

# Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting

## November 1, 2017 Meeting

**ExCom Members Attending:** Ken Hemphill, Dave Moscatello, , Prasad Ramnath, , JimWylie

Attending by Phone: Alexa Manning, Pat Beaudet,

**ExCom Members Absent:** Gerald Brown , John Butler, Mathew Himmelein, Margaret Nersten, Dennis Winters

**Other Members Attending:** Bryan Crenshaw, Emily Davis, Karen Melton, Jim Kaff, Eunice Alexander

The Meeting was called to order by Jim Wylie ([Agenda](#))

Secretary: Minutes were approved as sent

Treasurer: The treasurer' repot was accepted.

Starting balance (C4)	\$11,697
Supplies for RF100 Launch Event	\$309
Catering Servies for Film Series	\$119
RF100 Launch Event supplies	\$65
CityCoHo Rent - November	\$200
Replacement of broken plates	\$32
Food for Film Festival (1029)	\$68
Account Balance at November Meeting:	\$10,904

Account Balance C3 \$6,739.45

[Online reimbursement form](#)

### **Standing Committee Reports**

***Conservation Committee:*** (Jim Wylie)

Tom Au from the Chapter has set up a form for reporting activities ([Report Form](#))

Ready For 100: The Philadelphia team is working on the draft of their resolution. There was a kickoff meeting in Norristown. Chester County now has three municipalities that have passed resolutions. Through the Chester County Clean Energy Leadership Conference, the initiative is spreading.

[Red Rock Wilderness report](#) (Prasad)

***Political Committee:***

No report

**Newsletter/Communications:** (Ken Hemphill)

Newsletter sent October 22.

Send Stats: Members: 3,409 sent, 511 opens, 80 clicks, 15% open rate

Non-members: 41,699 sent, 4,396 opens, 287 clicks, 10.5% open rate)

Ballot will be sent out Dec 1

**Education Committee:** (Karen Melton)

Attendance at the October program was better but still only 19. The scheduled speaker had a family emergency, but arranged for another speaker from Delaware RiverKeeper Network who gave a very interesting talk about how we got where are today with the DRBC directing staff to draft regulations

that might ban fracking, but still allow for fracking wastewater to be stored/treated in the basin and withdrawal of water from the Delaware for fracking. Expect the need to mobilize opposition once the proposed regulations are published by the end of November. New Jersey Sierra Club has been a partner with DRN in this campaign.

November program: Nov 13th, 6:45, Community College of Philadelphia, Business & Industry Building, Room C2-28. Everything You Need to Know to Save Energy (and \$\$) at Home. Experts from the Philadelphia Energy Coordinating Agency led by Mat Himmelein will walk us through and answer questions about the many ways we can retrofit your homes to save energy and money.

SPG members can help support SE PA Sierra Club programs by attending the weekly Tuesday evening update calls, which often include mini-education programs.

WCU - Nov 9 - "We The People 2.0" - film viewing

CCP - Nov 13 - Everything You Need to Know to Save Energy (and \$\$) at Home

Mini-program - Nov TBD - Waste Reduction - Eva Wylie (or other expert)

Mini-program - Nov 21 - Marine Debris - Carol Armstrong

Phoenixville Film - Nov 30 - "Tomorrow" (w/ Judy Wicks)

New Hope - Dec 3 - Standing Rock Revisited - Bucks Sierra

Mini-program - Dec 5 - Attacks on Fed Env Regulations - Tom Au

WCU - Dec 9 - "The Wisdom To Survive" - film viewing

Mini-program - Dec 12 - Bio Digesters - Bob Hamburg

Mini-program - Dec 19 - Impact of Eating Meat - Rodney Platt

**Nomination Committee:** (Alexa Manning)

Current members up for re- election are Jim Wylie, Dennis Winters, Gerald Brown, John Butler, and Prasad Ramnath. New candidates are Jim Kaff and Kevin Little. Not all current board members have agreed to run again. The ballot will be determined by November 15 and sent out on December 1, 2016.

## **Old Business**

**SEPTA:** Karen Melton requested that SPG write a let to SEPTA asking them to meet the clean energy goals set out by the mayor. It was agreed that we would do this.

**Outings:** Jim reported on a Hike along the Schuylkill River led by Rick Wolf. Rick pointed out some of the structures left from the river restoration done around 1950.

## **County Reports**

### **Bucks**

#### **Chester County**

Their Fundraiser, "Paint Chester County" at Galer Winery is Saturday November 4<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 6:00. They still need a couple more volunteers. The Winery will donate 10% of every bottle of wine sold and artists are donating 10% of profits from sold paintings.

