

Grassroots Institute - Climate Crisis Workgroup (GRI-CCW) Meeting Notes 7-14-21

The CCW met on Wednesday July 14th, 2021 by zoom. In attendance were Marcy Snyder, Carrie Durkee, Garth Saalfield, Jim Schoonover, Crispin Hollinshead, Eileen Mitro, George Reinhardt, Dan Gjerde and Peter McNamee.

- Supervisor Dan Gjerde discussed a resolution he and Supervisor Haschak plan to present to the County Bd. Of Supervisor on August 3rd, 2021. The resolution if adopted by the Board would set aside \$2 million of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to spend on county green house gas emission reduction projects. The resolution is a response to an open letter from GRI to the Bd of Supervisors requesting the county utilize ARPA funds for green/clean climate actions to address the impacts of the pandemic.
- Supervisor Gjerde summarized several actions taken by the BoS in regard to Climate Change that provided a foundation for his proposed resolution - including:
 - Action by the Bd in 2016, to opt into the Sonoma Clean Power program in the unincorporated areas in the county,
 - Action in 2019 by the Bd. creating the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee (MCCAAC) and subsequently in 2021 adopting the initial recommendations of the advisory committee,
 - Action by the MCCAAC on May 21, 2021 to unanimously endorse the GRI's climate action proposals,
- Since last spring, Supervisor Gjerde has worked with the CCW on ways the county could implement GRI's climate action recommendations. Based on that collaboration and his consultation with the Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee, Sonoma Clean Power (SCP), Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG), and others; his resolution, if adopted, would direct the following actions by the county:
 - By September 2021, county staff and an energy consultant will suggest a suite of recommended energy-efficiency, electrification and photovoltaic solar facility and fleet projects to cut energy costs and reduce county carbon emissions.

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- Set aside an initial \$2 million in ARPA funds for county infrastructure & fleet investments to reduce the carbon footprint of county buildings and operations. These funds would be supplemented with additional federal, state and local funding as they become available thru grants or other revenues sources.
 - Directs Planning & Building staff to develop a simplified permitting process for PV/ Battery backup projects in the county.
 - Require the county to purchase 100% local renewable carbon free electricity via Sonoma Clean Power's Evergreen program.
 - Support the development of local renewable power generation capacity such as geothermal, wind and PV solar.
 - Support MTA's conversion to an all electric bus fleet and expand the number of electric vehicle chargers in the county.
- Carrie Durkee voiced the consensus of the workgroup that his proposed resolution is consistent with GRI's proposals, and we strongly support its adoption by the Bd. She thanked Supervisor Gjerde for his leadership on climate action and his willingness to collaborate with the workgroup over the past few months to bring this about.
 - Crispin Hollinshead also thanked Supervisor Gjerde for his leadership and expressed the need to build upon this initial step many times over as we go forward. To stave off the worst consequences of climate change, our planet, our nation, our state and our county need to embrace a massive reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.
 - Eileen Mitro asked how community groups and individuals could support adoption of the resolution. Several suggestions for ways to build public support were offered:
 - Groups should write letters to the editor and call into local talk show radio (KZYX, KMUD, etc) programs letting the public know the resolution will be considered by the Bd on August 3rd and encourage the public to show their support by contacting their Supervisors.
 - Ask KZYX to devote a talk show program to discussing the resolution with Supervisor Gjerde, and representatives of Sonoma Clean Power, GRI and the MCCAAC.
 - GRI, MCCAAC, Mendocino Climate Action, LWV and other community groups should select at least one of their members to call the Bd on August 3rd and voice their organizations support for adoption of the resolution. Letters, emails & phone

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calls expressing support addressed to the BD from other community groups, businesses and individuals should also be encouraged.

- Issue a press release thanking Supervisors Gjerde and Haschak for proposing the resolution and encouraging cities and community service districts to take similar actions.
 - GRI should send out an email alert to all GRI members, as well as groups and businesses that endorsed the GRI proposal, asking they contact Supervisors to encourage them to vote to adopt the resolution.
- Assuming the Bd adopts the resolution on August 3rd, Peter McNamee asked what were the “next steps” that need to be pursued. The following “next step” opportunities were discussed:
- Encourage cities and other local government entities such as community service districts, school districts and special districts to take similar actions and to call upon MCOG to provide coordination within the county to optimize collaboration.
 - Reach out to communities which disproportionately suffer the impacts of climate change - LatinX, Native American, the economically disadvantaged, and others - to join in a community discussion and action to insure their interests are represented and their communities benefit from new green jobs and business opportunities that result from local climate action.
 - Ask for the Bd & County staff to hold a public hearing on the findings of the energy audit in September so the public can provide input on the climate action projects being considered.
 - Provide on-going assistance and collaboration with Supervisor Gjerde to monitor federal, state and private funding sources to expand county climate action initiatives. (Jim Schoonover and Marcy Snyder are already working with Supervisor Gjerde to identify additional funding sources, Crispin Hollinshead has offered to meet with Supervisor Gjerde as well).
- The meeting was concluded with agreement to continue working on securing public support for Supervisor Gjerde’s proposed resolution and pursuing new climate action opportunities as they become evident.