

**Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting**  
**September 2, 2015**  
**Meeting held at CityCoHo, 2401 Walnut Street**

**ExCom Members Attending:** Pat Beudet, Bill Brainerd, Mike Hoppus, Anne Lovett, Dave Moscatello, Dennis Winters, JimWylie, Mathew Himmelein

**By Phone:** John Butler, Len Finegold, Jon Paul Jaworski

**Other Members Attending:** Emily Davis, Sue Edwards, Karen Melton, Tom Torres (PA Staffer), Jim Palmer (Environmental Law specialist)

**Absent:** Prasad Ramnath

The Meeting was called to order by Anne Lovett at 6:45.

Secretary: Minutes were approved as emailed

Treasurer: The balance in the C4 account Begin at \$1563.32

Income:

\$2523.25	State allotment
\$1,000	City Coho facility

Expenditures

\$300	Coho rent,
42.00	Bank Charges
19.60	stamps
225.00	Bulk permit
40.16	reimbursement for political committee expenditures

Bringing the ending balance in the C4 account to 4459.81

The balance in the C3 account is \$7,843.60. (State allotment income of \$2523.25)

Jim asked if the \$1000 grant funds had been received. Dennis will look into it.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

**Newsletter/Communications:** (Pat) Deadline is October 1. It will be printed. Articles will include: Candidates for excom, endorsements (there are 23 candidates), Dawn Redwoods (Mike), Picnic, Jim Kenney (Karen) Michael Mann program (Bill), and Bats (Ann). Karen will work on elimination of duplicates. Jim has received training on SalesForce which is the new Convio. Mat is handling our facebook page so send him materials for facebook.

**Conservation Committee:** (Jim)

The Pipe line project committee has 5 members and is working on flyers.

Susan (Caskey? Karen will check) wants to promote solar roof top projects. Jim will meet with her.

EQAT (Earth Quaker Action Team) is pushing elected officials to increase training program for solar panel installation.

Mike Ewall has developed a "toxic tour of Chester County and would like to speak on infrastructure pieces.

**Political Committee:** no report

**Education Committee:** Michael Mann will be the speaker for the November Program which we be in an auditorium at CCP on Monday. Bill asked about having some paid ads to promote this event.

**Nomination Committee:** Bill, Pat and Karen will make up the nominating committee. Dennis, Jim, Ann, John and Len are up for re-election. The ballot must be in the newsletter. Nominees must be members of Sierra Club. Suggestions from the group included Kevin Little, Sue and Gary

## **Old Business:**

**Energy Hub:** (Green justice Philly) Dave shared several document from the coalition now called Green Justice Philadelphia – see attached documents: “Green Justice” and “Solutions committee”. Dave moved that we join the coalition. Mat seconded. Jim will check on compliance. Dave will send letter. There will be a launch on October 14.

**Outings / Picnic:** Anne reported that the picnic went well. Jon Paul reported that the kayaking outing planned for the 12<sup>th</sup> on Schuylkill River in Pottstown has 15 people registered. There will be a speaker from the Schuylkill River Heritage Center.

## **New Business:**

**Tom Torres:** Tom is the new Conservation Program Coordinator for the PA Chapter. He reported that he is offering training on advocacy to groups to help them focus on specific issues. He has already connected with other groups around a variety of issues around coal/gas/oil extraction on public lands, pipelines. He offers this training for members of our chapter but asks us to identify the issue. He has three already scheduled. Jim will collect suggestions. One possible topic is the Pipeline in Chester and Delaware Counties. A possible date is October 18.

**GMO Letter:** Jim moved that we sign the GMO letter to Casey and Toomey asking support for labeling of GMO products. Dennis second.

**Tabling:** Green Fest is Sunday Sept 13 from 10 to 4 at Headhouse Square. Matt is organizing the Sierra Club Table. Tabling opportunity at Heinz on the 20<sup>th</sup> – beyond coal will be focus to that table.

**Chapter Representative:** Delegates are no longer going to be proportional so our group will have only one. Dennis, Sue and Jim are running for an at-large delegate seats. We will need to elect a delegate.

**Events leading to Paris Talks:** Karen presented a list of activities that will take place to support strong climate action at the Paris Talks in December. See attached “Climate Events

## **Announcements:**

**National Drive Electric:** September 12, 12 to 5, Devon. Chance to see Tesla.

## **Reminders:**

**Chapter meeting and Camping trip:** Little Pine State Park, July 10/11 (Lycoming County)

### **Conservation Committee Member Specialties:**

- MTR – Jim Wylie
- Energy Conservation & Efficiency – John Butler
- Wind – PTC support – Gillian Norris
- AEPS support – Karen Melton
- Water – Robin Mann
- Smog – Gary Lytle/Jackie Wilson
- Transportation – Dennis Winters
- Land Use – Dennis Winters

## **Meeting Call-in Number:**

1-866-501-6174, PIN is 1004100#.

