

Saturday, December 11, 2021

## **12-11-21 GrassRoots Institute - Climate Crisis Workgroup (GRI-CCW) Meeting Notes**

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Attending: Peter McNamee, Carrie Durkee, Lore' McLaren, George Reinhardt, Jim Schoonover, Bruce Broderick, Susan Nutter, Eileen Broderick and Eileen Mitro

- Meeting was convened at 10 am and the following agenda items were addressed - Noyo Headlands, County Energy Audit & NEM3 action by BoS, MCCAAC.
- Bruce Broderick updated the workgroup on recent events regarding the controversy between the Skunk Train and the Fort Bragg community.
  - Cal Public Utility Commission (CPUC) staff have visited the Skunk Train's property recently. A complaint maybe filed with the CPUC regarding the Skunk Train's abuse of public utility authority. More research is needed and if a complaint is filed a public education campaign needs to be launched.
  - A public records act request has been filed with the City of Fort Bragg for documents related to violations of land use and environmental laws by the Skunk Train.
  - The Skunk Train has also used its claim of eminent domain power to purchase a house at 476 Alger Street in Fort Bragg at what appears to be far below market value. More research is needed.
    - The question was raised should the DA be investigating the possibility of criminal collusion between the Skunk and Georgia Pacific to avoid having to pay the cost of cleaning up the toxic chemicals on the headlands?
- George Reinhardt made a report on recent events regarding the Skunk Train.
  - Mendocino Railways President Robert Pinoli has been conducting a vigorous public relations campaign in print and other media to portray the Skunk Train as a good corporate citizen of the Fort Bragg community. However the facts regarding the Skunk's abuse of its claimed exemption from state and local land use and environmental laws paint the picture of a corporation exploiting the reluctance of

public agencies to pursue enforcement actions in order to further the Skunk's economic interests at the expense of the public.

- George reported that he had an extensive discussion with UC Berkeley Professor of Toxicology, Christina Hill. She doesn't believe the Coastal Commission is fully aware of the level of pollution that is seeping into the ocean from the Skunk's trains property.
  - There was a discussion about GRI filing a complaint with California Coastal Commission. Peter McNamee recused himself from the meeting in order to avoid any possible conflict of interest and asked to be notified when the discussion was completed.
  - The discussion concluded and Peter McNamee returned to the meeting.
- Jim Schoonover reported on a recent letter that he prepared on behalf of GRI which was sent to the regional offices of the federal EPA.
- Lore' McLaren asked about engaging our County Supervisors on behalf of the county's residents that are being adversely impacted by the Skunk Train's actions.
  - A request will be made to have Supervisor Williams attend our January 8th meeting to discuss possible options for county intervention.
- Peter McNamee summarized the BoS meeting actions earlier in the week, The Bd spent most of the day receiving reports from consultants and General Services staff regarding an energy audit by the WillDan corporation of county facilities, The Bd took several actions towards installing solar on county buildings, purchasing 100% renewable electricity and reducing the counties carbon emissions to net zero. The Bd also sent a letter to the Governor and CPUC opposing increasing fees and reducing subsidies for homes and businesses with solar energy generation sharing electricity on the grid. Eileen Mitro and Jim Schoonover were recognized for their outstanding work building public support for the Bd's actions.
- The allotted time for the meeting having been exhausted, the meeting was adjourned and the next meeting was set for January 8th at 10 am by zoom.