

Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting

April 5, 2017 Meeting

ExCom Members Attending: Pat Beudet, Gerald Brown , Ken Hemphill,, Dave Moscatello, Margaret Nersten, Prasad Ramnath, Dennis Winters, JimWylie

Attending by Phone: Mathew Himmelein, Alexa Manning

ExCom Members Absent: Dennis Winters, John Butler

Other Members Attending: Emily Davis, Karen Melton

The Meeting was called to order ay 6:15 by Jim Wylie who presented the [agenda](#).

Secretary: Minutes were approved with a correction. Sharon Furlong's report on the DRBC meeting was identified as Dave'.

Treasurer: Balance in C4 Account is \$7,117, Balance is C3 Account is unchanged at \$424.

Jim moved that we support the following expenses:

People's Climate March - \$200

Ready For 100 - \$100

Tabling at Food Fest - \$87

Tabling Swag –Seed s - \$193

Pat seconded. The motion passed

Standing Committee Reports

Conservation Committee: (Jim)

Green Justice Philly - Dave

[See attached](#)

Ready For 100 – Dave

Ready for 100 Philadelphia is having a happy hour to attempt to recruit more volunteers on April 11.

They are working on getting Mayer Kenney to sign a commitment letter before the mayor's conference in June. See attached response [to OOS survey](#)

Nicetown Plant: Karen

SEPTA has again voted to fund a gas powered generating plant in Nicetown. Since this may be the first of several, we need to keep fighting.

Political Committee: (Karen Melton)

Jim reports that We have 5 leads – one for each county. And several very interested volunteers that are eager to help in any way they can. Training later this year from chapter/national. I think we want to have some input into how this training takes shape. We have some volunteers in Chesco that would like to be on the training planning cmte.

- Conference call with political committee members to review endorsement procedures, identify resources
- Phila Co committee considered looked at the District Attorney race, but determined that the purvue of the DA's office is not a good fit with our interests
- Jim looked into local Buck Co races, -- none we need to take a position on for the primary, will evaluate prior to the general election

Chester County Political Committee Report - Alexa

Summary of the Chester County Political Committee's recommendations for candidate endorsement and support for May primary 2017

The committee conducted interviews during March of candidates in the contested primaries of West Chester (mayoral race) and West Goshen (board of supervisors). The recommendations are as follows:

West Chester:

Endorsement of Dianne Herrin for mayor (see statement). Alexa Moved that we endorse Dianne Herrin for mayor of West Chester. Sergeant Brown seconded. The motion passed. Dave Hemberger will call a special meeting to review and confirm endorsements.

The committee will meet again before the general election and may indicate at that time endorsement for Kyle Hudson or Cassandra Jones should either win the primary.

All three candidates have knowledge, concern and interest about environmental issues.

West Goshen:

No endorsements for candidates at the time of the primary.

Three of the four candidates have knowledge, concern and interest about environmental issues.

They are Tom Casey, Mary La Sota and Robin Stuntebeck.

The committee will meet again before the general election and may then indicate endorsement

For up to two of these candidates who win the primary.

Newsletter/Communications: (Ken Hemphill)

Web Platform – Jim

The new platform is up – in prototype form - <https://www.sierraclub.org/pennsylvania/southeastern-pennsylvania> . I don't like it so much, but it's the party line. I will get on board and hopefully find a way for others to contribute.

Facebook

Delaware County is developing a facebook page. MontCo wants one but no one volunteered. Chester and Bucks already have links from the SPG website

Education Committee: (Karen Melton)

Tom Schuster and Greg Morton will be the speakers at the next Education program, Defending the EPA, on April 17 at CCP. There will also be a slide show of before and after the EPA landscapes to demonstrate the value of the EPA. The tentative plan for May is the Law and possible speakers include Lawyer, Steve Harvey and Kirtrina Baxter of the Public Interest Law Center. Karen is considering moving to a once a month format.

Nomination Committee: (Alexa Manning)

No Nominating Committee report at this time.

Old Business

Member Engagement:

700 new members joined between March 1 and April 1. Pat reminded us that we get a kick back if we recruit new members. Margaret will see that the welcome letter is sent out or ask the county leaders to do it.

Philadelphia and Bucks Counties had their second meetings.

In the last month Delco and Montco have had their kickoff meetings. These groups will need some time to grow and see who their leaders are and what issues they want to attack. Hopefully our experienced volunteers will be there to assist.