**Holiday Social:** Pat Beaudet requested \$100 to fund the holiday party – her request was granted. She also asked us to consider moving the party from December 6 to December 13. Since a number of members would be unable to attend on the 13<sup>th</sup>, the date for the party remains the 6<sup>th</sup> of December

## **New Business**

## **Announcements:**

### **Meeting Call-in Number:**

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

## Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Approval** of [October Minutes](#)
- **Announcements**, agenda updates
- **Introducing Zakia Elliot and Mabari Byrd** (when/if they arrive)
- **Approval of Treasurers Report** – [spreadsheet here](#) (only ExCom members can see)
- **ExCom NomCom**
  - 1 new nominee + 5 sitting members (Jim, Dennis, John, Sgt Brown, Prasad) running for 5 seats
  - Plan to tag onto chapter ballot postcard. We will need to build an online voting site.
- **Proposals/Motions:**
  - **New SPG ExCom meeting format for 2018**
    - **Proposed:** 60 min of business + 60 min of education or presentations from members, etc
    - Will need to do more business before meeting via email: accepting reports, debating proposals
  - **SEPTA Pressure**
    - Karen would like to **request that SPG write a letter** to SEPTA asking them to meet the clean energy goals set out by the Mayor.
  - **Holiday Social**
    - See details below from Pat. **Request for \$100**
  - **New On-Line Expense Reimbursement Form**
    - In addition to print & mail
    - **Prototype** [HERE](#)
  - **Member Engagement**
    - **How about a “New Members Newsletter”?**
      - Send to new members in last 6 months via Salesforce (instead of personal emails from county leaders, which seems to be asking too much) **(Tom nixed this)**
      - Send every month – so each new member will get 6, then off (presuming they will be connecting with whatever volunteer list that interests them by then)
      - Canned welcome letter + list of upcoming events in next 60 days (campfire list)
    - Chapter ExCom exposure – invitation to attend
      - Invitation to (perhaps rotation of) SPG ExCom members and other volunteers to attend quarterly chapter meetings to reduce the mystery about what the rest of the state is doing wrt Sierra Club stuff
- **Communications**
  - Fall Newsletter

[Return](#)

- Sent on 10/22
  - Send Stats (Members: 3,409 sent, 511 opens, 80 clicks, **15% open rate**)  
(Non-members: 41,699 sent, 4,396 opens, 287 clicks, **10.5% open rate**)
- Target for Winter Watch - Mid Jan?
  - Theme?
- Social Media
- **Educational Programs - upcoming**
  - CCP – Nov 13 – Everything You Need to Know to Save Energy (and \$\$) at Home
  - WCU – Nov 9 – “We The People 2.0” – film viewing
  - WCU – Dec 7 – “The Wisdom To Survive” – film viewing
  - Mini-program – Nov TBD – Waste Reduction – Eva Wylie (or other expert)
  - Mini-program – Nov 21 – Marine Debris – Carol Armstrong
  - Mini-program – Dec 5 – Attacks on Fed Env Regulations – Tom Au
  - Mini-program – Dec 12 – Bio Digesters – Bob Hamburg
  - Mini-program – Dec 19 – Impact of Eating Meat – Rodney Platt
  - Phoenixville Film – Nov 30 – “Tomorrow” (w/ Judy Wicks)
  - New Hope – Dec 3 – Standing Rock Revisited – Bucks Sierra
- **Outreach**
  - Paint Chester County – Nov 4
- **Outings**
  - Outings Calendar
  - Oct 15 – [Valley Forge Hike](#) – Jim can tell story of Schuylkill River diversion in the 40's if time
- **Ready For 100**
  - Philadelphia –
    - Resolution Drafting – anyone want to be on review team?
  - Chester County -
    - Chester County Energy Leaders conference series, Nov mtg w/ DVRPC reps
  - Montgomery County
    - Kickoff meeting in Norristown. 20 people, mix of leaders and followers
- **Conservation Committees**
  - Building a year-end report for Tom Au – [Survey HERE](#) – see further explanation below
  - Clean Transportation Grant Opportunity for Chapters
- **Politics**
  - Get Out The Vote
- **Volunteer Leaders**
  - [Spreadsheet](#) just a few major holes:
    - Social events: picnic, holiday
    - Fundraising
    - Political Chair, Montco Pol Leader
- **Education at ExCom**
  - Video of Michael Pollan – In Defense of Food – [Google Talk](#)
  - Since we got all of the above done in 60 minutes, we have time for this video

## **Bucks County Report**

### ***Activities of Dara Bortman:***

Attended the EQAT (Earth Quaker Action Team) Action Skills Training session yesterday. Training on non violent, direct action campaigns and specifically to get ready for their Action Day on December 7th at 4 local Peco offices/centers throughout the area (Warminster in Bucks County). Action will be at around 3:45 outside the Peco Warminster office.

