

## MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE

Climate Action Working Group: December 16, 2016  
Muir Woods Conference Room, 175 N. Redwood Blvd., San Rafael

### Minutes

Present: Doug Wilson, Pam Reaves, Eva Buxton, Mary Morgan, Pat Nelson, Nona Dennis, Chris Calloway, Ed Mainland, Supervisor Damon Connolly, Belle Cole, Jeff Rhoads, Kiki la Porta, David Haskell, Leslie Alden, Bob Miller, Bill Carney, Tamra Peters, Kate Powers, Max Perrey, Judy Teichman.

Doug called the meeting to order at 9:04.

#### **Brief Introductions**

**Adoption of the Agenda by consensus.** Adopted with the addition of a BayWAVE update under Reports (other).

**October minutes.** Minutes were approved with corrections. M/S Nona/Belle/Approved.

#### **Discussion 1: Implementation of Climate Action Planning in Marin**

Damon introduced himself and the ongoing discussion of implementation of the County Climate Action Plan (CAP). He noted that the discussion has been focused on mitigation rather than sea level rise and adaptation. The County is now engaged in creating the administrative infrastructure to implement the Plan. There is a subcommittee comprised of Supervisors Damon Connolly and Kate Sears. They have hired staff to help: Sabrina Sihakom, former sustainability coordinator for the Jackson family winery. They have \$1 million in new funding, of which half will go to CAP implementation and half will go to the green commute program.

In addition to a Board of Supervisor subcommittee, there is an internal steering committee, and there may be quarterly community CAP implementation meetings. At the community CAP implementation meetings, the County will report out and will also engage with the community re the community's ideas for implementation.

There is a structure and a timeline. In December the County will conduct internal outreach, consulting people such as Eric Steger and others in the Department of Public Works, Dana Armanino and others in the Community Development Agency, and Sabrina and Matthew Hymel of the County Administrator's Office regarding the green commute. In January, there will be an internal task force scoping session, in which they will look over the draft scope of work with the "right people." The right people are still to be determined. In March, they will hold the first quarterly meeting with the public.

Implementation will not be starting from zero. The CAP has items with designated priorities, including energy efficiency and renewable energy. Municipal and community implementation are parallel tracks. Eric and Dana are major players in the implementation effort.

#### Comments and Questions:

Bob: How is priority determined? A. Municipal efforts involve more heavy-duty people within the County, with common input. Community efforts in unincorporated areas are community driven, with County input. The County cannot tell cities what to do, but we must work together.

David: How will you deal with cooperation? This is a profound issue. A. We will bridge the gap with outreach. The effort could use help from MCL.

Kiki: There is an existing single point of contact overseeing the plans of cities: Christine O'Rourke of MCEP, a consortium of representatives from cities and towns. They maintain a website with numbers from the municipalities. It helps to move the needle if people are working with the same message. Christine should be part of the implementation group. A. Agreed. Dana is tied in with them.

Doug: You will want to involve the elected. Mayors and council members meet once a month. A. Damon stated he could do a spiel at their meetings. MCCMC is already working on sea level rise, other issues. Ask for their suggestions on possible candidates to work on mitigations. Possibilities include Eric Luken, Claire McAuliffe.

David: Zero Waste is also an element. Funding is an issue. Taxing pollution gives the right signals to consumers.

Damon: How do we get the word out re meetings?

Mary: Where are the meetings? Who do they target? A. We are kicking around the idea of using the Civic Center as a meeting location. Mary: What about West Marin? That would give the community short shrift. Check with the Village Association. A. Maybe rotate locations? We are completely open to this idea.

Doug: RE the first quarterly meeting, they should get the word out. Work with Lead on Climate, MCL. They should be present even if they are not participants.

Kiki: Coherent messaging and impactful materials are important. Hit people multiple times.

Belle: Have Kiki help. Use layman's language.

Mary: Consider the issue: Why should people care? Piggyback on Gov. Brown's message. Forget about the feds. Talk in the broad context. It's not just an environmental issue. Address the issue: What can community groups do?

Leslie: The BayWAVE analysis will engage people. Piggyback on that re mitigation. Go beyond the usual audience. Consult other thought leaders. Be strategic in tapping into fear and dismay. This has implications for health care, immigration, the environment.

Ed: Make a launch announcement at the Huffman town meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>. A. Yes, that would be a good time.

Kiki: Capture the email addresses of the Huffman meeting attendees. This is an important core group.

Nona: Coordinate outreach efforts. BayWAVE has a consultant to create their message. It will inspire shock and awe. The data are alarming. The two outreach efforts must be coordinated, not just piggybacked.

