

Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting

Meeting

May 2, 2018

Call-in Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/7825257851>, 929-436-2866, ID: 782 525 7851

ExCom Members Attending: Pat Beaudet, John Butler, Sue Edwards, Ken Hemphill, Jim Kaff, Kevin Little, Alexa Manning, Dave Moscatello, Prasad Ramnath, JimWylie

Attending by Phone:

ExCom Members Absent: Dennis Winters,

Other Members Attending: Karen Melton, Enily Davis

The Meeting was called to order. By Jim Wylie at 6:45. [Agenda](#)

Secretary: Minutes were approved as emailed

Treasurer:

Jim reported expenditures of \$560. C4 balance = \$11,749. \$35 in donations from recurring donations via Paypal

Standing Committee Reports

Conservation Committee: (Jim Wylie)

Mariner East Pipeline: Senator Dinniman is personally suing Sunoco on behalf of Whiteland Township. They are insisting that an independent risk assessment is necessary.

Penn Environment Lobby day: Sierra Club will be supporting this event which will be urging senator and representatives to support a transition to 100% renewable energy for all of Pennsylvania. In the senate it is SB 1140 and in the house HB 2132. They have already have co-sponsor sign-ons from about 20% the legislators. An email blast will be sent out to members.

Future Energy Subcommittee: Dave

Report [attached](#)

Political Committee:

Dennis has resigned from the chairmanship of this committee. The office has two main functions: to coordinate endorsements for presentation to SPG and the Chapter; and to coordinate assistance in the campaigns of endorsed candidates. Jim will be acting chairman until June.

Mike Hays from Montgomery County presented 2 candidates from endorsement, Leanne Krueger-Braneky – PA 161 and Pam DeLissio – PA 194. It was moved we endorse these candidates. The motion passed with 10 yes votes and 1 abstention.

Newsletter/Communications: (Ken Hemphill)

The spring newsletter is about ready to go. They are working on a header change.

Education Committee: (Karen Melton / Kevin Little)

The next meeting will be in Buck County and include a talk by Tracy Carluccio from the Delaware River Keepers. [details](#)

Nomination Committee: (Alexa Manning)

No report

New Member Engagement: (Prasad Ramnath / Pat Beaudet)

A survey has been developed for use with new members, or whenever groups are together. [Survey](#)

Someone in each county is doing the contacts.

Outings: (Jim Kaff, Amy Kwasnicki)

There are a number of outings planned including: Tidal Marsh Clean-up (Carol Armstrong), Front lines of EPA: SW Philly Refinery Tour (Amy Kwasnicki) and A birding trip in partnership with Audubon (Jim Kaff)

The annual Summer outing will be July 14 at Bartram's Garden. Amy is handling any fees. No details yet.

Old Business

New Business

Huplits Grant Proposal: Karen

Karen asked us to support an application for a Huplits Wildlife Grant. The funds for which the grant is applying come from the Allegheny chapter which is chartered to give out every year in grants around the state for projects related to wildlife. The proposal is being submitted in partnership with the Wildlife Rehabilitation Support of PA. Karen will help with education outreach, making sure there are education events for SC members, that EJ neighborhood groups are included, and writing wildlife articles for our local newsletter and for the new online chapter newsletter that is replacing the Sylvanian.

It was moved that we provide a [letter of endorsement](#) for this project. The motion passed.

Equity and Justice Training: Sue

Sue suggested we have Equity and Justice inclusion training. This could be part of a meeting or as a separate event. The consensus was that this was important. No decision was made.

Addendum: Huplits Grant Support Letter

Email Presentation and request from Bryan Chenshaw

Monty Kapec and Bryan are writing a proposal for the Huplits grant award to support forestry conservation on the Camp Elk Tannery property, and veterans outreach. They needed a letter of support from you to gain "preferred" Sierra Club status. Bryan presented a draft copy of their proposal, a copy of the Request for Proposals and [a draft letter of support](#). Jim moved we provide a letter of support. The motion passed.

Announcements:

Meeting Call-in Number:

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

Agenda

Agenda

- Introductions, roll call
- **Approval** of [Apr meeting minutes](#)
- Treasurers Report – about \$560 in C4 expenses in April. C4 balance = \$11,749 (good)
 - Claire Witzleben – Earth Day Mugs? - \$151 – anybody know about this? What project?
 - + \$35 in recurring donations via PayPal
 - - \$15 monthly subscription for Zoom via PayPal
- **Approval** of Huplits Wildlife Grant Support Letter (see letter below) – Karen
- June SPG ExCom meeting in Doylestown - Prasad
- **Approval** of Environmental Hero Recommendations:
 - Krueger-Braneky (delco) is ready (will send a separate email)
 - Delisio (montco) is ready (will send a separate email)
 - Youngblood (phila) – previously approved by SPG, but rejected by chapter, lack of interview
 - Bradford (montco) – previously approved by SPG, but rejected by chapter, lack of interview
 - What is status of: Davis (bucks), Donatucci (delco), Roebuck (phila), Warren (bucks), Galloway (bucks), DiGirolamo (bucks)
- Political Chair Vacancy
- Pending Spring Newsletter – imminent
- ME2 Pipeline: Citizen’s Risk Assessment, Dinniman Law Suit
- June 12 Lobby Day – Renewable Energy Advocacy
-
- Outings – Jim K
- New Member Outreach - Prasad
- Conservation – John
- Nominating Cmte ?
- Social – Pat
- Other