EQAT's current campaign is to Power Local Solar Jobs and push Peco to generate 20% of their electricity from local solar by 2025.

I'm planning on attending the action day. We are recruiting folks to attend the action day. We'll be marching from the train station across the street, to the Peco office, chanting and singing songs, and talking about how Peco is "small changing" this issue and a "small change" company. Looking for Big Change from them. My husband and I will both be at the action.

### ***Activities of James Kaff:***

From the endorsement side; I attended the last meeting of the Upper Makefield Democratic Party. I plan to volunteer with them on election day getting out the vote efforts (calling people off the rolls who have not voted as of 4pm).

### ***Activities of Sharon Furlong:***

Here is a summary of what I have been doing with and for Ann in her quest to be a council person. BTW, I am not a campaign manager for her, despite what Jim said. I did take over her accounting chores, though.

I helped Ann to create a simple system for the accounting of cash and purchase receipts, and helped her do the required filing of appropriate forms for that work.

I helped Ann create a platform position regarding opioid related recovery houses in her district, a major problem due to the large number of uncertified homes that have opened in recent years. I also helped her respond to media and voter group-generated questions about her positions regarding this and other issues.

I handed out her campaign literature at two Bristol events on two Saturdays, and spoke to people about her and her campaign and her environmentally aware positions, along with a brief biography of her, including her residency in the district and her ongoing service in the EAC.

And finally, I began a get-out-the-vote push at my home yesterday, emailing close to 3/4s of our Sierra Club members in her district. I plan on making phone calls to the remaining quarter on our Club lists over the course of this week.

### ***Outings***

1. The 11/4 hike on the canal is fully registered with about 30 people. It isn't too size sensitive and the DCNR person running it can handle 30 if everyone actually shows up.
2. Ann D, Sharon F, a Sean Francis (a new member) and myself will be completing some storm drainage identification/surveying as a project for the Heritage Conservancy in the next two weeks. They have a separate outings/hike. I will reach out to once this project is completed.
3. We will co-promote one Bucks County Audubon Society event in the next 90 days. Although this will be a standard open BCAS event, I will use Meetup in this one instance to draw in registrations. I will see if it will be productive to have the BCAS privately organize Sierra only events in the future.

[Return](#)

### ***Red Rock Wilderness (Prasad)***

Clayton Daughenbaugh and Anne McKibbin from National and Emily Davis, have been discussing a meeting with Congressman Fitzpatrick regarding America's RedRock Wilderness Act (ARRWA) for some time now. There was even a postcard campaign in Bucks around this that Emily Davis had coordinated. There was a parallel thread where Sharon Furlong and Mike Salaski (SUWA) wanted to do the same thing. We eventually merged both these threads and scheduled a meeting with Brian Fitzpatrick PA-8

We had a good meeting with Congressman Fitzpatrick on Friday, Oct 27. He spent nearly an hour with us. Sharon Furlong, James Kaff, Dara Bortman and Prasad Ramnath represented Sierra Club, all constituents, and Mike Salaski, the PA rep for SUWA represented them at the meeting.

We had brought along plenty of personal 8x10 pictures of Utah wilderness that we used to showcase Utah and Mike had plenty of SUWA material and pictures that he gave to the Congressman.

We talked about protecting National Monuments in general, and Grand Staircase Escalante and Bears Ears in particular. We talked about the legalities of reducing monument protection that Clayton had shared with us earlier. We then asked him to cosponsor ARRWA which he definitely showed interest in. Sharon pointed out that his brother had signed up with much fanfare a few years earlier. We discussed economic, ecological, aesthetic, historical, cultural, social justice aspects of protecting both National Monuments and Utah wilderness. We ended with a brief discussion of the Antiquities Act, for which we need to follow up with sending him some material around it.

The Congressman definitely showed interest in cosponsoring ARRWA and we will follow up with him in a month. He showed incredulity at statements like Eastern Congressman cannot determine what happens to lands in the West.

Towards the tail end he discussed the possibilities of converting Washington Crossing State Park into a National Park along with other environmental issues. He showed us a rather rough response to a survey from a constituent because he has not been siding with President Trumps policies.

We have been forwarding to Sue Simon, the Congressman's Constituent Advocate and Coalitions Coordinator all the material from Headwater Economics highlighting the economic benefits of National Monuments and Parks. Plus the documents from Clayton Daughenbaugh.

There is a follow up discussion on next steps with Clayton and Ann and a follow up with the Congressman.

[Return](#)