solutions; Representative Rubio is also working on it. This is an effort to address the issue of how to mitigate the effects of a decline of the oil and gas industry. We need to prepare for that change. We need to plan together how to replace revenue and jobs. Answer ~ I attended a multi-state conference on a just transition. Everyone agreed we need to plan ahead. Don't turn oil and gas workers into villains. We can encourage alternate energy sources. David Baake has been working under a grant and he wrote a paper on hydrogen opportunities New Mexico could participate in.

- Gary: What is your opinion on Senator Steinborn's bill creating a public bank and how that has implications for climate change? And also, your opinion on the implications of Representative Stansbury's bill on water governance for the cultures in our state? Answer ~ My father-in-law Craig Barnes was a strong advocate for a public bank. Brian Egolf carried an early version of a public bank bill but there are many more questions now. Any water bills, including the broad Water Governance Bill might have to be delayed until the next session, a result of how Covid-19 is affecting the 2021 session.
- Beth update: There will be a report from the Community Solar Working Group coming out next week. The bill will be simpler and less prescriptive than earlier versions. Senator Stefanics and Representatives Andrea Romero and Patricia Roybal Caballero will carry it. The draft bill should also be ready by the end of next week.
- Marie: The Navajo Nation is spread over four states. Does this make any potential water and broadband bills more complicated? Answer: It is complicated by geography and governmental considerations. The tentative plan would be to use a count of hook-ups as an objective measure of progress.
- Paul comment: Distributed renewable energy is being seen as an alternative to large utilities. The legislature could be involved in setting up demonstration projects.
- Julia comment: The next legislative session will be harder for citizen activists because so much of it is expected to be in virtual modes, but don't give up. Keep looking for ways to communicate with your representatives.

Announcement

The next meeting of the Legislative Action Team will be Tuesday, December 15th at 3:30 pm. The meeting ID and password is available from Greg.

Next meeting

The next monthly public meeting will be Saturday, January 9th, 2021.

Meeting ended at 12:00 pm

Notes taken by Barbara Sinha