## **Hello from Green Justice Philly!**

Dear fellow activist,

Our coalition **has a name** and has reached some important milestones in our campaign to advance a just transition to a green economy, and to fight the dirty "energy hub" that outside companies are pushing here in Philly.

**We are Green Justice Philly!** Our Coordinating Committee has been meeting regularly since the "Launch Party" in April to develop a structure and strategy to move us forward. The various committees and subcampaigns are active, energized and open for people to join.

Under the structure agreed to at our February strategy session, subcampaigns have been hard at work on public events, meetings, website development, etc. More working groups may form, based on what people feel is needed. The Campaigns and Committees, according to the structure we all agreed to at the strategy session, will work with and through the Coordinating Committee to carry out work on behalf of the whole, representing Green Justice Philly.

A sign-on letter has been sent to organizations asking them to "officially" join as an organization. If you belong to an organization that would like to join, please send the group's name and contact information in response to this email and we will send them the sign-on letter.

The Mission of Green Justice Philly, based on input from the group strategy session, the survey, and Coordinating Committee sessions, is:

***We are a diverse and growing coalition committed to building a healthy, sustainable, and economically just Philadelphia region.***

***We work together to oppose the dirty fossil fuel industry that puts our neighborhoods at risk and makes our citizens sick and cannot contribute to our long term prosperity.***

If you are already active, thank you so much for your work. The Coordinating Committee will soon be contacting each working group (committee or campaign) to meet with you in person to hear your input and set goals.

If you are not already active, do you want to volunteer to serve on a subcampaign or committee? If so, please choose a campaign or committee you would like to join and contact the person listed below:

### Subcampaigns:

To join the Solutions campaign, contact Susan Saxe - [saxesmith@earthlink.net](mailto:saxesmith@earthlink.net)

To join the Oil Trains campaign, Tracy Carluccio - [tracy@delawariverkeeper.org](mailto:tracy@delawariverkeeper.org)

To join the Outreach Committee, Sam Bernhardt - [sbernhardt@fwwatch.org](mailto:sbernhardt@fwwatch.org)

To join the Action Committee, Liz Arnold - [arnold.elizabeth@gmail.com](mailto:arnold.elizabeth@gmail.com)

To join the Communications Committee, Andrew Bowers - [bowersad@gmail.com](mailto:bowersad@gmail.com)

To join the Corporate Research Committee, Adam Corson-Finnerty - [adam@psrphila.org](mailto:adam@psrphila.org)

### **Please respond by September 1, 2015.**

From your Coordinating Committee:

Action United

Clean Air Council

Delaware Riverkeeper Network

Food and Water Watch

Interfaith Power and Light

Maypop Collective

Andrew Bowers for Communications Committee

### **Tracy Carluccio**

Deputy Director

Delaware Riverkeeper Network

925 Canal St., Suite 3701

Bristol PA 19007

Phone: 215.369.1188 ext 104 Cell: 215.692.2329

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[www.delawariverkeeper.org](http://www.delawariverkeeper.org)

### **Remember the River**

*To remind us all to Remember the River in every decision we make:*

Dear Solutions Committee,

I am delighted to announce that Green Justice Philly has a multi-year plan with a clear goal, intermediate objectives and timeline, with roles for each and every campaign, committee and activist. This marks an exciting new phase of for our coalition.

The Coordinating Committee is eager to meet with every campaign and committee of Green Justice Philly, starting with the Solutions Campaign. The focus of these meetings will be to figure out how each part of the coalition can maximize its potential contribution to the goal that brought us all together: shutting down the dirty fossil fuel hub and building a just, green future. Since Solutions has been meeting on Wednesday nights, we propose an in-person meeting on a Wednesday night, as soon as possible. Would September 2<sup>nd</sup> work?

In preparation for the meeting, here is a very abbreviated version of the minutes from the half-day Coordinating Committee retreat that homed in on our objectives and targets. It would be great if people would print this longish email, or bring it on their preferred device to the upcoming meeting with the Coordinating Committee.

The meeting started with a detailed report from representatives of the tireless staff and talented teams of lawyers, engineers and policy analysts from Clean Air Council and Delaware River Keeper who have persevered for months and months of intensive research, endless meetings and repeated FOIA requests, and who have ploughed through literally tens of thousands of documents to zero in on the critical points where we can apply pressure to prevent the development of the proposed dirty fossil fuel hub and secure a just transition to a clean, healthy, sustainable future. Huge thanks to everyone involved. Go team!!!

