

Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting

September 7, 2016

ExCom Members Attending: Pat Beaudet, Bill Brainerd, Gerald Brown, Mike Hoppus , Dave Moscatello, Prasad Ramnath, Jim-Wylie

Attending by Phone: Dennis Winters, Ken Hemphill, Alexandra Manning

ExCom Members Absent: John Butler, Mathew Himmelein, Anne Lovett

Other Members Attending: Joanne Kilgore, Tom Schuster. Karen Melton, Emily Davis

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

Secretary: Jim moved that the August minutes be approved. Dave seconded. The motion passed

Treasurer:

August Balance: \$2,517.76 (C4 account)

Expenditures: 486.00 - Club swag for Greenfest, \$450 requested from chapter for CoHo Rental

September Balance C4: \$2,031.76

June Balance C3: \$53.48

C3: \$75 for add'l Greenfest space

Bill asked if the chapter would continue to assist with the CoHo rent. Joanne indicated that it would.

Standing Committee Reports

Conservation Committee: (Jim)

Green Justice Philly – see Dave’s report of the meeting following minutes ([see appendix 1](#))

Don’t Spray Me - Jim

A “Victory Picnic” was held in Everhart Park in West Chester on 9/4 to celebrate the fact that we made it through the entire mosquito season without tripping the Chester County triggers that would require mandatory spraying in the Borough of West Chester. Thanks to 116 block captains and even more yard signs and door knob hangers, we were able to educate people to eliminate standing water that serves as breeding grounds for mosquitos.

Starting next year, the Don’t Spray Me organizers hope to organize satellite committees in other communities to help educate people about the evils of indiscriminate spraying of pesticides and how easy it is to avoid the need for it.

Urban Air Quality

Met with Cinzia Sevigani, Ph.D., Marilyn V. Howarth, MD (U. Penn), Nicholas Shapiro, D. Phil. (Chemical Heritage Foundation), and Jum Wylie Tuesday August 2 at U. Penn to discuss, personal air quality monitoring project. , Dr. Howarth interested in participating. Personal/ portable monitors not yet available, so discussed small pilot project using Tzoa research particulate monitors.

Ready for 100:

100% Clean by 2030 project will unite several projects including Beyond Coal. Charlie Isaac will assist and be the link to other staff. See minutes from the 8/31 kickoff meeting at (<http://readyfor100.org>) or following these minutes ([Appendix 2](#))

Open Space

Cardinal crossing in Marple - The developer is suing the town for loss of his deposit because he didn't get his zoning change.

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

The political committee suggests we endorse two state House Rs. Gene DiGirolamo and Tom Murt According to Joanne their 2015-16 scores are

	2015-6	2013-14	2011-12	2009-10	2007-8
DiG	73%	42	54	82	80
Murt	55	42	46	87	80

DiGirolamo and Murt were prime sponsors of a 2015 bill to levy a 3.2% severance tax on gas. Murt has recently introduced a bill to require a \$2 M bond on each gas well. Jeff Schmidt likes Murt, wants us to consider endorsing him. I like DiG, perhaps the House's most liberal R. I have twice interviewed Murt, never DiG, but we endorsed incumbents Donatucci, Youngblood, Roebuck without ever interviewing

them. I will ask both candidates to complete questionnaires. The chapter meets Sat Sept 17. We haven't endorsed a state House or Senate Republican since Act 13.

***Bill moved that we endorse Gene DiGeronamo (encombant, 18th district) . The motion failed. An online vote in which all members can participate will be conducted.

The chapter will make endorsements at its meeting on September 17th

Newsletter/Communications: (Pat Beaudet)

Print newsletter - ed. deadline 9/19 - printer deadline - 9/26

Both Jim and Dennis have approved a newsletter quote we received from Oaks Direct. If we reduce the newsletter to 4 pages (vs. 8), cut back to black on white with one color; and send it third class nonprofit bulk rate, we can bring print newsletter cost down to \$1,375, which is less than half the cost of last year's newsletter (\$2,800). This is doable based on funds available in our C4 account. By doing this, we fulfill the requirement to send a ballot to all members of our group. At the same time we will encourage print members to send us their e-mail address so that we can gradually reduce our costs even more.

