

**Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting
City Coho
February 1, 2017 Meeting**

ExCom Members Attending: Gerald Brown , Ken Hemphill, Alexa Manning, Dave Moscatello, Prasad Ramnath, Dennis Winters, JimWylie

Attending by Phone: Pat Beaudet,

ExCom Members Absent: Bill Brainerd, John Butler, Mathew Himmelein

Other Members Attending: Karen Melton, Emily Davis, Margaret Nerster, Nicole Matthesen, Evan Oskierko-Jernacki, Nicholas Beale

The Meeting was called to order at 6:15 by Jim Wylie

Secretary: The January minutes were approved

Treasurer: (Dennis)

C3: January Balance: \$1,165, Expenditures: 746 (3 education programs) Current Balance: \$424

Note: Designated funds of \$2000 to pay for experts to review applications for pipelines will be in this account.

C4: January Balance: \$2,905, Income: \$650 (paypal), \$3895 (fundraising), Expenditures: 200 (coho rent) Current Balance: \$7250

Excom Members and committee chairs: Jim announced that Bill was unwilling to continue as polical chair in the new format and that he had resigned from the Ex Com. Karen Melton indicated interest in filling his spot on the executive committee. The position of Political chair and Education chair are unfilled.

Standing Committee Reports

Conservation Committee: (Jim)

Activist Calls: The current plan is to have one meeting each month face-to-face. The rest will be call-in.

Some call-in meetings will have a mini-program. Margaret suggested podcasting these programs

Washington DC Climate March: Jim Date: Apr 29, 2017 <https://peoplesclimate.org/> - there is going to be another BIG event, like the Peoples Climate March in NYC of 2014. Sierra Club is on the steering committee. I talked to Randy Francisco (he will be our organizer for PCM). He thinks there will be major involvement from SC national for this PCM, but they are not ready to go public yet – other than a website you can enter your info to stay informed.

At the 350/Philly led planning meeting last night (Tue, 1/31), Mitch and Katie led discussions about messaging, outreach, logistics, art, PR, etc. I sat in with the transportation/logistics team. Karen with the events team. Things are just getting going, but it's not too early to start planning for:

SC reserved buses

promo events (we need to tie into our projects)

getting volunteers that want to help plugged in

flyers and other branding that takes advantage of this big thing

who wants to play what role?

Green Justice Philly: (Dave)

On January 11, the GJP Coordinating Committee met to celebrate a hard-fought victory in preventing the build-out of more dirty fossil fuel infrastructure at the Southport waterfront facility, and the awarding of a \$300 million State grant to develop a container port. This sudden, positive development freed and inspired GJP to look at other campaign opportunities.

New Campaigns under consideration include:

1. Fossil Free SEPTA: Expanding a current campaign spearheaded by 350 Philly and neighborhood groups to resist the building of a fracked gas plant at the SEPTA terminal on Wissahickon Avenue in Nicetown to the whole region served by SEPTA with the goal of making our public transit 100% electric/renewable by a set date.

2. Making Philly Solar Friendly: Connecting the dots between labor, building the local economy, health and neighborhoods by advocating to City Council for legislation such as favorable building permits or tax abatements for solar projects.

3. Public Reinvestment Banking: Taking City money out of corporate banks and into local control to fund a wide array of positive development projects in communities, refinance debt to help the school system, and much more.

4. Continuation of our “No Permits for Lawbreakers” campaign directed at the Philadelphia Energy Solutions Refinery: PES is the primary source of toxins in our air, the cause of our asthma and other health epidemics. Their “scofflaw” business model is to violate the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts and EPA consent decree, paying relatively small fines as the cost of doing business. This campaign has a powerful and simple message: just obey the law.

5. Following up on Southport victory: Blocking a fossil fuel terminal at Southport and creating thousands of stable, family-supporting jobs is good but not enough. We need to continue that campaign to advocate for just labor goals such as jobs and training going to residents of low income, frontline communities. We also need to insure that the development plan is as green as possible.

6. PGW monitoring: Engaging with PGW to insure that it is monitoring methane leakage in its pipeline system.

Keystone pipeline: John It goes to a free trade zone in Texas so even if they refine it there we don't get any taxes but most will be exported so long term we get maybe 40 jobs

Oil trains: John The oil trains have almost stopped because that oil is being exported and they are now importing foreign oil to run the refineries for delta and believe production is down in phila. This was because of the change in the law last year allowing us to export crude oil

Deregulation: John There is also a 60 day rule on regulations so the republicans are going to end about 200 regulations that were passed in the last session. One is methane leaks on federal leased land for drilling. In Philadelphia at the waste water plant near the airport, only part of the gas is being used and the rest is being flared off. Maybe this is one area we could get the city to increase the size of the electric generation that they have or pipe it for heating use or clean it to put in the gas system or power city trash trucks.