The investigation and briefing was focused on the compliance status, resources, objectives and potential vulnerabilities of PES (Philadelphia Energy Solutions, the owners of the former Sunoco refinery at the heart of the dirty fossil fuel hub plan) and opportunities for influencing elected officials or government agencies that have any power in relation to them.

**Main Points:**

1. Pattern of violation of air and water quality regulations and standing consent decrees:

-PES has been in violation of clean air act and clean water act for years. We know of 111 violations since 2009.

-PES is a "high priority" violator according to the EPA.

- This is not a deterrent to PES. All they have to do is pay fines which have amounted to just a couple million over the last 2-3 years, pocket change to them. They don't even contest it; they just pay and go on with business as usual.

2. Buck-passing by the agencies that are supposed to be regulating them. This is a long story but for our purposes, the most important agency involved is Air Management Services, a branch of the Philadelphia Health Department. More on this below.

3. Primary pressure point is the Title 5 permit, which is up for renewal in 2019. This controls how much they can discharge into the air—they can't operate without it. 2019 is a long way off, but in one sense that is fortunate, because we don't have the political power to stop the permit at this point. However, it is absolutely critical for the future of the build-out plan and we believe we can build our power and accomplish this goal in a campaign that moves the rest of our vision forward as well.

4. Secondary pressure points: Wastewater discharge permits

Industrial Wastewater permit expires in 2016

Girard Point permit expires in 2017

Point Breeze permit expires in 2018

5. Financing: PES pulled out of its IPO (Initial Public Offering of stock to raise the capital for the build-out) at the last minute. We don't know why but it may be purely an economic decision. The market is down and crude oil prices are really low. One thing our campaign can accomplish is to send yet another message to potential investors that they risk stranded assets because we are mobilizing to block crucial permits. Another thing we can do is monitor and leverage conflicts in the fossil fuel industry over policies such as lifting the export ban.

6. PES can do some things without further permitting. For example. They can still go forward with their IPO, and they are building an onboarding facility in ND—in other words expanding to the supply end of their dirty oil.

**What we still need to know:**

- Corporate Research team: could be really helpful in figuring out some of Carlyle Group's plans.
- Action United has connections with Hedge Clippers, who have research and interest in going after big hedge funds. Connect to Corporate Research team.
- We also need more information on who in our political or regulatory system is on the industry payroll in one form or another and get media coverage of this scandal.
- We need more information on how much authority AMS has and what we can do to make them use it. We have connections that we can pursue to follow up on this.
- We are gathering more data to allow our engineers to figure out what pieces of the old equipment that PES is supposed to repair or replace has not been updated as per the consent decree with the EPA.
- We can continue to research the health impact of PES emissions, which account for 72% of toxic emissions in Philly, and connect that to the asthma epidemic and other health crises.

Meanwhile:

WE HAVE SET THE LAUNCH DATE OF GREEN JUSTICE PHILLY FOR OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup>, 2015 AT THE MUNICIPAL SERVICES BUILDING TO COINCIDE WITH THE NEXT MEETING OF THE AMS! Mark your calendar.

Many of our member organizations have campaigns in place that mesh nicely with our campaign. A study of schools and refineries shows that PES is one of the worst in the country for having a large number of schools that are nearby, which gives us a good connection to people concerned with child health and education.

### **Targets and Demands**

#### **1. City Council.**

The "No permits for lawbreakers" campaign. We want to pass an ordinance that states that no constant violator of air or water quality regulations can have a permit approved by x agency if they've had x number of violations in the past 2 years. (Agency depends on which permit, and number of violations to be determined.)

#### **Leading up to that we want Council to:**

- Hold a series of public hearings where our expert witnesses and impacted people have guaranteed and adequate time to speak, not just industry.
- Hold special hearings in neighborhoods at times working people can attend, starting with the neighborhoods that are most adversely impacted by PES emissions.

We will also launch campaigns to move different council-people from favorable to champions of our cause, from on the fence to favorable and from against us to getting out of the way because we have exposed their industry ties and their constituents are up in arms.

#### **2. Mayor Kenney**

Demands include:

Audit of the refinery

80% reduction of greenhouse gasses by 2050 commitment

That a given % of city renovations be green and sustainable

After the election, following up on the work done by Neighborhood Networks to bring pro-sustainability advisors to the table.

#### **3. PES and the Carlisle Group--taking it to the polluters**

-Making Phil Rinaldi the face of asthma and pollution in Philly

-Exposing corruption through campaign financing, inside deals, etc.

-Undoing the meme that fossil fuels lead to jobs, working with labor to assure a just transition,

-Undermining PES's financing and public image.

-Showing the alternatives (This is where Solutions can shine!)

