

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE

Climate Action Working Group: March 18, 2016

Tamalpais Conference Room, 175 N. Redwood Blvd., San Rafael

Present: Co-chairs Pam Reaves and Doug Wilson, Tamra Peters, Bill Carney, Rick Fraites, Susan Stompe, Pat Nelson, Nona Dennis, Bob Bundy, Ed Mainland, Mary Morgan, Heather Furmidge, Belle Cole, Judy Teichman, Kate Powers, Bob Miller.

Doug called the meeting to order at 9:06.

Brief Introductions

Adoption of the Agenda: The agenda was adopted. M/S/P. Tamra/Nona/P.

Approval of Minutes: Approved with corrections (p. 6, provide full list of participants in carbon sequestration discussion; p. 7, Moms are not hosting West Marin candidate forum). M/S/P. Tamra/Heather/P.

9:10 Discussion Topic: Consumption-based metrics

Pam attended a speaker series event in Sonoma County, at which Chris Jones spoke. Chris Jones is the author of the report, "A Consumption-Based Greenhouse Gas Inventory of San Francisco Bay Area Neighborhoods, Cities and Counties." Under his approach, GHG is not measured solely by GHGs generated by production within our borders, but instead is based on GHGs generated by personal and business consumption. It includes GHG pollution that is "exported" by purchasing goods produced outside our borders. Chris Jones is Program Director of the Cool Climate Network, a research program of the Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory at the University of California, Berkeley. He also serves as Program Chair (6th year) of the Behavior, Energy and Climate Change Conference.

The speaker series was hosted by Leadership Institute for Ecology and the Economy and the Center for Climate Protection. The Leadership Institute was modeled on the Leadership Program of the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce and somewhat resembles the Environmental Forum of Marin.

Chris spoke in detail about his report on the climate footprint of neighborhoods and cities around the Bay Area, how he collected the data, and where we go from here.

Comment, Tamra: The Cool Climate Network metrics were sold to PG&E. They have access to extensive data, including utilities. On a website, you can hover over a map and see emissions. Electricity use is a very small part of our pollutants in the Bay Area.

Doug and Pam noted that Chris found that almost every urban area has the same low GHG footprint because fewer people drive and the houses tend to be smaller. You can see the

difference in different parts of San Rafael. Ross is the top emitter is Marin. Chris's punchline was to "Go all electric."

Comment, Nona: That punchline doesn't get to consumption. We would want Chris to address that if he speaks to us.

Ed, Q: What about transit-oriented development? A. According to Chris, transit-oriented development has to be sited in the right place. For example, Hercules built in the wrong spot. You have to put transit-oriented development near other things.

Tamra: We need to go carbon-neutral—get information about consumption and what to do about it. It is difficult to measure change in carbon pounds. Buy local and go on websites to do research into implementation.

Bob: You manage what you can measure. Electricity meters were developed early.

Doug: The time is right to have this conversation in Marin. Other conversations let people off the hook.

Nona: Get someone from the Global Footprint Network, in Berkeley. They have developed metrics re individual and population metrics, showing where the debts are.

Tamra: Our cities and towns have climate action but don't include consumption. How do we implement?

Pam: Chris's method is not based on zip code. It considers things like miles traveled. Not what is produced in Marin, but what the individual does. It's not just a matter of income.

Mary: We need to know more.

Bill: This is an interesting dimension and a valuable speaker. This is a paradigm question. We focus on the individual in thinking about problems, but solutions have to be systemic, community-based. How do we do this? Re caps: cars and buildings each account for ~ 40 percent of emissions. These are addressable on an individual level and also on a societal level. Transportation is the biggest cause. Also, what we spend on food, etc.

Pam: This is a policy and urban planning issue.

Belle, Q: Do we know who else was involved in the Cool Climate Network research. Obviously, it involved demography and computer science. What else? A. We don't know who they collaborated with, but we know that they are aware of others' research. See the Cool Climate Network website [<http://coolclimate.berkeley.edu/>] and the Global Footprint Network website [<http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/>].

Pam noted that she asked Chris what he thought about sequestering, and he was dismissive. We need to get these people talking to each other.

Comment, Tamra: There is a community v. individual issue. For renters to take action, they need to talk to the landlord. But what is the landlord's motivation for change if the tenant pays for heat? We need policy solutions.

Doug: Where do we go with this? Should we get Chris to talk to us (and put the word out) or target a wider audience? Consider Christine O'Rourke in putting this together.

Nona: Target a larger audience, in a business breakfast.

