

**MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE
Climate Action Committee**

Meeting Notes

September 12, 2011

The meeting was held at 1623A Fifth Avenue, San Rafael and was called to order by Michelle Passero at 6:30pm.

PRESENT: Michelle Passero, Nona Dennis, Joe Bunker, Chris Yalonis, Jon Elam, Ed Mainland, Bob Spofford, David Schnapf, Tim Rosenfeld, Doug Wilson, Bill Carney, Jan Wiegel, and Bruce Fullerton

I. INTRODUCTIONS AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Attendees introduced themselves and the agenda was approved.

II. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

EM mentioned the following upcoming events: Community-based Solar Gardens – SB 843 in Oakland on September 13; Climate Reality Project - an Al Gore Facebook presentation on September 14; and the “Moving Planet” rally in San Francisco on September 24 (via the 11:40 ferry from Larkspur to the Ferry Terminal).

ND mentioned that the CAC should keep informed on the government agency initiative “One Bay Area” and its “Sustainable Communities Strategy”. The Land-use and Transportation Committee is tracking this for MCL. MP mentioned that Greenbelt Alliance and other non-profits are working on a “green print” to fit into the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

CY asked if any group has compiled an inventory of green house gas for all of Marin including County and municipality jurisdictions. TR said there was no overall inventories or action plans for GHG mitigation. TR added that Bob Brown had started the Marin Climate & Energy Partnership, a joint effort involving Marin's municipalities, the Marin County Community Development Agency, the Marin Municipal Water District and the Transportation Authority of Marin, but that effort might be languishing.

III. ELECTRIC VEHICLE PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Jan Weigel and Bill Carney presented the work they (with Dale Miller) have done to evaluate and promote electric vehicles in Marin.

Their project proposal, which had been presented to the Transportation Authority of Marin, “Electric Vehicles: Implementing a Comprehensive EV Strategy for Healthy Communities & Economic Vitality through Zero-Emission Transportation in Marin”, and its Appendix, had been distributed to the CAC by emailed pdfs prior to the meeting and hard copies were at the meeting.

Points included in the presentation and proposal:

- Transportation in Marin, which is mostly cars, accounts for more than half of the GHG generation in Marin.
- \$500M is spent on gasoline for cars in Marin annually. If all cars were EVs, the electricity cost to fuel them would be \$1.5M.
- EVs are becoming affordable (while Tesla roadsters sold for \$100K, Jan's Leaf cost \$25K after rebates and tax credits, etc.).
- EVs' fuel efficiency is equivalent to 140mpg; EVs' fuel cost is 1 cent/mile vs. 16 cents/mile for gasoline.
- EVs' fuel can be 100% renewable if the cars are charged with solar or MCE "Deep Green" electricity. (Even if its electricity were to come from 100% coal-generated electricity, the climate impact of driving an EV would be considerably less than driving a gasoline-powered car due to the efficiency of its electric motor).
- Range per charge (approx. 100 miles) is sufficient for most car use in Marin. Overnight charging utilizes least the expensive utility rates and, being off-peak, does not impact the capacity requirements the grid.
- Charging stations in public places would improve range potential of EV use and provide positive marketing.
- Advocating to Marin jurisdictions for EVs in fleets.
- Advocating to Marin jurisdictions for a comprehensive EV strategy.
- Utilize EVs to meet SB 375 goals.
- EVs use existing infrastructure and will be largely funded by the private sector.
- EVs are a quick solution that can be implemented now while other methods of mitigating climate change are being developed.
- Propose that TAM spend \$10M over 10 years to promote EVs. The funds would be spent to hire consultant/vendor/expert costs to develop an EV strategy, to install public charging stations, to subsidize fleet purchases, and to create a paid position at TAM to administer the program.

The proposal was reported to have been well received by TAM. Questions that were raised led to the Appendix being issued.

