

Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting
February 3, 2016
Meeting held at CityCoHo, 2401 Walnut Street

ExCom Members Attending: Bill Brainerd, Mike Hoppus, Anne Lovett, Jim Wylie, John Butler, Pat Beaudet, Dennis Winters, Dave Moscatello,

Attending by Phone: Prasad Ramnath, Mathew Himmelein

Other Members Attending: Emily Davis, Gary Lytle, Karen Melton, Sue Edwards, Amy Kwasnski, Katie Bartotta (Penn Future)

ExCom Members Absent: Gerald Brown (medical)

The Meeting was called to order by Jim Wylie at 6:45.

Secretary: Minutes approved as corrected (

Treasurer: The balance in the C4 account began at \$636.67

Income included 119.60 for calendars from Robin and \$450 from the chapter for Coho rent bringing the balance to 1206.27. Expenses were \$205.02. The current balance is 1001.25. There is a bill for calendars for \$456.00. Ann will look in to this.

Standing Committee Reports

Conservation Committee: (Jim)

General: Jim Wylie

Jim organized a Conservation Committee Leaders Summit meeting on Jan 31 at the Bryn Mawr Library. The goal of this meeting was to: get the cmte leaders to meet each other and to meet Sierra Club staff (Gary and Tom) and explain to Gary and Tom the issues we are facing and the needs that we have and to brainstorm about tactics we can all use to build out teams and have them be more effective.

Attending (in person or on the phone) leaders were: Bernie Greenberg (Chester Co, Pipelines), Peggy Hartzell (Chester Co, Oil Trains), Patti McCorran (Bucks Co, Elcon Waste Incinerator), Sue Caskey (Phila, Rooftop Solar), Cinzia Sevignani (Phila, Urban Air Quality), Mike McGrory (Mont Co, Sustainable Gardening). Unable to attend: John Butler (Del Co, Sprawl, Energy Eff), Susan Charkes (Chester Co, Alt Transportation), Eva Wylie (Chester Co, Zero Waste).

A very good meeting with a lot of brains storming. Tom will follow up with training suggestions. Leaders will work with Jim to improve cmte web pages and define strategy and needs. Future meetings will be more focused – on training topic or issue planning. A google group was set up for easy email exchange.

Amy will join the roof top solar team and Mike will work on forestrt and endangered species activities

Meeting minutes, resource cheat sheet, tactics brainstorm are at Google Docs

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B28yV9yCsnvMXzdDWmJKNzFFTDA&usp=gmail>

Future Energy: Dave Moscatello

The Future Energy Sub-Committee of the Conservation Committee will promote clean, renewable energy sources (such as wind and solar energy, especially rooftop solar) and energy efficiency (possibly standalone), and related issues and policies.

Gary Lytle and several Beyond Coal volunteers visited with State Senator Williams' policy advisor Cortez Patton Monday 2/1 morning to ask the senator to sign a letter calling for on-time submission in September of a strong State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the Clean Power Plan. The Senator was on vacation, but Mr. Patton said he supported the Clean Power Plan and promised to get in touch with Gary or Tom Schuster next week. Additional meetings with state legislators are scheduled. Dave explained that by submitting its plan by Sept 6, the state would be eligible for special funds to support the transition including funds for job training.

Transportation: (Dennis Winters)

Dennis reported that SEPTA has ordered hybrid-diesel buses which would be in service for years to come. SEPTA is also planning to construct a power generation plant using natural gas. There is opposition to this construction. They are also redoing the Island Ave Trolley stop so there will be cross walks and at least a pedestrian activated stop light to make this stop safe.

Political Committee: Bill Brainerd and Karen Melton, Co-chairs

· Bill has reserved the following locations and is making appointments with candidates. Any board members who wish to participate should let us know.