[Return](#)

Re: Huplits grant proposal

This letter is in support of the Huplits wildlife education grant proposal submitted by Wildlife Rehabilitation Support of PA. This proposal was developed in collaboration with Philadelphia Metro Wildlife Center as well as SE PA Sierra Club Education Chair, Karen Melton. In addition to the value of education that will be provided to the public throughout the region, the proposal includes components specifically for SE PA Sierra Club members -- both education events and wildlife-related articles in the SE PA quarterly newsletter. Additionally Karen plans to interview and profile Huplits grant recipients for the new online Sylvania newsletter as part of the project.

The SE PA ExCom voted to endorse this proposal.

Jim Wylie
SE PA ExCom Chair

[Return](#)

Survey

<https://goo.gl/forms/LOOueUPjEfx4QqO2>

Sierra Club - Southeastern Group

Welcome to the Sierra Club! What environmental issues and activism interests you? Indicate your interest in the issues and volunteer opportunities listed, and we will get you connected to the right people or committee.

* Required

Name *

Email Address *

Phone Number (optional)

County *

Do you wish to be added to the mailing list of your County? *

Yes

No

Issues/Campaigns that Interest you

Air Pollution

Climate Change

Clean Energy

Clean Water

Environmental Justice

Gas Pipelines

Plastics Pollution

Public Lands, National Parks and Monuments

Ready for 100 (Campaign encouraging townships to commit to 100% renewable energy by 2050)

Transportation

Wildlife and Endangered Species

Urban sprawl

Outings

Open Space Protection

Other:

Volunteer opportunities

Data Entry

Fundraising

Local Political Endorsements (Interview political candidates and/or attend political training)

Lead Outings

Organize Educational Events

Lead an issue or campaign

Tabling at local events

Writing for newsletters and for media

New member outreach

Organize issue rallies and social events

Web support

Other:

[Return](#)

Future Energy - Conservation Subcommittee Report May 2018 – DKM

POLITICS

Environment views lacking. The Philadelphia Inquirer Monday April 2, 2018 | EDITORIAL

Opponents have protested against natural gas drilling in the Delaware River watershed.

EPA official blew off scheduled meeting with toxic Appalachian coal town

Albert Kelly stays behind in Washington to deal with fallout from Scott Pruitt controversies.

Mark Hand **ThinkProgress** APR 6, 2018, 3:11 PM

<https://thinkprogress.org/epa-superfund-official-visits-minden-west-virginia-63704c2946d4/>

Wolf needs to let natural gas drilling move the state forward

By David Spigelmyer Opinion The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday April 5, 2018, pA13

Taxpayers shouldn't foot the \$8 billion bill to bail out a failing energy company

By Dick Munson, Opinion Contributor — THE HILL 04/07/18 01:00 PM EDT

<http://thehill.com/opinion/energy-environment/382087-taxpayers-shouldnt-foot-the-8-billion-bill-to-bailout-a-failing>

EPA Chief Scott Pruitt Has Been Using Three 'Secret' Email Addresses, Senators Say

Bloomberg, Time April 12, 2018

<https://verizon.yahoo.com/news/epa-chief-scott-pruitt-using-193701168.html>

American energy dominance means Mass. Wind.

Opinion | **Ryan K. Zinke** Boston Globe April 16, 2018

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2018/04/15/american-energy-dominance-means-massachusetts-wind/xjgmsiibtazryvx9cuwdnm/story.html>

Pruitt acts to limit EPA's use of research

Underlying data for studies would have to be available for "transparency."

By Juliet Eilperin and Brady Dennis Washington Post The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday April 25, 2018, pA10

REGULATION & POLICY

BRIEFCASE The Philadelphia Inquirer Tuesday April 3, 2018, pA12

In the Region Pipeline cyber attacks

A cyber attack hobbled the electronic system used by a major pipeline network to communicate with its customers, though the company said there was no effect on the flow of natural gas.

Protect air, not industry. Editorial The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday April 4, 2018, pA10

Announced rollbacks of EPA emissions standards will hurt air quality, make American cars less competitive.

MARKETS & POLICY

New Bipartisan Legislation Would Repeal Trump's Solar Tariffs

"I don't know what good can possibly come as a consequence of stifling the growth of solar power."