Tabling (Emily)

So far this year SPG has been requested to table at the following events

January 28: Physicians For Social Responsibility

March 18: Trout Unlimited, Malvern (Alexa Manning scheduled, sick, Jim Wyliecovered)

Mom's Organic Market, Bryn Mawr (Emily Davis)

Take Action Fair, Media (Sue Edwards)

April 8: Philadelphia Food Festival (Emily Davis, Lynn Medley, Mary Jo Harris, Dave Moscatello)

April 14: Earth Fair, West Chester University (10 to 2)

April 20: Villanova U. Earth Day (Thursday) (11 to 2)

Philadelphia Academy Earth Day (10 to 2)

April 22: Narberth Earth Day

April 21-23: Possibility: Environmental Film Festival (Prince Theater, Philadelphia)

April 29: CUSP Science Carnival

May 6: Pughtown Baptist Church, Spring City, PA

May 18: Possibility: Academy Town Square featuring Sandra Postel

May 21: Coventry Woods Festival, Potts town, (Justin Moser,)

May 28: Everhart Park, West Chester

New Business

NFL Draft: (Jim)

The event is looking for volunteers to help with recycling. Volunteers get a lanyard and a T-Shirt. The organization the volunteers reprints receives a \$10.00 donation. Kwan will coordinate.

Just Transition Conference

Aaron Mair, president of Sierra Club, is giving the keynote address at the conference in Villanovawhich will include a bus tour. There will be a reception at Coho at 6:30 after the conference.

Chapter Business

The annual chapter campout will be at Hickory Run on July 28. The Park has cabins that can house 120 people.

The Sylvanian (Chapter newsletter) is looking for volunteers as Wendi Taylor and Phil Coleman are looking to cut back

Announcements:

>Environmental Listening tour – state DEP – in in Delaware County on May 23 from 5 to 7:00 and Philadelphia May 25 at the Water Works from 4:00 to 6:00PM

>Next meeting in Swarthmore

Meeting Call-in Number:

1-866-501-6174, PIN is 1004100#.

Reports

TBD

People's Climate March – Jim

I could type for an hour about the PCM. Latest details are here – <http://southeastern.pasierra.org/pcm> .

Latest news is that we will have a "Cities for 100% Renewables" Contingency at the march. Have a place in the lineup. Perhaps have a representation for each of the 25 cities that have already made the pledge. Stay tuned for more.

Already about 14 buses filled. Bus captains being organized.

County Organization – Jim

In the last month Delco and Montco have had their kickoff meetings. These groups will need some time to grow and see who their leaders are and what issues they want to attack. Hopefully our experienced volunteers will be there to assist.

Future Energy - Conservation Subcommittee Report April 2017 – Dave Moscatello

Attended several "Ready for 100 - Philadelphia" meetings.

On Sierra Club nuclear energy conference call Thursday, March 9, 2017.

Attended Green Justice Philly coordinating committee meeting, March 17, 2017. New campaign proposal appended for consideration.

Prepared background information / written testimony in support of Ready for 100 (document on Rf100 Google Drive) for City Council Hearing.

Attended City Council Hearing on the Environment in Philadelphia, Wednesday March 22, 2017

Renewable Energy Drumpfs of the Month:

- **Trump's climate order puts 'China first' in clean energy.** Maria Gallucci, Mashable, Tuesday, March 28, 2017 <https://verizon.yahoo.com/news/trumps-climate-order-puts-china-214019453.html>
- **EPA scientific integrity office reviewing Pruitt's comments on carbon.** Emily Flitter, Reuters, March 31, 2017. <https://verizon.yahoo.com/news/epa-scientific-integrity-office-reviewing-pruitts-comments-carbon-003611836.html>
- **New EPA documents reveal even deeper proposed cuts to staff and programs.** Juliet Eilperin, Chris Mooney and Steven Mufson. The Washington Post, March 31, 2017.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/03/31/new-epa-documents-reveal-even-deeper-proposed-cuts-to-staff-and-programs/?utm_term=.c51302e068a1&wpisrc=nl_p1&wpm=1

- **Trump promised to bring back coal jobs. That promise 'will not be kept,' experts say.** Darryl Fears. The Washington Post, March 29, 2017. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/03/29/trump-promised-to-bring-back-coal-jobs-that-promise-will-not-be-kept-experts-say/?tid=pm_pop&utm_term=.1d34a414b46a

Green Justice Philly (GJP) Campaign Proposal, March 2017

Name for Campaign: Solar Justice Philly (working name, pending further discussion)

Vision : Taking responsibility for doing its part to mitigate the climate crisis and the public health crisis that has resulted from the burning of fossil fuels, the City of Philadelphia is planning for its transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. This campaign by GJP will stimulate a just, efficient transition to renewables while working with under-resourced Philadelphia neighborhoods to develop local wealth and jobs.

