

Friday, October 1, 2021

Grassroots Institute - Climate Crisis Workgroup (CCW) 9-18-21 Meeting Notes

Attending: Carrie Durkee, Jim Schoonover, George Reinhardt, Bruce Broderick, Garth Saalfield, Margaret Koster, Rachael Lahm, Marcy Snyder, Linda Jupiter, Eileen Mitro, and Peter McNamee

- Carrie and Marcy led the discussion covering the following agenda items:
- Followup on Mendocino Board of Supervisor's (BoS) adoption of Carbon Free Mendocino County Government resolution and the dedication of \$2 million to reduce carbon emissions to net zero by county government.
 - There is a need to work with the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee (MCCAAC) to make sure the county uses the \$2 million for smart emission reduction investments. There is suppose to be a report from an energy consultant, recommending specific energy efficiency projects to be funded. MCCAAC and CCW should obtain a copy of the report and review its recommendations.
 - The county should be transparent reporting on climate action projects/programs utilizing the \$2 million funding. CCW needs to track and confirm that the \$2 million is actually set aside, that the county takes action to use the funds for emission reduction and that the public can see real climate action is taking place. Peter will contact Supervisor Gjerde and seek his assistance in getting the BoS and the public updated regularly on how the funds are being used.
- Carrie emphasized the need to build a community based coalition and keep a cohesive on-going effort to effect meaningful climate action. Several attendees noted that they are working with other community groups that share climate change concerns - the Jewish Climate Action Network, Mendocino Climate Action, League of Women Voters, Sierra Club, Solar Rights Alliance and Move To Amend. CCW members should keep these groups informed about CCW's work and report back to the CCW opportunities to coordinate with them as much as possible.
- Jim Schoonover reported on efforts to encourage Supervisors Gjerde and Williams to have the BoS adopt a county resolution opposing rate changes sponsored by the

Investor Owned Utilities (IOU - PG&E, Southern Cal Edison, etc) that would increase fees and rates for consumer & commercial solar electricity and discourage solar power. Marie Jones the MCCAAC chair has offered her assistance to write a resolution for the BoS to consider. Marcy also reported that she has discussed with Marie Jones options for institutionalizing accounting transparency on county climate action initiatives - either by embedding language in the county general plan or through an ordinance.

- Eileen reported that Climate Action Mendocino is working on a general plan amendment that would promote solar panel installations in the City of Ukiah.
- George reported that he has met with Fort Bragg city council member Lindy Peters and despite Lindy's repeated assurances that he agrees climate change is a real threat to the Fort Bragg community and that he would pursue funding for EV chargers, the city has taken no action. City council members Tess Albion-Smith and Jessica Morsell-Haye, who previously indicated support for using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for climate action, are now signaling they are now unwilling to use ARPA for city solar or EV chargers projects. There are numerous reports that the city and the council lack the expertise and staff to confront challenges such as the mill site cleanup, climate change driven drought or competing for federal & state climate change remediation funding. Four of the five city council members are up for election in June 2022 and there are rumors many of the incumbents don't plan to run again. There are also rumors that the City Manager is looking for employment elsewhere.
- Peter reported he contacted Northern California Construction Training and they offered to meet with GRI by zoom to discuss how to start a successful training program for solar installers, EV charger technicians, electricians and plumbers installing heat pumps. There is a shortage of trained workers with the skills needed to support a green economy in Mendocino. At the same time, there are skill barriers for LatinX, women and native people to obtain living wage jobs with health and retirement benefits in career green construction trade industries. A training program could help bridge the gap.