Feb 6th at the Marple Township library - candidates from US House districts 6 and 7

Feb 20th, Bucks Co, North Hampton Township Library, (3 appts scheduled so far)

Feb 13th, West Chester interviews at the West Chester borough building

League of Conservation Voters has been invited to join the interviews

· State committee sent questionnaires the beginning of December to US office candidates who had filed with the FEC. So far only 3 completed questionnaires have been received.

· The state level race questionnaires have not been sent out yet.

· Committee is looking at which incumbent state level candidates to endorse based on the score card and work they have done. The most recent score card is for 2013-2014. State does not plan a score card for 2015.

Bill presented a list of “Environmental Heros” as identified by the environmental scorecard. He would like to have those candidates endorsed as a group so more time could be spent on candidates without scores.

Newsletter/Communications: (Pat Beaudet)

Please review the most recent online newsletter (Winter 2016) aka Sierra Watch January 2016. The newsletter was distributed on January 18 as planned. I would like to hear any feedback you may have on content and/or presentation. Looking back, there are things I would have done differently! Go to www.southeastern.pasierra.org.

Typically, we do one of these every two months unless there is a special reason to add another, usually as a notice of an event. So far, the online newsletter content has simply been a report of what is most timely at the time, not in depth reporting or issue education. Or at least that is how I see it. As previously stated I would like to hear any thoughts you have on the effectiveness of this type of newsletter and if you agree with my vision. Jim can tell us how many clicks we are getting.

Deadline for submission of articles will be March 1.

Facebook (Mat Himmelein) Mat wants to make the facebook page more alive. It has had 125 hits. He wants to use the post boost feature to increase the activity. There is a cost for this feature.

Education Committee: (Bill Brainerd)

The next program will be on March 14 – rescheduled from January - COP21 Report, Kenney's

Prasad asked if the program could have a speaker from the SUWA (Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance). Bill said it has been a number of years since this was done so we can do it again

Nomination Committee: No report

Old Business

Cardinal Crossing: (John Butler)

John reported that the county planning commission had asked the developer to resubmit the plan. He also reminded us that the Vatican has the final say on the sale of the land. Lawn signs and bumper stickers are being used to educate the public about the issue.

Beyond Coal: (Gary Lytle) Gary reported that they have started an Adopt a Legislator , and will be visiting a number of legislators in the 5 county region urging them to sign on to a letter to the governor attesting to their support of the Clean Power Plan. The this year's focus will be Bruner Island, a number of trips will be organized around Bruner Island.

New Business

SPG Organization: (Jim Wylie)

Jim proposed a new structure with more roles as described in a the document

(<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1h4iOXi7rsgDBpcFyJ5BqyQQN4FjaaqJwuozE5e8gTk/edit>)

He asked that we approve the creation of new roles (aka committee chairs or team organizers) as proposed by Jim Wylie, with modifications as agreed in today's meeting. It was approved.

He also asked we approve the ExCom process change to submit summary reports from each ExCom member 2 days before the monthly meeting. This submission is voluntary, but appreciated. It was approved.

He also asked for approval of the concept of online voting between meetings. Jim will investigate and propose specific structure and rules for online voting.

March during DNC convention: The organization Americans against Fracking is organizing a "March for a Clean Energy Revolution." The three actions desired are: Ban on Fracking, a quick and Just transition to clean Energy and to keep fossil fuels in the ground. Jim will look in to endorsing this march.

Donations: *Bill moved, and Ann seconded that we give \$250 each to the Delaware County Envirothon and Chester/Ridley Crum Creek Water Shed for educational activities.* These organizations have been supported in the past. The motion passed.

Member Engagement: (Jim Wylie) This year, Jim would like to see events that focus on an issue but also include the opportunity to meet people and have fun. For example a program on the Elcon Hazardous Waste Burner in Bucks County

Announcements:

White Privilege Conference, Thursday, April 14 – Sunday, April 17, 2016. The Sierra Club will have a preconference meeting on the 14th.

Meeting Call-in Number:

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