**Mid-term goals and objectives to get to our major goal**

*What do we want in the first 2 years of our campaign?*

- Public support in key councilmanic districts
- Directly affected people in these communities are part of leading this campaign.
- Everyone in the city knows what PES is and how the refinery pollutes.
- Majority of residents in public opinion poll think PES is a bad actor.
- Every city council member has to take a stand on this issue.
- Kenney has put our people on his transition and permanent advisory team and is meeting with them on a regular basis.
- Allegiances that PES has in the community are breaking down (their community engagement board, agencies, CDCs), discrediting their people on the agencies, and getting some of the community groups to stand against them.
- Press exposes of some of the big power players: Rinaldi, David Oh, Carlyle Group
- Mayor Kenney will have ordered AMS to do an air quality audit/investigation and make a public report
- Local hearings will be held
- Getting commitments from politicians not to take money from lawbreakers

*What are our organizational goals?*

- Functioning committees that carry out this project
- Campaigns that are aligned with this campaign
- 100 member organizations in next year, 200 in 3 years
- A structure that can accommodate mass support
- Communication and alliance with other coalitions
- Engaging community-based organizations
- Base building in communities, helping to create organizations in community

**TIMELINE: Critical dates and events**

**September:**

- 9/11: Council Session starts
- 9/16: Shale Insight Conference and Demonstration against it, Climate Jobs and Justice teach-in and vigil
- 9/25-27 Pope Visit

**October:**

- 10/14: LAUNCH – Peoples Climate March Day, and Air Management Services meeting. We will try to meet with AMS before October 14 and also try to get a councilperson to stand with us. We will also coordinate with other related actions taking place for PCM Day. We hope to announce Town Hall Meetings at our Launch

- 10/25: Interfaith Power and Light statewide conference in Philly

**November:**

- 11/3 Elections mayor and city council
- Around 11/15: Town Hall in Elmwood (Action United: inviting Johnson, Kenney, Jannie Blackwell)

**December:**

- Around 12/7: Could do another Town Hall in Point Breeze

January:

- 1/23: Inauguration of Mayor and new city council

There's a lot more to share, including outreach efforts to build the coalition, creating a stronger operating structure and planning a convention. Let's meet!

## CLIMATE EVENTS PRIOR TO THE PARIS TALKS

Aug 24 – Sept 3 – President Obama conducts an 11 day tour including stops in Alaska and New Orleans, talking about climate

Sept 9 & 10 - Washington DC, Elder Climate Action Grandparents Days. Jim Hansen and Lynn Twist (Co-Founder of Pachamama Alliance) will be speaking, with Congressional visits on the 10th.  
[www.eldersclimateaction.org/](http://www.eldersclimateaction.org/)

Sept 10 – Brooklyn, NY -- Off and On: The Climate Movement and Road Through Paris, program includes Bill McKibbin, Naomi Klein, Reverend Yearwood, Cynthia Ong, Eddie Bautista

Sept 13 – Clean Water Action, Greenfest, 10 to 4, Headhouse Square

Sept 16 – Shale Gas Rally, outside the Shale Gas Conference at the Convention Center

Sept 16 – EQAT rally at PECO Headquarters, 1:15, meet at 30<sup>th</sup> Street Station

Sept 16 – Climate, Jobs, and Justice

September 21, 2015 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Academy of Natural Sciences, Climate Change: A New Dialogue

In response to Pope Francis' call for a "new dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet," Panelists include Jeffrey D. Sachs, an advisor to the Vatican on climate change, Michael Oppenheimer, climate change researcher at Princeton University; Jacqui Patterson, director of the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program; and Katherine Gajewski.

Sept 22 - 23 Vigil on the national mall - Observe Yom Kippur at the Lincoln Memorial to Create At-One-Ment with the Earth

Sept 24 – the Pope addresses Congress, expected to talk about climate. People gather on the National Mall to watch the address

Oct 13<sup>th</sup> – Green & Clean Social, Mug Shots coffee house

Oct 14<sup>th</sup> – People's Climate Movement, National day of Action. No Philly events listed yet,  
[WWW.Peoplesclimate.org](http://WWW.Peoplesclimate.org)

Oct ?? – Clean Energy Symposium

Oct 25<sup>th</sup> – IPL Conference, Hope in the Age of the Climate Crisis: Finding Our Moral Compass

Nov 5 – Mary Anne Hitt and Producer of Years of Living Dangerously, Sierra Club National Director for Beyond Coal Campaign

Nov 9 – Michael Mann, Sierra Club speaker series @ Community College

Nov 28-29 – Weekend of Global Action prior to Paris talks (announced by 350.org)

Nov 30 – Dec 11 – Paris climate talks