Belle: How are you bringing the public in?

Leslie: The draft is still confidential. The technical team has reviewed it, and it is in process with MIG. They had a workshop last week to work through issues re the community and create a coherent, concise message.

Nona: What is the timing? A. TBD.

Doug: You should compare notes, consider the state of mind you want to foster. Keep people focused on moving forward.

Pam: BayWAVE and the San Rafael transit center planning are examples of the importance of coordination. Janet Klein noted the groups that are usually there. You must go beyond those. The engineers must be at the table.

Kate: Also the City Managers, who control staff time and work plans. They must be on board.

Leslie: The managers meet once a month. They are still siloed, but there is cross-talk. There is also regional stuff. Cross-discipline. Sharing improves the outcome. The overriding message is that we are all in this together. Issues don't respect jurisdictional boundaries.

Pam: If this is not in the General Plan, how does it connect with the General Plan?

Leslie: The electeds put the focus on emerging issues.

Doug: What can we take away from this discussion?

Jeff: Messaging is critical. The findings could lead to feelings of hopelessness.

Mary: Talk to Liebster. The biggest issue is not feelings of hopelessness, but the feeling that we don't need to act if the effects won't occur until 2050. This affects people's property values, insurance costs, and the regulations. Let people know that we are "here to help."

Leslie: This is an accelerating catastrophe; it's not slow-moving. This is illustrated by a generic Game of Floods. We need to address businesses, which can afford to move out of the area. Get them to invest in staying.

Pam: Who sets the agenda for meetings? A. It's both staff-driven and incorporating ideas from the community. We must work with BayWAVE.

Kate: A multi-benefit approach should be the emphasis. Day-to-day benefits that people care about.

Damon: It's related to finding. We need additional ideas. We all have to be thinking differently. There is a possible analogy to the "Green Stretch" program, employee assignments for career advancement. The same concept could be applied to climate.

Belle: Employers must be on your side.

Kiki: We need a structure to incentivize and create a path within the County and cities.

Pam: Put this on the agenda for January or February.

## **Discussion 2: Strategy for a new political environment**

Doug introduced the discussion as one dealing with the problem of having the fox in charge of the chicken coop, as illustrated by the new cabinet appointments. There will be deliberate destruction from the top. The challenge is to maintain focus on climate as an overwhelming issue. Any ideas as to the next six months, where things are going? This is not "work as usual."

Nona: There is a lot of work going on.

David: McKibben. Coalesce around a fixed agenda for action, a single message. We can't speak with a hundred mics. Make people work together.

Tamra: Resilient Neighborhoods focuses people's attention on the little piece that they can do, empowering them. How this fits into California/coalition goals is part of that effort. Also community-building with neighbors.

Belle: Have someone from the state. See the Chronicle story re Brown's speech.

Pam: See Number 7 on our agenda.

Belle (cont.): In our OFA team-building, we have found that people want direction, want to channel their energies. For example, immigration, sanctuary cities. Have well-publicized sessions. People are thinking about what kinds of regulatory and statutory changes are likely. A committee in Congress has a right-wing blueprint. Our stance: What is needed to counter this at the grassroots level.

Pam: For all of the tension that we feel, we need to move forward. We all have different skills, personalities, time available. For example, read, in accordance with an individual plan. What are our individual capacities? We can't do it all; we will get overwhelmed. Think of what we can do today, next month.

Nona: As an organization, we have a broad set of priorities. Climate has risen to the surface, but we will not drop other issues. We have everyday responsibilities.

Tamra: PTSD (Post Trump Stress Disorder).

Kiki: We should identify organizing principles to guide our actions. For example, the attack on the social cost of carbon. Protect a benchmark cost in our state. Health impact is another organizing principle that brings in people not currently "in the tent." This could be an assignment for January.

Pam: We can come together if we are at the table together.

Bob: Also, what can be done at the local level? There is more that we can do. Move forward to counteract the D.C. vacuum. Look at ordinances. For example, make green recycling mandatory. Building codes: Adopt the most stringent standards. In January, come back with actions to take.

David: Eating, Farmers' Market. "Eat for the environment." This is an easy organizing principle.

Ed: Green purchasing at all levels. This is a Sierra Club campaign; they have slides.

Kiki: "Pre-cycling." Think before you buy.

Kate: Look at the San Rafael bike path—greening it is a different department. In doing infrastructure repair, we should look at next-century needs. Don't replace concrete with concrete. Step it up, and budget for it. Get people who know how to build infrastructure.

Nona: Don't focus solely on human-centered effects of climate change.