Jan Weigel and Bill Carney asked that MCL advocate for EVs and provide information to its members and the public about EVs. They suggested that they could help organize an informative Business and Environment Breakfast bringing good speakers as well as actual EVs.

ND suggested that the Breakfasts are too short a format to do justice to presenting a complete understanding of many issues surrounding EVs and their role in meeting AB 375 and climate change mitigation goals. MP mentioned, as one issue, that EVs do not address many problems of urban sprawl in that EVs perpetuate the status quo of single driver car use.

Various ways that MCL might get involved were discussed ranging from having an article in the newsletter to a Breakfast to hosting a longer forum-type event. The CAC agreed that EV promotion is a topic that MCL should get involved with and will ask MCL's Organization and Development

Committee to consider what format of participation will fit best into the League's current advocacy efforts.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

a. Approval of Energy Overview for MCL Board review/feedback

"Energy 101" was distributed by emailed pdf prior to the meeting.

The committee members who contributed to the document were thanked, especially BS.

A few minor changes were discussed. EM was concerned that both in the paper and in common parlance "conservation" and "efficiency" are often paired but that the distinction between them is important. TR said he would communicate a few fact corrections to BS after the meeting. ND said the section on geothermal energy did not account for waste water pumping costs and site development costs but everyone agreed that the paper was not intended to be exhaustive on any of the material presented and did strike a good balance between depth and brevity.

BS was commended for the readability of the paper. A couple instances where facts were presented a bit wryly were cited as, perhaps, candidates for editing prior to public dissemination of the paper.

It was agreed that "Energy 101" would be a living document and would be updated in the future as appropriate.

It was agreed that a bullet point list of issues should accompany the paper.

The CAC voted unanimously to forward the paper to the Board at its next meeting with only some minor corrections.

b. Discussion and recommendation to Board re: Single Use Plastics Draft

"Single Use Plastics Policy Analysis and Recommendations" was distributed by emailed pdf prior to the meeting.

JE was on the committee with Bob Brown that did the study. He reported that the business community was integral and articulate in the process.

ND pointed out that MCL already has a position supporting the County's ban on plastic bags and that MCL is watching for the California Supreme Court's rulings on pending litigation on plastic bag bans before supporting specific next steps in Marin.

Single use plastic and the question of paper vs. plastic vs. re-useable generated discussion of the down-sides of both plastic and paper in terms of GHG, land and ocean pollution, deforestation, affordability, etc. It was noted that this topic has generated dissent at the Board level in the past.

JE suggested that a workshop would be useful.

ND said that the issue warranted a newsletter article.

JE agreed to create a brief email presentation outlining the complexities of this topic for the Directors to discuss at the upcoming Board meeting.

V. BCDC LETTER AND CLIMATE ACTION

MCL's September 6, 2011 letter to the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission was distributed by emailed pdf prior to the meeting.

ND noted that adaption to sea-level rise and other consequences of climate change were not being adequately addressed by bay area jurisdictions with the exception of the BCDC. The BCDC has taken these issues into account as they update the San Francisco Bay Plan and has called for restrictions of development and conservation of wetlands and adjacent uplands. The BCDC has received a great deal of push-back from the development community and bay-fronting jurisdictions. Community Marin feels the BCDC has responded to the pressure by watering down its approach in recent revisions to its recommendations. ND wants to be sure the CAC is following this issue across all jurisdictions and is aware of MCL's continuing support of the BCDC's initial approach. ND said that the CAC, and MCL, needs to address adaptation issues as well as mitigation issues related to climate change.

VI. NEXT STEPS

It was agreed to hold CAC meetings on the second Monday evening of every other month. The next CAC meeting was scheduled for November 14.

CY agreed to research and prepare a summary of the State of Climate Change Action in Marin County for the next CAC meeting.

As noted above, JE agreed to create an email presentation regarding single use plastic for the next Board of Directors meeting.

The CAC will ask the ODC to consider what the best forum for discussing EVs might be.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Notes by Bruce Fullerton