Members will be referred to the Sylvania for all political endorsements, including ours. Our newsletter space will be used for conservation news & articles, plus our SPG 2017-18 Election candidate statements and ballot. The % of space dedicated to conservation can be reimbursed to us through our C3 Foundation account. More savings! We have two pages for conservation articles, announcements, etc. Please send me your ideas. I have two commitments so far: (1) Septa's new gas-fired power plant (2) An article from Dennis on Zero Emissions which was kept on hold. Anything that goes in print version can be expanded for online version.

Online newsletter - Pat

TBD - this will have different ed. deadline and send date.

Social Media: Mat

Our social media presence has been regular with postings from the enviro community locally and nationally with a surge of interest in the Dakota access Pipeline taking the lead in terms of views and impressions on Facebook. We've acquired a bevy of Sierra Club swag to be given out in the form of volunteer bribe during tabling events. If someone signs up we can reward them with a small gesture of our affection, and if they sign up for several time slots we can offer an even bigger reward, details to come but I imagine this will yield some good results.

Education Committee: (Bill Brainerd)

The next program is September 28 at CCP. Peter Handler from the Citizen's Climate Lobby will talk about the carbon tax.

Nomination Committee: (Prasad Ramnath)

Excomm members running for re-election are Pat, Bill, Mat and Dave. Alexandra Manning and Ken Hemphill will also be the ballot. Each will submit a statement (up to 75 words) for the September newsletter which will include the ballot.

There was discussion about having an on-line ballot. Joanne said the Chapter used paper ballot. It can be both, paper and electronic. The membership number could be used as a key.

***Prasad moved to allow on-line voting. The motion passed

Old Business

GreenFest (Mat)

GreenFest is Sept. 11th from 10am - 4pm. we've recruited a dozen or so volunteers to staff our table

Member Engagement

Tyler State Park Outing - Prasad

We did a 5 mile hike through Tyler State Park on Aug 21. There were 9 attendees in total but only 2 of them we truly Bucks County members who were newly involved. The rest were old Sierra club hands, some there for outings-related training or my daughters. So mixed results in terms of member-engagement in Bucks County. I believe this was in part because not enough people were aware of it. I did get one email saying there were notified too late. However it was a fun hike and everyone was engaged.

We did have a lively 30 minute discussion on Climate change and how to get more involved in local and national issues. The total hike lasted 3 hours. Pictures were posted on SPG Facebook page.

Lesson learned - Tom Torres can blast Outings-related mails on an unlimited basis. Get his help for next time

Alerts will be sent out by county each month to inform members of events.

Fund Raising

We need a committee for fund raising. There is a question about selling calendars this year. We need more time to discuss this issue.

New Business

Announcements:

Meeting Call-in Number: 1-866-501-6174, PIN is 1004100#.

Appendix 1

Report on Green Justice Philly (GJP) Activities

Coordinating Committee Meeting July 13, 2016. Attending: Mordechai Liebling IPL, NN, Coryn Wolk CAC, David Moscatello Sierra Club, Tracy Carluccio DRKN, Walter Tsou PSR, Susan Saxe Outreach, Mitch Chanin 350, Sam Bernhardt FWW, Craig Robbins AU, Andrew Bowers Communications.

I. Overview: Projects on the table

1. Decision to try to get a 1/M cancer rate (San Diego model) clean air ordinance from city.
2. Working on Southport project, pressuring PRPA, gathering energy.
3. Clean Energy march, highlighting local issues.

II. Report on Clean Energy March (Sam):

Background: Convening at 12pm July 24th at City Hall Courtyard (Mordechai mc-ing, will include some local themes). Begins with interfaith service. March steps off around 12:45, but we will be forming contingents include: Front Line, Indigenous, PA against fracking, Health, Faith, Infrastructure, Labor, Youth, Elders, Philadelphia local. Hoping that local contingent will be one of the most prominent, placed right behind Front Line and Indigenous. There will be vans to assist people who can't walk all the way to the Liberty Bell. Estimates about 2500-3000 for this march, but there will be a lot of Bernie folks arriving for the DNC as well. We are well structured enough that additional activity can feed into us. There is substantial talk of Bernie holding his own rally that evening.

