

**Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting  
July 2, 2014**

Attending: Pat Beaudet, Bill Brainerd, John Butler (by phone), Emily Davis, Len Finegold Anne Lovett (by phone), Jim Wylie, Dennis Winters

Not Attending: Mathew Himmelein, Jeanette MacNeille, Allan Walters,

Anne called the meeting to order at 6:45

Secretary: Minutes were approved as emailed.

Treasurer: Account Balance: C4: 548.66, C3: 7887.50

### **Committee Reports**

#### *Newsletter/Communications: Pat / Jim*

The newsletter will go out via Convio the week of July 14. Topics included will be:

The Carbon rule hearings in DC and Pittsburgh and the accompanying rally in DC;

Request for new outings leaders;

The Chapter Meeting

Summary of the June program on Wind Energy;

The March on Sept 21 in NYC; and

The picnic

The fall newsletter will be printed

#### *Conservation Committee: Jim*

Bill led a group that met with Rep. Bill Adolph (165, Delaware, appropriations committee chair) He is opposed to drilling in state forest and parks. He told the group that drilling companies are paying the impact fee by deducting it from royalty payments to land owners.

Dennis submitted 3 pages of comments to the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission on the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). This program is funded with Federal Highway funds and supports surface transportation forms such as bicycling and walking. Pat Toomey is trying to do away with this program.

Jim was invited to attend a meeting at EPA – Region 3 to which representatives of several organizations were invited. His notes from the meeting are at the end of these minutes.

#### *Political Committee:*

Bill presented a summary of the work of the committee. They reviewed the work of the candidates in 18 races. The committee presented the following candidates for recommendation to the Chapter for endorsement:

Bob Brady (US House – 1, D): Motion for endorsement passed

Chaka Fatah (US House – 2, D): Motion for endorsement passed

Manan Trivedi (US House – 6, D): Motion for endorsement passed

Mary Ellen Balchunis (US House – 7, D): Motion for endorsement passed

Kevin Strouse (US House – 8, D): Motion for endorsement passed

Tom Houghton (US House – 16, D): Motion for endorsement passed

Art Haywood (PA Senate – 4, D): Motion for endorsement passed

Tina Davis (PA House – 141, D): Motion for endorsement passed

Steve McCarter (PA House – 154, D): Motion for endorsement passed

Sandy Snyder (PA House – 154, D): Motion for endorsement passed

Cuyler Walker (PA House – 158, R): Motion for endorsement passed

Leanne Krueger-Braneky (PA House – 161, D): Motion for endorsement passed

Vine Rongione (PA House – 163, D): Motion for endorsement passed

Duane Milne (PA House – 167, R): Motion for endorsement failed  
John Moved and Bill seconded that we endorse Anne Crowley (PA House – 167, D). Motion for endorsement passed.

*Nomination Committee: no report*

**Old Business:**

Education Program: (Bill) Programs will begin again in the fall. The June program incurred more expenses than usual since we had an out-of-town speaker.

Member Picnic: About 30 people attended. Anne and Emily will put together a list of expenses that were incurred. Both are making a donation of the expenses.

Meeting Location: The tour schedule before the meeting was cancelled. Jim will work on scheduling another. He suggested that we do a \$100 / month membership which would allow 5 hours of meeting time. They will also allow us to have our mail come there. There was discussion about the chapter picking up part of the cost.

Philadelphia Office of Sustainability: A question will be on the Fall ballot seeking to make this office permanent.

New Carbon Rules for Existing power plants:

Chapter Meeting: Ann, Bill and Dennis are our Chapter Meeting Delegates. Len will be the alternate.

**New Business:**

**Climate Change Rally – Sept 21 – NYC**

Jim reported that the Sierra Club would like our group to fill 5 buses from Philadelphia to the climate change Rally on Sunday 9/21 in NYC. We decided that we will have one organizer for each county.

Delaware – Bill

Philadelphia – Emily

Chester – Jim

Montgomery – Ann

Bucks – we will ask Jon Paul if he has any ideas

Bill suggested will contact Judy Morgan, who was at the picnic and would like to get more involved.

The group would like to underwrite the cost of buses so participants would pay only a small amount. Dennis will look into this if C3 we could. He will check on when we get our allocation from the state.

Ban on Non Therapeutic use of Antibiotics: Jim said that Food and Water Watch is championing HB 2195 (An Act prohibiting the administration of certain antimicrobial agents in agriculture; providing for inspection and testing of agricultural operations, for enforcement and for reporting by agricultural operations; and making related repeals.) Can we support this on our web site. He will check with the chapter on the issue.

**Announcements:**

Next Meeting: August 6

**Reminders:**

*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

**Meetings by Phone:** To call into the Ex Comm meeting at the Clean Air Council, first call the office number, 215-567-4004, when requested dial extension 7000, the conference code number is 0867#.

Notes from EPA meeting from Jim Wylie:

Hi guys. I just wanted to report on a meeting I was invited to yesterday at the EPA in Philadelphia. I wasn't sure what to expect, nor was I sure why I was invited – it was not an MTR meeting. But I was glad I went.

This was kind of a general feel-each-other-out and check-in meeting between various EPA departments (air, water, permitting, etc) and Sierra Club campaign leaders and lawyers, as well as reps from Earth Justice and Clean Air Council. I think this is an ongoing, perhaps annual, meeting. They asked me to join as a local volunteer rep.

It started with EPA Region 3 Director Garvin giving a summary of the initiatives that are **on the EPA's radar this summer**: Chesapeake Bay – review of states pollution reduction plans, MTR, Shale gas, climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, Waters of the US, sustainability and environmental justice. More on EJ later.

The Sierra Club and friends had a planned out **list of topics** and issues to bring up, but were planning to keep it at a high level because Director Garvin would be there. Topics included:

**Ozone** – some coal burning plants are not using the scrubbers that they installed. Keep an eye on Maryland and PA.

**SO2** – there are several areas that are not meeting requirements in PA and WV

**Carbon Rule** – good start, but we want more support for clean energy and help in transition of labor pools

**Water** – selenium, MTR, coal ash storage rules, discharge permitting

EPA guys were generally positive and appreciative of the heads up from these various watchdog groups. Notes were taken. Heads nodded. Contacts were exchanged.

Regarding the Carbon Rule hearings, the DC hearing is expected to have somewhat of a national flavor. But the Pittsburgh hearing will be regionally focused with lots of testimony expected from industries that will be impacted, or at least think they will be. They will be running concurrent hearings on July 31 and they expect **a second day will be added in Pittsburgh on Aug 1.**

The most interesting discussion, I thought, was **the role that Director Garvin sees the EPA playing in environmental justice.** He talked about a program in Chinatown/Phila to help educate and facilitate the recycling of cooking oil instead of pouring it down the drain. Not just enforcement.

That led to a similar discussion about helping people in Appalachia and western PA transition from a coal mining economy to ... something else. Randy Pomponio, Director of Environmental Assessment and Innovation Division, referenced a program called "Highlands" that attempted to address some kind of environmental justice issue in the 90's I think. He said he'd send me info and I will do some googling.

That's about it. Mark Kresowick asked that I share these notes with the Phila activists. Let me know if you have any questions.

Jim