Goal : Mayor Kenney will make the commitment that by 2030, the City of Philadelphia will purchase 30% of the electricity needed to power Philadelphia government-owned buildings, departments and street lights from solar projects owned by residents or community associations and institutions in under-resourced Philadelphia neighborhoods, specifically communities of color.

What is Green Justice Philly?

Green Justice Philly is a diverse and growing coalition committed to building a healthy, sustainable and economically just Philadelphia region. We work together to oppose the dirty fossil fuel industry that puts our neighborhoods at risk and makes our citizens sick, and cannot contribute to our long-term prosperity.

Public Target for Campaign

Mayor Kenney

Private Targets for Campaign: to be determined

The City of Philadelphia is rewriting its Energy Master Plan, likely by summer 2017, and we would like this initiative to be incorporated in the Master Plan.

Background

Sixty million dollars is spent annually by the City of Philadelphia to procure 700,000 megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity to power City buildings, departments and street lights. This campaign focuses on redirecting a portion of these funds to empower under-resourced neighborhoods by creating an income stream and permanent, safe jobs within Philadelphia.

Benefits of Campaign

- taxpayer-funded electricity invested within the City
- community wealth-building/ empowerment
- local job creation
- stimulate transition to renewable energy within Philadelphia
- climate change mitigation
- long-term economic advantage of using local solar
- opportunity to build broad coalition

Research Needed

How much would this form of locally-produced solar electricity cost the city up-front?

How much can the City save on electric bills once solar is being generated locally and replaces electricity from the grid?

What would make this effort financially viable? Is this form of energy reliable?

What laws, if any, need to be changed in order for this effort to be implemented?

What other groups are working on similar campaigns and what have they learned?

[Back](#)

Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Approval** of [Mar minutes](#)
- **Announcements**, agenda updates
- **Treasurers Report** – [spreadsheet here](#) (on ExCom members can see) (\$200 new online donations)
- **Politics**
 - **Vote to consider endorsement of Dianne Herrin** – separate email to ExCom members
 - Training – in the fall, volunteer opportunities
- **Member Engagement**
 - Welcome New Members Letter – 700 since Mar 1 !!!
 - County Organizing – all 5 are up and running
 - Happy Hours w/ Elected Officials – Rep Steve McCarter
- **Communications**
 - Spring Newsletter - [draft](#) – send date – Apr 15
 - Web Updates – prototype - <https://www.sierraclub.org/pennsylvania/southeastern-pennsylvania> - in progress
 - Social Media
- **NFL Draft**
 - Volunteers wanted to help with Waste Diversion – Kwan is driving
- **Educational Programs**
 - Pipelines – Defending the EPA – Apr 17
 - Next?
- **Outreach**
 - Tabling Coordinator – Emily
 - Supplies – [Expense Request](#)
 - Calendar – see below
- **A Just Transition Conference**
 - [Keynote](#) – Aaron Mair at 4:30
 - [Meet & Greet](#) w/ Aaron Mair & SC volunteers at CoHo
- **Report from Chapter ExCom**
 - Conservation Initiatives:
 - Ches Bay cleanup (fed budget cut to 0),
 - methane leak regulations in jeopardy,
 - drinking water testing (fed budget cut to 0),
 - reclamation of old mines (fed budge cut),
 - pipeline legal fund review cmte,
 - publics lands,
 - chapter consv calls to start again.
 - Volunteer Ops:
 - political training,
 - chapter outing (work w/ Amy),
 - Sylvanian,
 - EJ Tour
 - New staff:
 - Beyond Coal – Peter (Pittsburgh),
 - RF100 – Eva (Pittsburgh),
 - Outings/Military/ICO – Mabari (Phila)
 - Political Training session planned for Oct – get ready for 2018
- **Outings**
 - Outings Calendar
 - Chapter outing – July 28 – Hickory Run SP
 - Tree Hugger Day at a Phillies Game – Volunteer needed
- **DEP's EJ Tour** - [info](#)
 - Dates for our area – May 23 in Delco, May 25 in Phila
 - Volunteer Op to assist in getting people to testify
- **Resist**
 - Defending the EPA – new committee takes off
 - Peoples Climate March plans – [Info Page](#)
- **ExCom NomCom**
 - N/A
- **Conservation Committees**
 - Ready For 100 - PHL

- [Reply from OOS](#) on our feedback on Energy Mast Plan
 - Testifying at Council Climate Hearing – mentioned in [PlanPhilly](#)
 - Events tied to PCM
- Ready For 100 – Burbs
 - Orientations, photo op, sign making
- Scientists March – Apr 22
- Nicetown SEPTA CHP plant – SEPTA approved
- Gas Leak Monitoring – [Funds Request](#) – status?
- **ExCom Meeting Calendar** – do we want to pencil in any off-campus meetings? Call-in only?

