



Loo Wit Rumblings



November Election Just Around the Corner

By Richard Kolber, Political Chair

Local elections are just as important as the national-level elections, so make sure you're registered to vote in time for the upcoming November 2nd general election. The Sierra Club has endorsed the following candidates for City of Vancouver races. These candidates have shown a commitment to climate action, environmental justice, and values important to the Sierra Club. The City of Vancouver is in the process of developing a climate action strategy, and we need people like Anne, Erik, Diane, Eric, and Kim to help enact the best possible plan. Please make sure to cast your ballot November 2nd! If you still need to register, or have questions about how to vote, please visit this [website](#). For more information about elections in Clark County, click [here](#).

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Anne McEnery-Ogle is running for re-election as mayor of Vancouver and has been endorsed by the Sierra Club. She is closely aligned with the values of the Sierra Club. All questions in her endorsement interview were thoroughly answered with concrete examples of the ways she is working towards a cleaner, safer, and more equitable city, When talking about the climate action plan that targets emissions reductions by 80% by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2040 with much depending on PDX and Clark public Utilities. She doses favor mass transit lanes on the I-5 bridge. She strongly is in favor of preserving and adding trees and adding to the tree canopy. Anne wants to add air quality measuring equipment in Vancouver.



Photo courtesy City of Vancouver

Endorsements for City Council positions and for the Port of Vancouver race are on continued on the following page.



LOO-WIT ENDORSEMENTS, CONTINUED

By Richard Kolber, Political Committee

Kim Harless is a candidate for Vancouver City Council position 1. She holds the values of the Sierra Club and will work towards using them while serving on the Vancouver City Council. As an indigenous and Latina Kim understands what social and environmental justice means. She has a degree in environmental science and has served as an environmental operations specialist and helped plan the waste and recycling system for Clark County. She understands how environmental degradation has impacted our most vulnerable community. Her priorities include affordable housing, equity and inclusion, and truly addressing climate change. She supports developing parks in East Vancouver and other diverse areas. Kim also knows of the need of sidewalks in parts of the city. She does support of electrification of all new buildings. She favors expanding the urban tree canopy and supports the Urban Forestry Program. Kim supports developing compact neighborhoods that are walkable.



Kim Harless. Image via ClarkCountyToday

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Diana Perez is a candidate for Vancouver City Council position 3. Diana aligns with the Sierra Club on environmental and social justice issues. She was a founder of Vancouver’s LULAC. She is interested in reducing homelessness with 5 action steps: 1. reorganize and coordinate city and county governance oversight of homeless activities, 2. Restore the “Navigation Center”, 6. Establishing homeless centers serving specific homeless populations including single men, women, families, elderly, and disabled. 4. Create one step services through collaboration of existing agencies and community services. 5. benchmarking with other top homeless programs. Diana has been involved with environmental issues for 25 years with the Audubon Society, The Wildlife Society, as a Sierra Club member, and as an employee of United States Government. She services as commissioner of the Washington State Parks and Recreation. She has a BS in wildlife management.



Diana Perez. Image via twitter.com/ElectDianaPerez



LOO-WIT ENDORSEMENTS

By Richard Kolber, Political Committee

Erik Paulsen is a candidate for reelection for Vancouver City Council position 2. He recognizes climate change as an urgent issue that needs to be addressed. Erik believes in a climate action plan that is pushing for more aggressive targets. He is forward thinking and wants to consider the growing population and it's needs and impact on the planet. Erik supports the 6 recommendations by homeless response coordinator, especially the creation small camps providing people increased safety, access to resources and a pathway to housing. He recognizes the value of local parks, especially on the east side of Vancouver for easier accessibility to all. His other priorities are housing, mobility, and economic development More density= less driving, healthier people, lower greenhouse emissions, complete streets, and public transit will reduce single-occupancy vehicle miles, etc. Erik has values that match the Sierra Club.



Erik Paulsen. Image via ep4cc.com

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Eric LaBrant is a candidate for reelection for Vancouver Port Commissioner. His votes are consistent with Sierra club values. He has worked with the other Vancouver commissioners to develop a good climate action strategy leading to a good climate action plan. He has worked against fossil fuel expansion at the port. He has worked at getting commissioners from other ports to develop environmentally friendly action.



Eric LaBrant. Image via ballotready.org

Loo Wit Seeking Volunteer Newsletter Editor

By Emily Waters, Executive Committee

Loo Wit is looking for a volunteer to compile, edit, and publish our newsletter! The time commitment expected for this volunteer position is approximately 3 hours per month. Generally newsletters are published once per quarter, but occasionally there may be additional newsletters published, particularly around elections and the holidays. The newsletter editor does not have to be a current member of the Executive Committee, but they are welcome to attend the monthly meetings and participate as an advisory member. They're also welcome to join the Executive Committee if they're interested! Onboarding and support will be given to the volunteer to help as they publish their first newsletter. If you or someone you know is interested in this position, please email Kelsey.king216@gmail.com.