Messaging: Name specific decision holders? Issues vs people, but institutions yes.

Philadelphia is not a Sacrifice Zone / Southport signs: Right to Breathe

No Permits for Lawbreakers / Clean Energy not Dirty Energy

WTO vs Democracy directional sign, with Clean Energy Future one way and dirty energy the other way

Phossil Phree Philly / Block Fossil Fuels, push clean energy

III. Report on Summit for a Clean Energy Revolution. (Tracy)

Summit is the day before the march. Being opened by Lenappe chief, themes of the day from Eastwick Friends, PA Against Fracking, FWW, Americans against Fracking, DRKN, etc. People coming from all over the US. 5 breakout sessions, Frontline Voices, Skills Training, Faith role, Role of direct action, Legal Strategies and Eminent Domain. Separate marshal training session. PM sessions: Plenary on Climate and Clean Power Plan, Breakouts on Transition to a clean power plan, Peace and climate justice, Health effects and dirty energy, Skills training, Frontline voices telling their story, skills training working with the media, Second breakouts: Visionary transition plans, TPP, Communications and Social media skills training, community solar, environmental justice for all, Frackopoly (the book), Next Steps Plenary. Closing. Process has been very bottom up. Link to summit is on the Clean Energy March webpage. Summit was full..

IV. AMS (Air Management Services) Update (Coryn):

Talked to Joe Minot. Original plan was to ask for new large sources of pollution to do a cancer risk assessment and be held to the San Diego standard of 1/M cancer risk. Joe does not think we should add the demand for more fence-line monitoring to this meeting. Expect 5-6 people at a meeting with AMS date TBD. AMS may be concerned about Philly being at an economic disadvantage if only we institute these standards, but is willing to at least talk with us. We can decide about asking City Council to support this standard. Mordechai: Kudos to CAC for the research done to produce a detailed memo that strongly supports these standards. Tracy clarifies that the monitoring demand is that they immediately enact the EPA standards instead of delaying. Suggestion that we think about having some specific expertise on the team that meets with AMS in this first meeting. This is not to introduce a demand but rather to explain our position as an ask. No media. This is a step beyond relationship building to see what we do next, like a demand on Mayor Kenney to whom they report. We need to follow all the right steps to get as far as we can before getting to the demand level and going public.

No plan to meet with Kenney until after the meeting with AMS. We may blend it into the Southport meeting that we want to have.

Met with AMS Friday July 29, 3-4:30 pm. Craig will spearhead setting up the meeting with Kenney.

V. Southport Report (Mordechai):

Since last meeting, we packed the PRPA meeting, AU, PAIPL and NN did a great job at turnout, we got, great press, 80+ people at demo at City Hall the next day, letter to Kenney, AU had a training to set up meetings with individual PRPA reps, groups took responsibility for the different members, meeting with John Sweeny will include clergy and a nun. Peter Winslow says the latest EPA reports about PES are up and PES is again in serious violation, fueling our demand that they should be disqualified from the bidding. Tracy notes that they are finally in compliance with the CleanAir Act even though they are in serious violation of both RCRA and Clean Water standards. Coryn is doing a file review of PES tank farm infrastructure, expects to find violations.

Moving ahead with a press release about this. DRPA and CAC are doing research that has to go into it. Next PRPA Board meeting is the 19th. Tracy will see if one of their researchers or Peter can look into this more deeply for the purpose of a press release prior to the DRPA meeting.

Andrew can do some research to draft a press release by Friday. Coryn and Tracy will feed him some more info. Peter is also a resource, knows how to get info from EPA website.

Craig: started to circulate a letter to Gov. Wolf and others, got some of the Philly delegation as well as state folks to sign on. We need to keep working on Wolf. Connections to Steyer who has a connection to Wolf. Next Gen Climate just opened a big office in Philly. Susan will initiate contact with them, Coryn will connect Susan with John Lizars (sp?) to ask for a half hour summit meeting.

