

MCL Climate Action Committee
Meeting Notes: 10/18/10, 6:30pm – 8:00pm
Via teleconference

Attendees: Michelle Passero, Nona, Dennis, Bob Spofford, Tim Rosenfeld, Bruce Fullerton, Roger Roberts, Joe Bunker

Meeting objective: To establish a 3 month agenda for the committee

Overview: Based on the Climate Committee scoping document, which identifies the general subject areas for the committee to engage directly or indirectly, the Committee identified a number of initiatives to monitor and engage in over the next 3 months. The Committee also identified next steps to publicize the Committee and its focus for MCL members. The following is a summary with specific action items:

Energy Efficiency:

- 1) *BERST and green building:* The Committee discussed the Oct. 18 Mill Valley City Council meeting and the risk that some cities within Marin may not seek to endorse BERST as the standard for green building, including Mill Valley. Tim and Bruce planned to attend the Mill Valley meeting to monitor the discussion and advocate at the meeting for Mill Valley to support BERST. It was noted that other cities, between now and January, could also be considering green building standards including Tiburon and Belvedere. The Committee generally felt that this is an area for MCL to actively engage and encourage cities to adopt the BERST standards.

Action: Tim, Bruce and Roger will monitor this issue and attend upcoming meetings in the next three months on behalf of MCL. They will keep the Committee and MCL informed and identify opportunities for MCL's active engagement and advise on the positions that MCL should take. An update should be provided to the Board in November.

- 2) *Rate-setting and demand management:* While the Committee did not identify upcoming events related to these topics, it was agreed that MCL should develop general positions on these topics (e.g., feed-in tariffs, net-metering, etc.).

Action: Roger, Bob and Tim agreed to monitor any events any related issues that may come up on these topics over the next three months and Bob agreed to develop a high level 1-2 page paper proposing a general position for MCL on these topics. The paper should be ready by the November Board meeting.

- 3) *Water Conservation and efficiency:* The Committee agreed that these issue areas fall largely within the Water Committee's work. There was agreement that the Water Committee should share an updates on these topics with the Climate Committee and MCL when timely.

Action: No action was specifically identified. However, since Tim is part of the water committee it may be appropriate for Tim to act as a liaison between the Climate and Water Committees to facilitate information sharing and inform positions.

Waste Management:

- 1) *Redwood Landfill permitting:* this issue was raised as timely, but it was acknowledged that the Land Use Committee, and Roger and Nona in particular, were already engaged from that perspective.

Action: Roger and Nona will let the Committee know if there is a need for any additional input or engagement.

- 2) *Zero waste:* Roger raised the issue that there needs to be consistency among the waste management franchise agreements and this may be an issue area for MCL to engage.

Action: The Committee agreed that MCL should develop some general positions for key waste management issues such as zero waste, rate-setting, tipping fees, etc. While this was identified as a needed action, the Committee did not identify a timeframe for developing a position paper with recommendations

- 3) *Business breakfast:* While the Climate Committee is not directly engaged in the November Business Breakfast, it was noted that the upcoming topic addressed food waste, how it may be turned into a resource and local initiatives.

- 4) *Joint Powers Authority:* As an information item, Roger shared that he has been invited to serve as the San Rafael representative to advise the Marin Hazardous and Solid Waste Joint Powers Authority.

- 5) *Additional expertise:* The Committee discussed that it would be helpful to reach out to Jon Elam, Tamalpais Community Services District Director, for his participation in the Committee and expertise in waste management, among other things.

Action: Nona will ask Jon Elam about his interest/engagement with the Committee

Carbon sequestration

- 1) *Marin Carbon Project:* The Committee discussed the interest and need to monitor and gather more information on the Marin Carbon Project, a soil and grassland carbon sequestration project, taking place in West Marin. Roger also mentioned that the Project was also experimenting with compost as a way to sequester carbon and reduce GHG emissions on a broader scale.

Action: Michelle agreed to research the project further and report back to the Committee.

- 2) *Salt marsh restoration:* Nona mentioned that there are also local efforts and interest in salt marsh restoration to sequester carbon and achieve other environmental benefits.

Action: Nona agreed to look into these activities further and report back to the Committee.

Renewable energy

- 1) The Committee acknowledged that current activities in renewable energy were being addressed through the Land Use Committee and there were no current issues requiring Climate Committee engagement.

Action: The Land Use Committee, through Marge and Nona, should keep the Climate Committee informed of any new issues that may need input from a climate perspective

Land Use and transportation

- 1) *SB 375 Sustainable Communities Strategy:* The Committee Discussed the recent California Air Resources Board adopting of GHG reduction targets for each of the Metropolitan Planning Organizations. Marin is part of the Metropolitan Transportation Committee, which is the MPO for the Bay Area. The adopted GHG reduction target for 2035 is 15% below 2005 emission levels. The next step for the MTC and other MPOs is the development of Sustainable Communities Strategies that will promote livable communities and achieve these reduction goals. ARB is due to review and approve these SCSs in the spring. MCL should monitor and engage, where necessary, in the SCS development. The Climate Committee can help the Land Use Committee provide input into this process.

Action: Michelle should provide update to Land Use Committee on SB 375 and SCS process and attend November or December Land Use Committee meeting if possible.

Other:

- 1) *AB 32 cap and trade regulations:* The Committee discussed the need to respond to the AB 32 final GHG cap and trade regulations due to be released at the end of October. There should be a 45 day comment period before the ARB Board is due to consider and adopt the regulations in mid-December.

Action: Michelle will update Committee on the release of regulations and help draft comments for MCL.

- 2) *Prop 26:* The Committee discussed the need to inform the MCL Board and members of Proposition 26, an initiative that, if passed, would require environmental and public health mitigation fees (with some exceptions) to pass with a 2/3 vote in the state legislature. At the local levels, such fees would need to be passed with a super majority of the electorate. The Proposition poses a threat to AB 32 as well as many other fees intended to mitigate the negative impacts of certain products and activities on public health and the environment.

Action: The Committee agreed to raise this issue at the October Board meeting to gain support to inform MCL members of this Proposition and urge a no vote.

- 3) *Publicizing new committee:* The Committee discussed the need to publicize to MCL members and the public the establishment of the Climate Action Committee to inform members and attract additional participation.

Action: Nona will draft a short informational piece for the next newsletter. Although a point person was not assigned, it was also acknowledged that the information about the new Committee and some background documents should be available on the website.

- 4) *Next meetings:* The Committee agreed to have standing quarterly meetings with others arranged as needed. The next meeting will be held in January.

Action: Michelle will circulate dates to hold quarterly meetings in January, April, July and October.

Meeting adjournment: The conference call ended at 8pm.