Vancouver Lake is an Economic Asset

By Lehman Holder, Executive Committee

Have you thought much, or spent time, at Vancouver Lake recently? If you have, you may be aware that “Van Lake” is a gem and very much an economic asset, for Clark County and nearby areas in SW Washington.

However, Vancouver Lake mostly gets overlooked by the governmental bodies who should be, but aren't, taking care of it. In recent years, infestations of Eurasian milfoil and toxic algae blooms have made the lake off limits to many residents and users. Thanks to the efforts of Friends of Vancouver Lake (FoVL), the milfoil was treated and is now nearly entirely gone. Toxic algae remains a problem during hot weather.

A 2015 study of Vancouver Lake by Portland State University geologist Curt Peterson found that “future maintenance and preservation to be entirely dependent on restoring floodplain groundwater levels and corresponding lake water levels.” Historically, the lake flooded annually and had abundant and healthy water. Then, dams were built on the Columbia and altered the floodplain. Periodic closures of the lake force cancellations of sailing, kayaking and rowing activities as well as swimming.

A public-private partnership is needed to acquire and direct funding to restore and maintain the lake. Obvious choices are the ports of Vancouver and Ridgefield, working with the Corps of Engineers. Vancouver Lake is important to residents and should not be dismissed as a frill. Good or bad, it will make its presence known.

LOO WIT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

****The September 2nd Executive Committee Meeting will be held IN PERSON at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church****

Executive Committee Meetings are held the 1st Thursday of the month at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Vancouver, WA. Glass Room. 6:30—8:00 pm.

****Climate Task Force (previously Beyond Coal & Oil) meetings will be remote for August, October, and November. The September and December meetings will be IN-PERSON at the address below.***

The Climate Task Force Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Vancouver. Meet & greet with pizza starts at 6:00 pm, followed by the meeting at 6:30 pm.

Connect With Us!

If you haven't already, please give us a "like" on Facebook! We share information about upcoming events, photos from outings and the latest Loo Wit news. You can even share our posts with your own Facebook friends, helping to spread the word about Loo Wit!

All of our upcoming outings are posted on MeetUp, and archives of our monthly newsletters on our website. You can find us on Instagram by searching "LooWit.Group"

www.facebook.com/loowit.group

www.meetup.com/Portland-Vancouver-Sierra-Club-Outings-Events

www.sierraclub.org/washington/loo-wit

You can also join our listserv for pertinent conservation related news! Send an email to CASCADE-LOOWIT-CONSFORUM@LISTS.SIERRACLUB.ORG with "subscribe" in the subject line to be added to the list!



Loo Wit Executive Committee Members

Kelsey King—Chair

Mark Leed—Vice Chair

Lehman Holder— Outings Liaison

Fred Suter — Legislative Liaison

Steve Foster—Treasurer

Emily Waters—Newsletter/NF Comm.

Wendy Cleveland —Conservation Comm.



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Explore—Enjoy—Protect



LOO WIT OUTINGS

Successful Restart to Loo Wit Outings

By Lehman Holder, Outings Liaison

Following national Sierra Club's outings restart on July 5, Loo Wit has offered and scheduled five outings, on July 28 and Aug. 12 (sea kayak), Oct. 1 (cycling), Oct. 14 (sea kayak) and Oct. 21 (cycling). No hiking outings were scheduled due to no available hike leaders. Outing signups on Loo Wit's Meetup site were good, with good responses after a very long pause – since mid-February of 2020 due to Covid.

Sea kayak outings were held on Lake River (July 28) for beginners/novices, and at Scappoose Bay on Aug. 12 for intermediate paddlers. Participants returned to Scappoose Bay on Oct. 14. Cyclists rode to Vancouver Lake/Frenchman's Bar County Parks on Oct. 1 and pedaled the Burnt Bridge Creek Trail in Vancouver on Oct. 21.

New outing/hike leaders are very much needed for late fall and winter hikes. Anyone with an interest in becoming an outings leader should contact Lehman Holder (tripsguy@aol.com). Becoming certified as a Sierra Club outings leader isn't difficult. Lehman can acquaint you with what's required, much of which can be accomplished online.

At this point, it's uncertain whether Nordic (cross-country) ski outings will be scheduled in Jan-Feb-Mar 2022 because of national Sierra Club Covid policies.



Don't Get Left Out in the Cold... Join Us!



Sierra Club Outings are a terrific way to meet new people and enjoy the great outdoors. Whatever your interests - hiking, canoeing or birdwatching - there is an outing for everyone. If you are new to the area, let your local Chapter or Group give you the lay of the land. Join today and become part of America's largest environmental organization offering the most enjoyable outings.

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 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____
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YES! I would like to give a gift membership to:

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 Address _____
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a FREE Sierra Club
Weekender Bag!**



Membership Categories	Individual	Joint
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Standard	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 39	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 49
Supporting	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 75	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 100
Contributing	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 150	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 175
Life	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 1250
Senior	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Student	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35
Limited Income	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 35

Contributions, gifts & dues to Sierra Club are tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues include \$ 7.50 for a subscription to SIERRA magazine and \$ 1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

Enclose a check and mail to: Sierra Club,
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