Rick: The target group is elected officials. Ask to get on their agendas. The topic is important. We need pathways forward. We should have information on a website re production changes. Combine the problem with potential solutions.

Doug: Chris's main project now is what we need to change by 2050.

Ed: The Novato Climate Plan, embedded in the General Plan, is a laboratory experiment for applying information gathered. Novato has 15 percent reduction, versus 30 percent for the County. Issues include scientific targeting and state standards that are obsolete and not science-based. Climate action is a hard sell in Novato.

Nona: Chris's organization is the outreach arm of the Renewable and Appropriate Energy Lab, within the Department of Nuclear Energy at UC Berkeley. See their website [<http://coolclimate.berkeley.edu/index>].

Pam: Chris led a conference on behavior and change for 6 years.

Tamra: No response yet on Tamra's requests to Ross, Belvedere and Tiburon. She spoke to people at Ross and got taken to the Council. They are now doing a mailer to 300 households. Should the consumption model be used as a baseline for change?

Bob: We should emphasize the path forward and the big picture, and start on a global level. There has to be broad engagement in many countries. It will be prohibitively expensive if we don't have most countries participating.

Doug: We should give Chris 3 dates and provide a forum.

Belle: There is a possible policy conflict with pushing for a climate action plan. Introducing consumption might lead people to think we don't know what we're talking about. Consensus-building is affected.

Bob: It's problematic for officials if the message is to shame constituents.

Pam: It's good to have City Managers' leadership.

Bill: We should have talking points and strategies for electeds, and a nexus to what Towns are doing. Have a business breakfast or may a progression of events.

Doug: A business breakfast is ideal.

Pam: What's in it for Chris? Product-selling, public outreach, research.

Nona: Metrics are key. How can we make them interesting? What are the proposed breakfast times? Ask if he can come to our next meeting.

Belle, Q: Will Chris address specific problems in Marin. A. Yes, this is what he does.

Discussion 2: The place of carbon sequestration in climate action planning.

What came out of the recent meeting? 1) We know the amount of funding available from Cap & Trade, 2) the County does not have a full-time staff person to deal with this, 3) there are a lot of unknowns—for example, how to measure.

Nona, Q: What kind of sequestration? What is the framework? A. We know other kinds of sequestration (such as forest and wetlands) are important, but we are talking primarily about rangeland sequestration—carbon farming.

Bill: This is an opportunity to bring others in.

We have a team in place to run with it.

Nona, Q: What is "it"?

Pam: There is no baseline scenario. What is the carbon already sequestered? Bring in an MSEL student. Match with someone to act as an intern to do GIS mapping.

The goal is to get the County to get matching money to go after Cap & Trade funds. Fund research on "carbon stock." This is the foundation for policy and action.

Bob M: Marin Carbon Project is interested in funding continuing experimentation. This is a different and appropriate focus. Not just inventories. The County should be aware of funding.

Tamra: It there federal funding. This is the 5th Pillar of Brown's plan.

County staff is currently grant-funded. We need an update re permanent funding.

Bill: Be as broad-based as possible. A sea level rise study might have useful information—for example, horizontal levees.

Doug: Evaluate the relative merits of topics.

Discussion 3: What we learned supporting CCAs at the PCIA workshop before the CPUC

The PCIA (Power Charge Indifference Adjustment) is an exit charge for customers departing from PG&E. A customer departure results in a departing load from PG&E's utility portfolio, and PG&E gets paid for the long-term energy that it has procured on behalf of that customer. PG&E is still stuck with the contract if customers pull out. They have to sell the energy for less than they paid for it if energy prices have declined.

The PCIA was set up by the legislature before CCAs were in existence. Going forward, more than half of consumers will be in CCA areas. The CCAs bear all of the risk under the current system. This is unfair.

The CPUC began the workshop by having PG&E explain the ground rules. PG&E produced a self-serving "legislative" explanation. CCA supporters put them on notice that CCAs are on the move.

Ed summarized the consensus for us: 1) the PCIA needs reform, 2) working groups will work on reform, 3) no proceeding right way (we should push for one), and 4) more transparency is needed. The public and PUC need data to assess accurately. Currently there is obsolete data. PG&E information is "proprietary" for 3 years.

Belle, Q: Do we need revisions in the legislation? A. Yes. The legislation was written by PG&E. Contacts with legislators are happening now. The easy route for them is to let the PUC handle the matter via their process. But the new head of the legislature wants to address PUC issues.

Pam: PG&E offers a solar option now. Their website doesn't use information for their territory, but for all of California, which exaggerates the amount.

Doug: We should continue MCL contacts with our legislators.