VI. SEPTA Campaign Report (Mitch):

Should we add a business oriented argument to this re locking into a 20 year contract for an energy source that is on its way out?

VII. PGW and the LNG RFP. (Coryn)

RFP Process is now closed. PGW was supposed to announce a winner on July 1st, start contract Sept 1st with project finished by January. Options within the RFP includes buying LNG from PGW at its rates, bidder buying own gas and pay PGW to liquefy it, more LNG development at the processing end PES refinery and 4th option to expand the Port Richmond development, more infrastructure and storage. Multi million plan with 10-25 year payoff plan. Issues include possibility of rate payers on the hook for stranded assets, superfund site in the path of the development, grandfathered infrastructure adds risk and potential for losing grandfathering status. Low probability-high cost accident. 4B cu ft. storage, but processing capacity is less than that.

This is moving super fast, under the radar. Analysis is pessimistic. This eventually has to go through the PUC and City Council. Sam will talk with Bob Ballinger after the march to see where this stands. Coryn will do more research through FOIA. CAC is planning some outreach in Port Richmond area to see if local opposition can be raised. Next move on our part once we have more info is to let them know that we are watching and prepared to fight.

VII. Research Committee (Mordechai):

Needs to be reconstituted because convenor left town. Can we start by giving people projects to work on. Mordechai will reach out to Maynard Seider. Coryn will reach out to Molly Gott (Lil Sis staffer).

VIII. Oil Train Working Group (Tracy)

Update of Hazard Mitigation Plan. Rep went to last meeting of OEM. Amended to include man made hazards including both oil trains and police matters, not just natural disasters. No risk assessment has ever been done regarding risk, probability, impact and response. OTWG will move forward to push these required meetings to address this in the impacted communities, asking hard questions. Two meetings to date have been typical dog and pony shows, just going through the motions, poor turnout. 4-5 more meetings are supposed to happen in August, but no dates have been set. Next one should be in Eastwick.

IX. Announcement: Reverend Barber's (of Moral Monday) 20 state revival tour is Mon July 25th 6:30 pm at the meeting house of the AFSC building. Maxine from AU is representing our cause against the refinery, along with Fight for 15, Mass Incarceration, Stop and Frisk, all getting 2 minutes. Pack the meeting. Next step is sit ins in state capitals on a Monday in September.

X. Fossil Free SEPTA (Mitch):

40 people at last board meeting. Next meeting is on the 21st. GJP signed on along with other groups represented in GJP. Meeting with some of our groups and SEPTA board is the next day.

No GJP Coordinating Committee meeting in August, Sept meeting TBD.

A number of GJP and affiliated folks were at the May 3, rally, great turnout for May 7 "Right to Breathe" rally.

Appendix 2

Ready for 100

Attending:

Volunteers on the committee

I assume everyone that joined in on Wed wants to stay connected with this new committee. I'll create a google group (ACTION: Jim) so it will be easy to connect with others. You can always unsubscribe.

There were 7 people in the room and 3 on the phone:

Ken Hemphill – Glen Mills

Dave Moscatello – West Phila

Peggy Hartzell – Nantmeal, Chester County

Rodney Platt – Phoenixville, Chester County

Charlie Isaacs – Fairmount, Phila

Karen Melton – East Falls, Phila

Jim Wylie – West Chester, Chester County

Lee Reinert – Downingtown, Chester County

Prasad Ramnath – Newtown, Bucks County

Bill Brainerd – Media, Delaware County

And 7 people have expressed interest in joining or staying connected, but couldn't attend on Wed:

Sue Edwards – Swarthmore, Delaware County

Tom Torres – the cloud

Pat Jordan – Wayne, Delaware County

Sarah Caspar – Downingtown, Chester County

Alexa Manning – Downingtown, Chester County

Amy Kwasnicki – West Phila

John Butler – Broomall, Delaware County

Sierra Club Campaign and Goals

Everyone should browse around the readyfor100.org website. It's got some good info on it, but for me, it takes a little effort to figure out just exactly what the campaign is all about.

