

Monday, March 21, 2022

3-19-22 GrassRoots Institute - Climate Crisis Workgroup (GRI-CCW) Meeting Notes

Attendees: Carrie Durkee, Jim Schoonover, George Reinhardt, Marcy Snyder, Sandy Turner, Baile Oakes, Jim Tarbell, Sara Rose, Judy Tarbell, Priscilla Comen, Eileen Mitro, Suzanne Pletcher, and Peter McNamee

- Sara Rosa updated the workgroup concerning the work of local youth to protect and preserve Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF). The youth group is mostly high school students attending Mendocino High School, but interest and support is also coming from other areas in the county. In conjunction with Michael Hunter, the tribal leader of the Coyote Band of the Pomo Tribe the youth are organizing a Student Strike for Climate demonstration at the State Capitol in Sacramento scheduled for Friday March 25th. Assembly-member Jim Woods and State Senator Mike McGuire have been invited to attend the demonstration on the Capitol steps.
- There was a discussion of action by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisor at their Tuesday March 15th meeting to approve a plan by the county's General Services Agency to begin converting the County fleet to electric vehicles (EV). The plan involves a partnership with Enterprise Rental to lease EV and fuel efficient hybrid vehicles and to phase out county owned fossil fuel vehicles as they become fully depreciated. GSA anticipates the county will save millions in operating costs by converting to EV and more fuel efficient vehicles. The shift to an EV fleet is also tied to increasing the number of EV chargers to support operation of EVs throughout the county. Peter McNamee volunteered to work with Jim Schoonover and Eileen Mitro to prepare a letter to the Board applauding their progress towards addressing climate change and mitigating its impacts. Baile Oakes reminded everyone, that while shifting to less polluting more energy efficient operation strategies is good, we should be mindful that eliminating pollution should be our ultimate goal and reducing energy use is our best tool to achieve that goal.
- Jim Schoonover summarized the status of statewide efforts to prevent the adoption of harsh new fees and charges for roof top solar by Investor Owned Utilities (PG&E, Souther Cal. Edison & San Diego Electricity & Gas). He noted that approval by the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) has been halted and a new president/

chair of the commission has announced that the commission will be reexamining the utilities proposal. Marcy Snyder reported that she has been tracking the actions of Sonoma Clean Power and they have not taken a clear position on the utilities proposals. Both Schoonover and Snyder emphasized the continuing need for people to communicate their opposition to any changes to California's rooftop solar programs that would add costs or hinder its continued expansion.

- Suzanne Pletcher representing the Willits Economic Localization (WELL) reported on WELL's plans for a Sunday June 26th event at the Little Lake Grange Hall in Willits focusing on the county's energy future. Speakers have been invited from PG&E, Sonoma Clean Power and Ukiah Municipal Utility District to talk about what they are currently doing to meet county energy needs and how they plan to respond to new mandates for net zero carbon emission energy by 2045. Suzanne asked if the GrassRoots Institute would be a co-sponsor of the event. Action was deferred until the April 9th meeting.
- Carrie Durkee and Eileen Mitro reported participating in the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee (MCCAAC) meeting on Friday March 18th. The County Library in Ukiah announced it would be hosting a climate change display to educate the public in March and April.
- Sandy Turner reported that there is a tree planting event being planned for Fort Bragg's Bainbridge Park on Saturday April 2nd at 1pm. This event grew out of a discussion about how to promote "Transition Towns" locally. Sandy also announced that on April 14th Chris Skyhawks will host a program on KZYX regarding the Transition Town movement globally.
- Eileen Mitro talked about efforts in Ukiah to pursue adoption by the city council of a climate action resolution. A discussion of various strategies, petition signature gathering, media outreach, gathering support from local businesses followed.
- Peter McNamee reported on recent efforts by Jim Tarbell and Susan Kelley to update and redesign the GRI web site to make it more useful as a source for information about GRI activities and as a mechanism to encourage more activism in our communities. More information will be provided about the redesign at the next GRI General meeting, but he encourage people to think about how the web site could be improved and to bring their ideas to the General meeting to share.
- Marcy Snyder commented on the dire need to seek out and encourage good candidates for the upcoming Fort Bragg city council election in November 2022. She suggested the need to reach out to community groups and local businesses and

begging a discussion about the need for progressive and climate sensitive community leaders to become candidates for the four city council seats that will be filled next November.

- There were announcements and discussion of upcoming Climate Action events -
 - Stand for Climate Action every Friday at noon in Fort Bragg on Hwy 1 at the old Town Hall building.
 - The Chair of the California Coastal Commission, Donne Brownsey will be speaking at the Mendocino League of Women Voters meeting on Tuesday March 22nd at 4pm. This will be a zoom meeting and anyone can attend to listen to the presentation and to ask questions about the Coastal Commission.
 - There will be a General Meeting of the GrassRoots Institute (GRI) on Wednesday evening March 23 at 7pm. The purpose of the meeting is to hear reports on the activities of GRI's workgroups and to get an update on efforts to expand GRI's capacity to serve the community.
 - Climate Action Mendocino is planning an event to celebrate Earth Day on Saturday, April 21st in Ukiah. Specifics to be announced soon.

The meeting was adjourned until the next meeting on Saturday April 9th.