Mary: The Moms met with Sen. McGuire and asked him what grassroots organizations can do to improve the playing field for CCAs and PUC reform. He answered that as long as Gov. Brown is in office, he will veto reform. CCAs need to get together, have a single voice and set priorities. Going beyond political power, they could get together to purchase power. When Mary responded that that is not in line with MCE's position, Sen. McGuire stated that we will never be able to produce enough solar within Marin.

Ed: There is a mosaic of renewables and regional sources. McGuire is on the case and is on the Energy Committee. The PUC is not interested in public participation. The 50 percent renewables goal puts enormous pressure on the supply of renewables. There is not enough for all. Prices will rise.

Pam: Thanks to all.

Discussion 4: Measure AA – How will it work? Who is behind it? How can we prepare for it?

Bill: The topic of the Lead On Climate April event has shifted to Measure AA, Saving the Bay from Climate Change. They have a lineup of great speakers. MCL should promote it in their newsletter and pass on the flyer. The measure has been attacked by the supervisorial candidate from Mill Valley, Susan Kirsch, and in various letters to the IJ. The opposition is out in front of us. A 2/3 vote from 9 counties is required. This will be a hard climb.

Rick: Rick will attend a meeting on the campaign today with Barbara Garfien.

Nona: The campaign has been hijacked by the “non government” faction. Kirsch’s argument, no more regional entities, is incorrect. We can’t ignore the history of regionalism and the many regional entities such as the Air Board, the Water Board, the Transportation Commission. We can’t plan without regionalism. [Several members urged Nona to write to the IJ.] We need a regional approach to the Bay. There is a levee and floodwall contingent—be aware of the desire for a structural solution.

Kate: There are a number of wetlands available for restoration. This is one of many regional opportunities. The parcel tax approach provides an opportunity to leverage seed money. Re the argument that there is no representative from Marin, Charles McGlashan was the original representative. The current representative will retire soon. Fifty percent of funds will be allocated by project, not population. Anything done in the North Bay is good for Marin. We can’t be parochial.

Pam: In Sonoma, many people have not heard of MCL. There is an opportunity for collaboration.

Nona: MCL’s focus on climate is recent.

Belle: The best source for argument in favor of Measure AA is information. The person voting must have skin in the game. The tie to the Bay is the economy and leveraging of funds.

Reports

Sustainable Novato – Ed. AB 1110 is of concern. It addresses honest accounting and public display of GHG emissions, but there is problematic language. Ed will forward information. This should be distributed to MCL and CAWG.

Lead On Climate and Sustainable San Rafael/Marin – Bill. There will be a Time to Lead On Climate, Saving the Bay event on April 25. On May 12, there will be a candidate forum on the San Rafael Community Center on B Street. This will include candidates from all three districts, who will speak on sustainability issues.

Candidate Questions – Doug. We will formulate questions for candidates at our next meeting. We need clarity as to where they stand.

Legislative and Regulatory Report. Woody Hastings wants a copy. Documents sent out before the meeting should be separated to facilitate meeting this request.

Main Street Moms – Heather. There will be an Environmental Forum lecture on March 23 at the Corte Madera Center, on renewable energy progress.

Resilient Neighborhoods – Tamra. There are 3 teams going. There is a new team in Fairfax called The Rat Pack. They are trying a class—10 people have signed up already. Ed: There is 1 team in Novato, thanks to Sustainable Novato.

County of Marin Climate Actions – Doug. We will email Damon and Chris re the budget and seeking Cap & Trade money. Get this on their agenda.

Announcements

Kate: 1) Kate has Save the Bay information/FAQs. Will send to the committee.

2) Towns have redone pedestrian and bike plans. This needs assessment. It addresses problem of connecting important points of departure and destinations.

3) Cheryl Longinotti, who is active in multi-modal transportation and lives in Corte Madera, bought a rickshaw. Corte Madera is applying for a designation as a walk and bike friendly town.

Tamra: Resilient Neighborhoods carbon calculator will add “meat” as a category.

Judy: KQED had a panel discussion re the lawsuit re West Marin ranch management and the Park. It will repeat at 10:00 tonight. There were interesting questions from the public, showing the extent of misunderstandings. The ranch leases are on the Parks website. They are updated periodically.

Future Directions

We will look at consumption-based emissions and contact Chris Jones re his participation.

We will also consider questions to candidates at our next meeting. Bill stated that Sustainable San Rafael is open to email questions (send to Bill) or people can bring questions to the event.

We will address climate funding from the state and how the County can position itself to get funding and how to allocate it.

Adjourned: 11:02.

Notes: PN