Political Committee: (Karen)

Karen reported that there will not be any races in Philadelphia this year to consider for endorsement. There are races in the other counties and townships to consider. Jim said there would be training for the those participating in the county endorsement subcommittees.

On March 21st there will be a special election for PA House district 197, vacated by Leslie Acosta. According to an Inquirer story on 1/26, ward leaders / committee members have selected Freddie Ramirez as the D candidate. R's have a candidate as well, but in this largely D district Ramirez is certain to be elected.

As far as the endorsement committee, it still needs a chair person. There will be training to ensure consistency of questions and rating criteria throughout the 5 counties.

Newsletter/Communications: (Pat Beaudet)

This newsletter was a big success. Jim got 3 e-mails saying thanks. First time this has happened. I wish I knew why but we can only speculate that the handsome cover photo of Jim had something to do with it

As you know we are on a quarterly schedule. The next newsletter would be sent on April 17 with an editorial deadline of 10 days prior.

Education Committee: (Karen Melton)

Karen reported that Bill was trying to get some one from EPA Region 6 to speak at the March program. With the current changes, this seems unlikely. She will investigate other speakers.

Nomination Committee: No report

Report from Chapter Meeting: Jim reported the Chapter is expanding its staff from 5 to 9. The PA chapter has 30,000 members with 11,000 in the Philadelphia area. National is working on Resistance to the Trump agenda. Charlie and Tom Torres are focusing part of their work on the Supreme Court. This is the 80th anniversary of the Clean Streams Act. It is suggested that we have programs on this theme.

Old Business

Member Engagement: Bucks County: Prasad

13 People attended a meeting to form the Bucks County group on Jan 14 hosted by Jim and Prasad. A yahoo group has been created for this group. It has 8 people so far of which about 6 are active in conversations.

2 have signed up to be Outings Leaders

We also met by phone to discuss topics to discuss with Brian Fitzpatrick, our new Congressman who so far is leaning green.

Outings: Tyler State Park Outing on 2/11. Two people signed up for Outings training on 2/18
The group will meet again in Early March.

Next Steps: Meet with Brian Fitzpatrick as a Bucks County Group- new Congressman - have reached out to office to set up appointment

Member Engagement: New Members: There have been a large number of new members joining Sierra Club since the election. To engage these new members, it was suggested the a letter be sent to them. Margaret will draft. Pat agreed to hand address the envelopes for these letters.

Outings: On February 18 Amy Kwasnicki is hosting an outings leader training which at Coho

Tabling: Jim

Tabling season is almost here. In fact, we were invited to a Trout Unlimited event in Feb. We should have a tabling planning meeting, calendar look, materials assessment. I can ask the volunteers list, but thought I'd give the ExCom folks first crack. Maria did this last year. She declined this year because she is getting ready to sell her house. Emily will coordinate this year. Margaret and Alexa signed up.

New Business

Announcements:

Meeting Call-in Number:

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

Email Vote (Sat 2/11): Prasad moved that we sign a letter to the Delaware River Basin Commission asking them to enact a permanent ban on all gas development, including drilling and fracking, in the Delaware River Watershed. 8 members voted yes. The motion passed

Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Approval** of [Jan minutes](#)
- **Announcements**, agenda updates
- **Committee Chairs and Other Roles** (left over from Jan)
 - Political
 - Member Engagement
 - Tabling
 - People's Climate March
- **Chapter Excom Report**
 - Push membership, run for office, new Climate Caucus, Indivisible
 - Del River fish ladder, push diversity, ME2 is approved, nuclear bailout bill, partnership w/ Solar City?
 - Chapter staffing doubling this year – but not in Phila
 - 80th anniversary of Clean Streams Act – support events
- **Newsletter**
 - Winter
 - Spring planning
- **2017 Budget & Treasurers Report**
 - File has been locked - [2017 budget](#)
- **RESISTANCE**
 - Like it or not, we are in the mix for this growing resistance movement.
 - Any thoughts on what role and image SPG should be playing?
- **Review of 2016, Plan for 2017** – (see report [HERE](#)) special meeting in Jan?
 - I didn't get this done – Trump happened. Any comments about 2017 Objectives?
- **Next Education Program**
 - ?
- **Conservation Report**
 - Ready For 100 – city, suburban, tech teams progressing. Tied into National RF100
 - Weekly Volunteer Calls – [quest speaker calendar](#) for 2017
 - Peoples Climate March – Apr 29 in DC
 - New volunteers – Jim has been matching w/ cmtes
- **Member Engagement** –
 - Welcome letter to new members?
 - New SPG members since Nov 8 - ~250. List available.
 - Regional meetings – Bucks a success, Phila being planned, Montco in works
- **Essay Board**
- **Outings**
 - Join the meetup group - <https://www.meetup.com/Philadelphia-Sierra-Club-Outings/>