Here's what it's about: getting municipal leaders (mayors, town councils, etc) to put in writing a pledge that their city/borough/town/township will get to 100% renewable energy by some date. Like 2050.

It's not about promoting clean energy, per se. Initially it's about convincing officials to make this ambitious pledge.

Our group – the SPG Ready For 100 Conservation Committee – we can advocate local solar projects, geothermal installs, wind power purchases, etc. But what we are going to get support and recognition from Sierra Club for is all about getting these pledges on paper. The local projects are how the towns will get it done, and the more we can point to as solutions the better. Just so that's clear.

Meeting Agenda

The notes that I used to walk through the meeting are [HERE](#). I won't copy them here. If you missed the meeting I urge you to read them over – 2.5 pages.

Philadelphia

- One of Mayor Kenney's campaign planks was getting Phila to 80% renewables by 2050 – "80 by 50". We don't think this has been formalized since his election, nor ratified by city council. But it shows that Mayor Kenney is certainly a good candidate ally in this initiative.

- However, with the recent investigation into possible improper union actions, including some in the Mayor's admin (?), it was noted that this may not be the best time to start this conversation.
- If anyone has an opportunity to informally discuss this topic and the Ready For 100 campaign with Christine Knapp or anyone else from the Mayor's Office of Sustainability, it would be ok to lay some groundwork.
- Charlie, the Philly Climate Works staff organizer, asked that we keep him in the loop when connecting with the mayor's office, council or union contacts. Just so these two Sierra Club projects are not sending any mixed messages. If in doubt, talk to Charlie.
- Other projects we should keep track of –
 - o Philadelphia Solar Schools Initiative - <http://communitypowernetwork.com/node/9152>,
 - o Phila appears to be buying some NG trash trucks and one of the reasons that there are many out there was because they started to use the gas coming from landfills, others?

Suburban Townships

- There are so many. There are 73 municipalities just in Chester County. How can we possibly make a dent? Where to start?
- Start with those townships that have Climate Action Plans or Sustainability Committees. Perhaps some have already made this pledge. We can send an email to SC members asking for township nominations.
- It was suggested that we target some of the wealthier townships because they'll be able to afford such a transition.
- It was suggested that we target some of the townships that will be most impacted by climate change because they should be good candidates for subsidies.
- It was suggested that some townships should partner with others to achieve this goal – West Chester with Coatesville.

Tools

- It was suggested that we could partner with a solar permitting expert – although I think solar installation companies generally have these.
- Or a building inspector that could help cut through or avoid some red tape by helping to ID some good candidate buildings.
- From John - There were about 25 towns about eight years ago signed on for a free solar panel which was one kW for free if five percent of the residents signed up for renewable energy and the town had to commit for 20% renewable energy. Most of the outreach was done thru the EAC's. In Marple I had to come up with energy savings to pay for it and we went with digester gas which was done on farms with cow waste. Since I am no longer on the board we buy zero renewable. Radnor took the energy savings I found for them and spent it all on renewable. Many were buying renewable credits from western wind. You also have landfill gas and trash like in Chester generating renewable credits.
- Also from John - You need to look at energy efficiency to reduce the need for power first and a good start would be to ask towns to make all new township buildings at least energy star. Peco now has automatic updating of energy usage once the links are setup.
- PA Sunshine
- Renewable Portfolio Standard
- Building Efficiency Codes – state needs to come up to latest fed standards
- Email blasts to SC members in the SPG area – we need to formulate a specific ask first – are you willing to take this resolution to your mayor or board of supervisors. Or something.

Next Steps

- Call a meeting in about a month (ACTION: Jim)
- Read The Guide To Community Energy Strategic Planning (ACTION: All) – this is a big doc, maybe somebody could give us a summary and advise us on whether we should use it as a bible, or not.
- Search for candidate municipalities (ACTION: Suburban Volunteers)
- Submit questions to Jim to forward to Ready For 100 Campaign Leaders (ACTION: All)
- Look through the Ready For 100 national repository for other good stuff to share (ACTION: Jim)
- Possibly set up a conf call with Hanover Group (NH) RF100 leaders (see how discussion goes)