Bob: The Trump administration puts more pressure on state and local entities to move forward. Exercise more discipline in allocating funds for the environment. Prioritize actions in view of less funding. We need set criteria, not just "feel good" actions. For example, at the state level, look more critically at implementation—such as cap and trade in view of the low price of carbon.

Belle: Think about how to reach the larger community. Business groups. The youth question.

Nona: They (youth) are the most reachable. They are engaged.

Kiki: Get to school administrators. Get teachers to incorporate climate in the requirements.

Pam: The Terra Linda SEL doesn't have land use in their curriculum. Nona: They also have no biodiversity component.

Doug: Focus on citizenship to make democracy work. Trump is not in favor of this. We should meet with Sabrina, invite her to the January meeting.

Pam: There is a symposium in Sacramento on January 25-26 re sharing cutting-edge research. It costs \$200. Should we fund attendance and get a report back?

Nona: There are other important meetings, where others cough up their own funds.

Max: I propose that interested folks pay a portion of the cost.

Pam: There was an action item to go to our boards about going Deep Green. People did this. We applaud them. Pam and Roger Roberts went to San Rafael and asked about the timeline. Ed is pushing Deep Green with the Novato City Council, not just the municipal agencies but community-wide. He is also pushing to make Resilient Neighborhoods a part of the Climate Action Plan.

David: The Fairfax City Council is calling for a climate summit.

Pam: We need to consider GHGs for all projects. This was raised the (San Rafael) council meeting.

Ed: Get them to reduce exorbitant fees on solar projects.

David: The easy solar has been done. Large fees are prohibitive for low- and middle-income people. Raised the issue of illegal fees—like banging my head against the wall.

## **Reports**

**Lead On Climate (Bill/Belle):** There will be a Huffman Town Meeting on Monday. We will hear what's on people's minds and get Huffman's take on Washington and what people can do. There will be a Q&A opportunity. This is an effort to make sure the public is heard. They are putting out a handout. The meeting will be videotaped and will be available on the Lead on Climate website and on Marin TV. They will ask CMCM to create an audio feed for radio in West Marin.

**Sierra Club (Ed):** The intent of the Sierra Club Green Purchasing campaign is to create a buzz around the objective of taking environmental factors into account when making public purchasing decisions. There is a bill in the legislature. Ed will send the Club's slides to the group. MCL: Be aware of the issue and push the idea.

Nona: Do you want to get to retail customers? A. No, this concerns agency purchases at all levels.

Max: The Sierra Club at the local level is supporting Standing Rock with donations and is participating in demonstrations. The Club has an active energy committee at the regional level.

The Club supported the export ban on coal from the Port of Oakland. The S.F. Bay Chapter's new Executive Director, Minda Berbeco, comes from a climate organization. They need involvement in issues such as the Richmond refinery and exports.

**Resilient Neighborhoods (Tamra):** Resilient Neighborhoods has reached a milestone: 3 million pounds of carbon reduction annually in Marin. This is equivalent to preventing an acre of Arctic ice from melting each year. San Rafael accounts for 1 million pounds reduced. Three new teams have completed the program, two in Mill Valley and one in San Rafael. We had our first enrollment from Belvedere. The Frank Lloyd Wright team for County workers is the first to include food and animal products in the carbon calculator. New classes will be starting in the San Rafael Community Center and the Mill Valley Public Library. Classes will start in May at the Hamilton Community Center. This class will focus on the North Bay.

**Deep Green Campaign (Doug):** It helps if people remind their city/town councils regarding the benefits of Deep Green. Fairfax, San Anselmo and Belvedere are only ones currently enrolled in Deep Green.

Tamra: Tamra is meeting with an Environmental Forum project team that will press their city councils to enroll in Deep Green.

**Sustainable Organizations (Bill):** There is an educational forum in February re Getting to Zero.

**CPUC (Ed):** Two members of the CPUC term out on February 1, Florio and Sandoval. Picker is persuading Brown to appoint two "utility clones." Fighting this is a lost cause, futile.

### **Announcements**

Doug: There is a website on "Climate Change Indicators" with user-friendly language.

The Highway 37 meeting date has been moved to February.

Resilient Shore, is a nonprofit focused on nature-based adaptation solutions. It is sponsored by Marin Link. The first project addresses the East San Rafael shoreline. They have applied for a grant. This is a learning-action alliance, a long-term effort to build a grassroots alliance and identify values and goals.

Our next meeting will be on January 13. We will invite Sabrina and Damon to present. Tom Flynn will report re West Marin. Check with Sabrina re the change of our usual meeting date. The location of the meeting might change.

Meeting adjourned 11:06.

Minutes: PN.

