

Mendocino County Climate Action Advisory Committee
Friday May 21, 3:00 – 5:00 PT

1. Call to order and roll call
 - a. Present: John Nickerson, Michael Potts, Susan Sher, Randy MacDonald, Jessica Stull-Otto, Eileen Mitro, Cathy Monroe, Tess Albin-Smith, Ellen Drell
 - b. Not Present: Marie Jones
 - c. Members of the public present: Eleas Kostis, Richard Hubacek, George Reinhardt, Helen Sizemore
2. Review of Minutes- Reviewed with need to change the last name of Jessica. No other changes. MOTION to approve as amended by Nickerson and seconded by MacDonald. Passed UNANIMOUSLY.
3. Public Comment
 - a. Discussion about where this group is going with development of a county plan. The need for funds was raised. Reinhardt raised the work of [ICLEI](#).
 - b. Stull-Otto has been approved as a voting member and welcomed by the group.
 - c. MacDonald mentioned that Hubacek has applied to MCAAC. Hubacek confirmed and stated that he has not heard anything.
4.
 - a. Meeting with the County Executive (Sher)

Supervisor Gjerde at meeting and three additional from fleet department. Steve Dunicliff was not clear on his role. Per conversation with Supervisor Gjerde: money from PG&E coming, \$2m dedicated to climate change. Susan states there was a tentative attitude from county personnel. Dunicliff indicated that the county is not interested in grants.

Discussion continued to the issue of grants and that the county did not appear open to grants. General sentiment was to push-back. We need to get some work done. Eleas Kostis weighed in to support action and securing funding.

Potts felt the meeting helped to open doors. Stull-Otto suggested that we think strategically about who in the county we connect with. Helen Sizemore mentioned the Grassroots Initiative Recommendations which is the next item for discussion. Potts suggested that after the 'Comeback Funds' relieve the losses caused by COVID, most of the remainder be earmarked for a Greening Fund to initiate climate readiness expenses, such as air sourced heat pumps for the upcoming third phase of the Administration Building reroofing; he suggests at least \$4 million. Sher suggested inviting Supervisor Gjerde.

- b. Grassroots Institute (GRI) recommendations (Reinhardt)- three key things; charging stations, PV on government buildings, and electric vehicles for public transportation. GRI encourages coops for food distribution and climate action.

Monroe recommended that some of the comeback money be spent on charging stations. MacDonald mentioned there is support locally for the GRI proposal. MacDonald made a MOTION to support of the GRI proposal, Monroe seconded. Reinhardt offered additional support for action. Increasing the Greening Fund to \$4 million or more was mentioned again. Helen Sizemore mentioned the Inland Democratic Club endorses the GRI recommendations and is working with Willits and Ukiah. Call for vote. Vote is UNANIMOUS.

ACTION: advise BoS of our support of the GRI Recommendations

5. Oak Woodlands Ordinance and Letter.

Monroe brought up issue of Douglas Fir encroachment on oaks. Monroe described the need for more education needed on oaks. Some recommendations for some edits. Drell mentioned that we may want to add other issues, including prescribed fire and education to the letter, although these could be added later. Potts suggested that we would like to add our interest in supporting the county. ACTION: Approval unanimous to send to county.

6. Michelle Passero, in charge of climate issues for the Nature Conservancy, joined the meeting. She is the author of the presentation we were shown. The topic: working landscapes and their baseline contribution to carbon emissions. With a baseline, we can work with property owners to accomplish the policies and directives that come from governmental climate action efforts. California's goal is carbon neutrality by 2045. Without intervention, working lands will increasingly contribute to carbon emissions. Nickerson has been central to providing tools for estimating and monitoring changes in land use. There are advantages to moving the accounting to a larger scale entity, and this can be done without losing accuracy. This methodology goes beyond carbon benefits, but includes scenic, equity, and many other important metrics. Using the baseline, a trajectory can be plotted, and then the same tool and information sources are used to provide accurate monitoring, to see where actuality is in the context of the desired trajectory. The presentation offered a short "laundry list" of the many useful reduction activities that can be employed. Many of the co-benefits address water, habitat, and resilience issues. The tool enables predictions of future GHGs and also show co-benefits.

Discussion of what do we do with an accounting program. The group provided general support for the program. Lots of discussions regarding pros and cons of the approach. The group wanted to know:

- Who would work on it?
- How much would it cost?
- Funding sources?

ACTION: Nickerson will provide more information to the group.

7. Low hanging fruit

- a. Transportation adhoc committee report (Sher) recommends walking and biking, clean driving. Sher would love to see better bike lanes, bike sharing, rental racks, carpooling (especially with Ukiah High School). She suggested putting up shade structure with photovoltaics. Stull-Otto added that she invited MCOG; they will attend the next meeting. Albin-Smith mentioned she is a member of MCOG and that there is a desire to identify climate change priorities.

Potts asked why public transportation is not included and it was agreed that it is an omission. Hubacek brought up the issue of lack of public transportation to rural areas. Reinhardt pushed the group to be more active. MacDonald noted that there are additional items for low-hanging fruit that he would like to include. Stull-Otto suggested a push among government organizations to improve pedestrian and bicycle pathways. Safe Routes to School was raised as a campaign we should support.

ACTION: Sher would like to get the idea submitted to the BoS soon (get the items agreed to by our next meeting).

8. 18th of June is the next meeting. Members agree to meet through the summer.

9. Adjourned at 5:03 pm.