

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

4-9-22 GrassRoots Institute - Climate Crisis Workgroup (GRI-CCW) Meeting Notes

Attending: Carrie Durkee, Jim Schoonover, George Reinhardt, Marcy Snyder, Sandy Turner, Baile Oakes, Susan Nutter, Priscilla Comen, Eileen Mitro, and Peter McNamee

- The meeting started with introductions and expressions of appreciation to attendees.
- A letter of appreciation was sent from GRI and Climate Change Mendocino to each county supervisor commending them for the progress the county has made under their leadership towards addressing the challenges of climate change. Additionally, GRI made a oral presentation at the Bd's meeting expressing our appreciation. Eileen Mitro also sent individual appreciation notes to each supervisor thanking them for their efforts.
- Also the Supervisors approved action to apply for a State matching grant to pay part of the cost of adding a solar & battery storage system to the Willits County Library.
- Eileen Mitro updated everyone on recent Climate Change Mendocino (CCM) efforts to persuade the Ukiah City Council to take action in regard to installing solar on municipal buildings, increasing the availability of electric vehicle (EV) chargers and transitioning the city's fleet to EVs. GRI-CCW pledged our support and volunteered to provide a letter in support whenever CCM deemed it appropriate.
- There was a discussion on renewing efforts with the Fort Bragg City Council to encourage new initiatives to put solar on municipal buildings and expand the number of public EV chargers in the city. Baile Oakes alerted the workgroup that the city was co-sponsoring a "Blue Economy" event in May and that it might be a good event to raise climate change issues with city officials.
- Marcy Snyder updated the workgroup on actions by Sonoma Clean Power (SCP) to explore development of geothermal energy in Sonoma, Lake & Mendocino counties. She also noted that SCP has not taken a position in opposition to the proposed rate & fee changes that the investor owned utilities (IOU) are pursuing with the California

Public Utility Commission (CPUC). There was a discussion about inviting a representative from SCP to speak directly with the workgroup about SCP promoting roof top solar and clean renewable energy sources in Mendocino County. It was noted that Crispin Hollingshead in Ukiah is on the citizen's advisory board for SCP and might be a good person to contact for more information.

- Jim Schoonover updated the workgroup on statewide efforts to oppose the IOU proposed net metering rate & fee increases. The Solar Alliance believes that the CPUC has scrapped the original IOU proposal, but that some form of rate & fee hikes is still being considered. He advised the workgroup to continue efforts to voice opposition to the IOU proposals, in order to prevent erosion of roof top solar in California.
- Peter McNamee reviewed the draft GRI letter commending Senator McGuire for taking a strong position on developing green sustainable jobs in Mendocino county and offering GRI's support. The draft letter was approved in final for transmittal to the senator.
- Marcy Snyder and Carrie Durkee updated the group on recent efforts to collect signatures for a petition to the California Coastal Commission. Marcy will also be circulating a GRI letter to business owners in Fort Bragg about supporting climate change action and encouraging candidates for the upcoming city council election to address the issue.
- Priscilla Comen was thanked for her article in the Advocate News regarding the Bd of Supervisors climate change initiatives.
- There was a discussion about the Earth Day event on Friday, April 22nd from 1 to 4 pm on the Mendocino headlands. Carrie Durkee said that she planned to have a signature gathering table there and invited others to join in the effort.
- Peter McNamee updated the group on efforts to develop a major wind project off the coast of Eureka. He noted that the California Coastal Commission provided its approval to proceed with initial planning and project development at its meeting in April. He recommended that GRI monitor the project's progress and to continue to evaluate its potential impacts on the north coast and in meeting state goals to shift to renewable clean energy by 2035.
- The next meeting of the CCW will be Saturday, April 23rd at 10 am.