

Sunday, October 3, 2021

## Grassroots Institute - Climate Crisis Workgroup (GRI-CCW) Meeting Notes 10-2-21

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Attending: Carrie Durkee, Peter McNamee, Jim Schoonover, George Reinhardt, Garth Slaafield, Marcy Snyder

- Carrie provided a short overview of the agenda:
  - Announcements
  - Discussion on thoughts and ideas for a strategy going forward
  - Summation
- **Announcements:**
  - Jim Schoonover provided an update on the Solar Rights Alliance effort to block proposed rate/fee increases that the Investment Owned Utilities (IOU - I.e. PG&E, etal) are pursuing with the Cal. Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). If approved by the CPUC these rate/fee increases would make solar electricity much more expensive and have a huge negative effect on efforts to mitigate climate change. Jim has requested supervisors Gjerde and Williams sponsor a county resolution opposing the rate/fee increases. Marcy is contacting Sonoma Clean Power to ask them to take a position of opposition as well.
  - Carrie, Marcy and Garth reported on their participation in a youth event to support protection of Jackson State Demonstration Forest (JSDF) from logging. Marcy made contact with teachers at the Fort Bragg High School advance placement (college bound students) program about how GRI could support students interested in environmental studies.
  - George reported that he is working with Bruce Broderick on installing a small fog water harvesting system at the Stanford Inn.
  - Peter has sent out the draft notes of the 9-18-21 CCW meeting and ask that edits be sent to him in the next couple of days. He will make the final edits and then ask Jim Tarbell to post them to the CCW web page with the notes from previous meetings. Peter also encourage CCW members to attend the MCOG meeting on October 4th and to support MCOG allocating \$500K to MTA to purchase three

electric buses and EV charging equipment. Lastly, Peter said that due to a conflict with the county redistricting commission meeting on October 7th he would not be able to attend the GRI meeting on that date.

**- Thoughts and Ideas for CCW Going Forward:**

- Carrie and Peter recommended that the CCW consider adopting a set of local outcome objectives that represent a “common sense progressive blueprint,” for Mendocino county. CCW could solicit discussion and suggestions from the other activists and activist organization on what proposals make sense for our county. The following ideas were suggested:

**- Mendocino needs smart, efficient and effective progressive governance.**

- Strong progressive community organizations are needed to empower bottom up responsive democratic representative local government. Capable progressives should be encouraged and supported to run for and hold local elected office.
- Local government must embrace open and transparent processes that enable the public to set government outcome goals, monitor the actions of local government to implement those goals and hold public official accountable for performance.
- Local government needs to attract and retain the best talented and skilled people to operate local government.
- Local government needs to utilize technology effectively and operate using proven best government practices to deliver the highest quality service, at the most economical cost to meet or surpass public needs.
- Create a countywide Climate Change Resilience Agency with the authority and responsibility to initiate and implement coordinated effective climate action and to capture and deploy federal, state and other funding to facilitate such climate actions.

**- Protect and promote Mendocino forests to sequester green house gases.**

- Change Jackson State Demonstration Forest’s purpose from being a test site for lumber harvest practices to a research forest for green house gas sequestration and climate change mitigation practices.

- Demand statewide legislation to tax corporate polluters sufficiently to pay the costs to economically sustain and restore forests for green house gas mitigation. (There are a host of policy options - carbon cap & trade, carbon tax, carbon fee and dividend, etc., - which could be used to dis-incentivize carbon emissions and promote zero or low emission alternatives.)
- **Increase renewable non-polluting distributive electricity generation by expanding environmentally sustainable solar, wind and geothermal locally sourced generation and by building secure & reliable micro grid electrical distribution systems in Mendocino.**
  - Enact policies that incentivize construction of solar & wind generator and battery storage systems. Tap local geothermal energy sources where environmentally appropriate.
  - Develop local micro grids that support distributive electricity generation using solar, wind and geothermal systems and battery storage.
  - Require local government to reduce carbon emissions to net zero.
  - Encourage businesses and consumers to become carbon emission net zero.
- **Mendocino must become a substantially electric vehicle (EV) county over the next 15 years. To accomplish this task the county, cities and districts within the county must:**
  - Install and maintain sufficient EV chargers distributed through out the county to provide adequate charging access to local residents, visitors and commercial EV users to economically charge their vehicles quickly and easily. The number and capacity of chargers should be sufficient to assure an EV recharge time of less than 20 minutes for a 100 miles of battery recharge.
  - Create policies and incentives for the purchase of EVs for personal, commercial and government use within the county.
  - Embrace policies that incentivize new businesses and the expansion of existing businesses to service and maintain EVs and EV chargers within Mendocino county's economy. Resist corporate monopolies that stifle local green economy innovation and growth needed to support EVs.

- **The county needs environmentally sound water management governance that insures residents have secure and adequate water supplies.**
  - Inland farmer and ranching communities have already developed numerous local water districts that are already planning and implementing sophisticated water management strategies to overcome the challenges of climate change and to insure sustainable water supplies. Environmentally and socially equitable local initiatives should be supported.
  - Coastal communities and eco-systems are unique and require local water management strategies. Coastal water transportation, storage, treatment and recycling infrastructure investments have been severely under capitalized for decades. The coast needs its own regional water management agency to insure environmentally sustainable and socially equitable water supplies are adequate and economically affordable for all coast communities.
- **Communities not corporations should drive the development of a green environmentally sustainable economy in Mendocino county.**
  - Public infrastructure investments need to foster new local startups and expand existing green businesses that provide secure living wage and benefit jobs to all county residents equitably.
  - Communities must develop and support local workforce training for residents to acquire the skills needed in green industries locating and expanding in their communities.
  - Economic development initiatives must be tied to environmentally sustainable outcomes and pay prevailing wage rate or better compensation. Public infrastructure construction contract awards must require local workers get as many of the jobs as possible and that workforces reflect the demographics of the community.
- **Protect and preserve Mendocino's natural resources and eco-systems:**
  - Promote eco-friendly tourism that insures public access to forests, headlands and beaches, but also protect the environment from damage and exploitation by users.
  - Plan and execute environmentally smart mitigation and remediation to confront the challenge of sea level rise.

- Demand eco responsible waste management, recycling and reuse of all commercial and consumer goods and packaging.
- Demand corporate polluters pay the full costs of cleaning up toxic sites and environments damaged by their use. This especially includes the Mill Site headlands in Fort Bragg.

**Summation:**

- Carrie noted that the meeting has gone fifteen minutes beyond its targeted time frame and suggested that further discussion be continued at the next meeting. Peter volunteered to prepare notes of the meeting and to summarize the thoughts and ideas expressed.