

Sunday, October 17, 2021

Grassroots Institute - Climate Crisis Workgroup (GRI-CCW) Saturday 10-16-21 10 am

Attending: Carrie Durkee, Peter McNamee, Susan Nutter, Marcy Snyder, Jim Schoonover, George Reinhardt, Garth Saalfield, Eileen Mitro, Lore' McLaren

- I. Carrie reported the sad news that Randy McDonald a long time and dearly beloved activist in Mendocino County had recently died. Randy was well known by several members of the workgroup and they commented on how much he will be missed. The workgroup took a minute in silence to celebrate Randy's life and his many contributions to our county.
- II. Carrie asked each workgroup member to report on activities since the last meeting and next steps.
- III. Jim Schoonover briefed the workgroup about the work to increase local awareness and build public opposition to Investor Owned Utilities (IOU) changing the Net Energy Metering (NEM) formula to the detriment of home owners and businesses. Jim has been in contact and coordinating activities with the Solar Rights Alliance (a statewide alliance opposing NEM-3). Jim contacted both Supervisors representing Mendocino's coastal districts asking the BoS to pass a resolution in opposition to the IOU's proposed new NEM-3 formula. He also said Sonoma Clean Power seemed to be neutral or leaning toward supporting the IOU request, which was disheartening. Peter McNamee recommended Jim contact Donne Brownsey because of her prior experience as a lobby advocate for the solar industry. Eileen Mitro said they she would like to work on increasing local opposition to the IOU's NEM-3 proposal, and said she could:
 - A. Contact Supervisor Glenn McGourdy and ask for his assistance in rallying the agriculture community against NEM-3.
 - B. Contact local Solar installers to seek their support and assistance in opposition to NEM-3
 - C. Speak about GRI-CCW's opposition to the NEM-3 at the upcoming LWV event on October 19th and ask them to express their opposition.

- IV. Next, Susan Nutter reported on several conversations and meetings she attended with local activists interested in recruiting progressive candidates for next year's Fort Bragg city council elections. Four council seats will be up for election in November 2022. Three incumbents have not yet signaled if they will run for re-election and a fourth has indicated that she plans not to run. Susan has had discussions with Linda Rosengarden and Peter McNamee about next steps
1. Peter commented that CCW has reached out to three city council members requesting they initiate action by the city to adopt CCW's climate action proposals, and so far the city council has taken no action. If the current city council will not take the lead on climate action, local activists will need to find candidates to support that will act on climate change.
 2. Scot Menzies (who has worked with CCW in the past) has expressed interest in being a candidate for the city council next year.
- V. George Reinhardt spoke about recent actions impacting the Noyo Headlands Mill Site. GRI has started a new workgroup to work specifically on the headlands Mill Site issue. After some initial success expanding public access to the Mill Site with the development of a public trail and parking area, efforts to complete detoxification of the worst polluted areas slowed over disagreement about what should be done next and who should pay the costs. Meanwhile the owners of the local Skunk Train (Mendocino Railway) have sued to use immanent domain authority to acquire the remaining Mill Site headlands owned by Georgia Pacific (GP), which they plan to develop into a theme destination for railroad enthusiasts. The city is not supporting the Skunk Train's development proposal and has instead entered into negotiations with GP to buy the remaining headlands for its own development purposes.
- A. George's workgroup will be working with local activists interested in restoring the native ecosystem on the headlands and insuring that any development is consistent with that objective. He has already approached the Mendocino Climate Change Action Advisory Committee (MCCAAC) and they have asked him to draft a letter expressing their opposition to the Skunk Train's proposed actions.
 - B. Eileen Mitro recommended emphasizing the economic benefits of restoring the headlands as an attraction for tourism which is the principal economic driver in Fort Bragg. Lore' McLaren offered to help George with writing the letter for the MCCAAC's approval.

VI. Peter McNamee talked about attending the October MCCAAC meeting and reported:

- A. Marie Jones announced that a proposal for legislative and regulatory action regarding Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF) has been finalized. She is circulating copies and asking groups to endorse the proposal to change the purpose of JDSF from a test forest for timber practices to a forest dedicated to research on carbon sequestration and recreational uses.
- B. Marcie Snyder and others asked about the status of the county energy audit. Peter reported that he'd talked to Supervisor Gjerde was informed the audit report had been delayed due to complications related to the covid pandemic, but that Supervisor Gjerde would check again on the status of the report. The CCW asked Peter to follow up with Supervisor Gjerde and also to find out the name of the company doing the energy audit. (Note, Supervisor Gjerde informed GRI that the name of the company is "WillDan" and that the county and WillDan are scheduled to discuss audit recommendations on October 28.)

VII. Marcy Snyder reported that she has two concerns:

- A. She wants to know if the \$2 million that was cited in Supervisors Gjerde & Haschek's resolution to be spent to reduce county governments carbon emissions has actually been deposited in a separate county fund.
- B. Next, Marcy said she contacted the vice principal at the Fort Bragg high school about how GRI can support programs at the school to encourage climate change awareness and action by students. Carrie recommended Marcy contacting Acorn a non-profit in the SF Bay Area that has done a lot of work developing outreach materials for youth. Lore' and Eileen offered to help Marcy, and emphasized students are mature and need to be treated with respect as if they were adults.

VIII. Carrie Durkee reported that she also attended the MCCAAC meeting. She also reported that she has been working with Jim Tarbell preparing for the October 19th LWV meeting and GRI's presentation. Additionally, she said that she is working with Marie Jones to pursue a state "Whale Tale" grant to fund invasive plant eradication on the headlands. Peter McNamee recommended Carrie contact Donne Brownsey, since she lives locally and is the vice chair of the California Coastal Commission.

IX. Garth reported that climate action is expanding and its hard to keep up with all the information and activities taking place. He offered to help others in the CCW in any

way that he could. He also asked if the notes prepared for CCW meetings could be annotated with letter or numbers so items discussed at meetings would be easier to identify. Peter agreed to modify the CCW notes going forward as requested.

X. The meeting was adjourned