[back](#)

ATTN: Rich Freeh
Office of Sustainability
One Parkway Building
1515 Arch Street, 13th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Dear Mr. Freeh and the Office of Sustainability,

I am writing on behalf of the Ready for 100 Team of Philadelphia to submit comments in response to the Office of Sustainability's webinar on a citywide Energy Master Plan. Ready for 100 (readyfor100.org) is a national program of the Sierra Club to call on our local governments, institutions and businesses to make a pledge that "our community is ready to start moving to achieve **100% renewable energy** sources by 2050". Over 20 US cities have made this pledge already, with most setting goals to convert their electric utilities to 100% renewable by 2035 or sooner. Some have already achieved that goal.

The City of Philadelphia is definitely moving in the right direction with the Greenworks vision and developing the Energy Master Plan. After reviewing the recent stakeholder presentation, we identified the following questions:

- How will the master plan promote renewable energy generation?

Both the municipal energy master plan and the citywide energy vision are built on an electricity grid modeling tool that explores multiple future grid mixes including the existing grid mix, business-as-usual projections from the Energy Information Agency, and mixes adjusted based on varying assumptions about changing market conditions.

The tool will further model the impact of city-driven policies and programs such as solar power purchase agreements and expanding on-site solar on city-owned properties, while also considering the longer-term potential for rooftop and community solar generation in Philadelphia.

Renewable energy, particularly solar, continues to move toward cost-competitiveness with fossil fuel-based energy sources, and the city is committed to educating Philadelphia customers about their options to use renewable energy in their homes and businesses through tools like PA Power Switch and the new Center City Solarize campaign. However, federal and state policies are the primary drivers of market feasibility and installation at scale of renewable energy. The citywide energy vision will outline areas where federal and state policy changes are needed, and we will continue to advocate for renewable and climate-friendly policies at all levels of government.

Additionally, the municipal energy master plan will outline options and plans for local government to lead by example in clean power through energy purchasing and renewable energy production projects on city-owned assets.

- What efforts can be made to reduce the use of natural gas to power electricity?

As noted above, currently the City has limited opportunities to impact the regional electricity grid mix, which is driven by market forces. The City will continue to advocate for mechanisms like the Clean Power Plan and the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative that help shift the grid mix. While natural gas is considerably cleaner than coal-fired electricity generation for both air quality and climate emissions considerations, for Philadelphia to meet an 80 by 50 goal the regional grid must greatly increase its share of renewable energy generation.

- How does the energy master plan guide us toward Mayor Kenney's 80X50 goal, and how will the transportation plan assist in achieving that goal?

Reducing carbon emissions 80 percent by 2050 is one of the foundational goals of both Greenworks and the new citywide energy vision, and we look forward to sharing strategies for moving toward that goal as part of the April workshop.

The interagency transportation planning effort has not yet launched, but greenhouse gas mitigation will be a core value of that work.

- How do issues of environmental and labor justice factor into the planning?

The Greenworks vision for energy is that all Philadelphians efficiently use clean energy that they can afford. Strategies in the citywide energy vision will be evaluated for not only greenhouse gas mitigation but also air quality implications and job creation potential, and energy affordability will be a key consideration when assessing potential implementation of any policy recommended through the vision.

We welcome recommendations from the Ready for 100 team on ways to better integrate environmental and labor justice into the implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy strategies for Philadelphia.

- What role will impacted communities and constituencies (i.e. labor groups, low-income workers, people of color, etc.) play in the process?

As described below, this is just the first step in a longer process to move Philadelphia toward a clean energy future. No recommendations will be implemented without discussion with and commitment from impacted communities and constituencies.

- When will a draft of recommendations be ready for review?

We plan to share a draft of top-level recommendations at our city energy vision workshop in April 2017.

- What is the specific, projected timeline for the plan?

Following the workshop, we will integrate feedback into a final vision document to be published in summer 2017. From there, we will work with residents, businesses, and advocacy groups to prioritize and implement recommendations from the vision. Recommendations will be short- and long-term, so we expect implementation of the vision to continue through the course of the Kenney Administration and beyond.

- How will the energy master plan interact with the creation of a litter master plan in 2017 and a transportation master plan in 2018?

While the energy modeling tool is focused solely on the built environment, some outputs from the tool will be helpful to model emissions under various transportation scenarios, and our office is coordinating with the Zero Waste and Litter Cabinet on outreach opportunities as they work to complete the litter plan.

We look forward to receiving your responses and to working with the Office of Sustainability to promote clean and just energy solutions in Philadelphia. Please do not hesitate to reach out. Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of our feedback.

Sincerely,

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[back](#)