

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

## **6-4-22 GrassRoots Institute - Climate Crisis Workgroup (GRI-CCW) Meeting Notes**

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

- Jim Schoonover provided a brief review of the work of the CCW over the past year.  
Highlights:

- Open GRI letters to County Board of Supervisors and Fort Bragg City Council calling for use of federal relief money to be used for installation of solar on public buildings, expanding the number of electric vehicle charging stations and electrification of public transit.
- A public awareness and signature gathering effort generated more than 600 signatures from individuals and community businesses supporting GRI's open letters.
- Board of Supervisors passed a "Net Zero Carbon Emissions Resolution" that targeted \$2 million towards projects to reduce the county's carbon emissions, including installing solar & battery systems on county libraries, conducting an county energy use audit, converting county fleet to electric & high efficiency vehicles, and purchasing 100% clean renewable generated electricity from Sonoma Clean Power for the operation of county facilities. The energy audit was submitted to the Board in November 2021 and a contract was approved to transition the county fleet to electric & high efficiency vehicles in March 2022.
- In June, GRI requested and the Board approved requiring 2023 county budget funding requests conform to the Net Zero Carbon Emission Resolution goals.
- GRI-CCW has also been active in exploring funding opportunities available to local government for solar, electric vehicles, electrification of public transit and other appropriate strategies for reducing carbon emissions; i.e, capturing subsidies for public & private conversion to electric powered heat & cooling systems, expansion of public transportation, energy & water conservation, etc. In May, CCW participated in a funding workshop soliciting proposals for \$500 million in State

Coastal Conservancy resilience grants to local agencies and has referred several grant funding opportunities to County Supervisors for consideration.

- GRI-CCW has also partnered with statewide organizations such as the Solar Alliance to protest and oppose rate and fee increases by utilities (PG&E, Southern Cal Edison, and San Diego Water & Power, etc.) proposed to the Cal. Public Utility Commission. The County sent a letter in opposition to the rate and fee increases (NEM3) which was supported in public testimony by CCW.
  - GRI-CCW has also worked with the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee (MCCAAC), Climate Action Mendocino, the Mendocino League of Women Voters and numerous other organizations and individuals to support actions to mitigate and remediate climate change in the county.
- Carrie asked Peter McNamee to provide an update on a GRI event in Fort Bragg to raise public awareness of up-coming city council elections in November. Peter reported an estimated 30-35 people attended the GRI event at the CV Starr Center in Fort Bragg. Supervisor Dan Gjerde and former Fort Bragg Mayor Dave Turner presented information regarding being a candidate, getting elected and the challenges confronting the city council in Fort Bragg. Several potential candidates attended the event and asked questions about the election process and climate related issues such as water conservation, electric vehicle use, and solar. Peter thanked all the GRI volunteers who posted flyers, invited friends to the event, and helped make the event run on time and smoothly.
  - Eileen reported on efforts by Climate Action Mendocino in Ukiah to persuade the city to adopt a climate action policy similar to what the County Board of Supervisors has adopted. Hopefully a proposed policy will go to the Ukiah City Council in the next two weeks. CCW has offered to provide a letter of support if that would be useful. Marcy volunteered to help with a radio public awareness effort.
  - Jim updated the CCW about the need to renew efforts to send letters and messages to the Cal Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) as well as the Governor & other elected officials opposing a new proposal to increase rates & fees for rooftop solar grid access. This will have a devastating impact retarding the conversion to clean renewable energy in the state unless the CPUC rejects the utilities' proposals.
  - Anthony reported that he was working on an event in August to increase awareness of environmental justice opportunities. Anthony would like CCW's support.

The meeting was adjourned, the next CCW zoom meeting is Saturday, June 18th at 10 am.