

Grassroots Institute (GRI) - Climate Crisis Workgroup Meeting Notes 6-12-21

The GRI met in a zoom session at on Saturday June 12, 2021. Attending were Jim Tarbell, Judy Tarbell, Carrie Durkee, Marcy Snyder, George Reinhardt, Jim Schoonover, Peter McNamee and Jean Crosby. The following items were discussed and acted upon at the meeting:

- Jim Tarbell reported that Jacob King the Executive Director of the MTA would be joining the meeting to report on the activities of the Mendocino Transit Authority in regard to electrification of its fleet and how GRI could help further those objectives.
- Jim Tarbell also reported that the Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) has a goal of installing 150 charging stations in the County.
- George Reinhardt reported the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee (MCCAAC) voted at its last meeting to endorse GRI's Climate Action Proposal to the County.
- Carrie Durkee reported that the County Bd of Supervisors has referred the GRI Climate Action Proposal to the MCCAAC & MCOG for comment and advice. She noted the MCCAAC would be meeting Friday June 18, 2021 to respond to the Bd of Supervisors request for advice on the GRI Proposal. It is unknown when MCOG would review the GRI proposal and respond to the Bd of Supervisors.
- Carrie Durkee also reported that the endorsements from organizations and businesses along with the petition signatures that have been collected would be delivered to the Fort Bragg City Council and that GRI members should participate in next Monday's City Council meeting to show support for the GRI proposals for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) fund use by the city.
- George Reinhardt reported that the VW company is launching an effort to build an EV charging station network nationwide.
- As a point of information, Marcy Snyder noted that aside from Tesla, "ChargePoint a private company has installed a number of Electric Vehicle chargers around the county, but that chargers are not being maintained properly and some are not usable.
- Jacob King, the MTA Executive Director joined the zoom session and reported on efforts by MTA to electrify its fleet:

Monday, June 21, 2021

- All MTA will be converted to electricity or hydrogen fuel within the next 5-6 years.
 - MTA's buildings and structures will be used as platforms to install PhotoVoltaic systems that will be used to charge the MTA electric buses.
 - Smaller buses called "Cutaways" which are electric vehicles will be utilized on the shorter routes. Larger electric and hydrogen fueled buses will be used on the longer routes.
 - MTA is applying for a number of "3954 FTA Grants" to fund acquisition of MTA EV and installation of PV systems to support its operations.
 - GRI can help MTA thru letters of support that can be added to the applications for transit grants.
 - George Reinhardt asked if MTA will be promoting "multi-modal" mass transit - ie the integration of pedestrian, bicycle and park and ride, etc. Mr. King said that MTA supports that type of transportation planning and that in Mendocino County the City of Fort Bragg is the farthest along accommodating bicycle transportation options as part of its transit mix. Mr. King also noted that MTA has added bicycle racks on its buses to promote bicycle use by its customers.
- Jim Tarbell thanked Mr. King for his report and invited him to inform GRI about anyways it could help MTA in the future.
 - Carrie Durkee ended the meeting by reminding GRI members that last spring GRI session meeting would be a in person noon lunch meeting on 6-29-21 at Cafe Beaujolais in the village of Mendocino.