Julia Pyper Greentech Media April 20, 2018

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/new-bipartisan-legislation-would-repeal-trump-admin-solar-tariffs>

N.J. bans sea oil, gas drilling and pipelines

By Wayne Parry Associated Press The Philadelphia Inquirer Saturday April 21, 2018, pB1

[Return](#)

CLIMATE CHANGE & ADAPTATIONS

Economic Equality Is Key to Solving Climate Change, Report Shows

By Jeremy Hodges **BloombergTechnology** March 5, 2018, 11:00 AM EST From *Climate Changed*
<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-03-05/economic-equality-is-key-to-solving-climate-change-report-shows>

Damning internal documents show Shell knew about climate change causes in the 1980s

Walter Einkenkel, Daily Kos Staff DAILY KOS Thursday April 05, 2018 · 11:48 AM EDT
<https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2018/4/5/1754623/-Damning-internal-documents-show-Shell-knew-about-climate-change-causes-in-the-1980s?detail=emaildkre>

An Earth Day message: Weather is a moment; climate is lasting

By Joseph O. Minott The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday April 22, 2018, pC5

One of the most worrisome predictions about climate change may be coming true

By [Chris Mooney](#) The Washington Post April 23, 2018 at 12:33 PM
https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/04/23/one-of-the-most-worrisome-predictions-about-climate-change-may-be-coming-true/?utm_term=.253210c52ef9

The military paid for a study on sea level rise. The results were scary.

By [Chris Mooney](#) and [Brady Dennis](#) The Washington Post April 25, 2018 at 2:00 PM
https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/04/25/climate-change-could-make-thousands-of-tropical-islands-uninhabitable-in-coming-decades-new-study-says/?utm_term=.b79ea0bdb10b&wpisrc=nl_az_most&wpmk=1

SCIENCE

Health & Science

'A factory of bad ideas': How Scott Pruitt undermined his mission at EPA

Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt faces rising scrutiny over several ethics issues, including his use of taxpayer money. (Video: Bastien Inzaurrealde/Photo: Jabin Botsford/The Washington Post)

By Juliet Eilperin, Brady Dennis and Josh Dawsey The Washington Post April 21, 2018 at 4:34 PM
https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/a-factory-of-bad-ideas-how-scott-pruitt-undermined-his-mission-at-epa/2018/04/20/695fa2c0-42ac-11e8-bba2-0976a82b05a2_story.html?utm_term=.d3d509a7485e&wpisrc=nl_az_most&wpmk=1

Pruitt unveils controversial 'transparency' rule limiting what research EPA can use

By Juliet Eilperin and Brady Dennis The Washington Post April 24, 2018 at 6:09 PM
https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/04/24/pruitt-to-unveil-controversial-transparency-rule-limiting-what-research-epa-can-use/?utm_term=.49a668e5048b&wpisrc=nl_most&wpmk=1

ENERGY

Sunoco will relocate residents during probe

The company will pay for housing for those in Exton whose yards are in a study on a sinkhole at a pipeline.

By Andrew Maykuth Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Tuesday April 3, 2018, pA11

Investing / #PowerUp Forbes APR 3, 2018 @ 10:00 AM 647

Power Shift: Anything Coal and Gas Can Do, Renewables and Energy Storage Can Do Cheaper

Mike Scott, Contributor Opinions expressed by Forbes Contributors are their own.
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/mikescott/2018/04/03/power-shift-anything-coal-and-gas-can-do-renewables-and-energy-storage-can-do-cheaper/2/#>

Problems rise near pipeline. Cloudy water and sinkholes. Is drilling method to blame?

By Andrew Maykuth Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday April 8, 2018, pE1

By Mongabay **EcoWatch** Apr. 06, 2018 09:47AM EST By Basten Gokkon

Oil Spill Now Larger Than Paris Ravages Indonesian Island, 5 Dead

https://www.ecowatch.com/oil-pipeline-spill-indonesia-death-2556835512.html?xrs=RebelMouse_fb

Minigrids Are the Cheapest Way to Bring Electricity to 100 Million Africans Today

A CrossBoundary analysis shows why minigrids are vital to achieving affordable, sustainable, modern energy for all.

by Matthew Tilleard, Gabriel Davies and Lucy Shaw **Greentech Media** April 20, 2018

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/minigrids-are-the-cheapest-way-to-electrify-100-million-africans-today>

WIND & SOLAR PROJECTS

World's Most Powerful Wind Turbine: One Rotation 'Can Power the Average UK Home for a Day'

Vattenfall deployed the first of two Vestas 8.8-megawatt wind turbines at its European testing center.

Emma Foehringer Merchant **Greentech Media** APRIL 10, 2018

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/vattenfall-installs-worlds-most-powerful-wind-turbine>

First Solar to Open a New US Manufacturing Plant

The 1.2-gigawatt factory will produce the company's Series 6 thin-film PV modules, which are exempt from the solar tariffs plaguing competitors.

Julia Pyper **Greentech Media** April 26, 2018

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/first-solar-to-open-new-us-manufacturing-plant>

ENERGY STORAGE

Glendale Shelves \$500 Million Gas Plant to Examine Clean Alternatives

The clean energy industry has three months to show it can match or beat the planned 262-megawatt gas plant.

Julian Spector **Greentech Media** April 17, 2018

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/glendale-shelves-500-million-gas-plant-to-examine-clean-alternatives>

ELECTRIC VEHICLES & TRANSPORTATION

Energy #PowerUp Forbes APR 25, 2018 @ 11:54 AM Felicia Jackson, Contributor

Electric Vehicles Begin To Bite Into Oil Demand

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/feliciajackson/2018/04/25/electric-vehicles-begin-to-bite-into-oil-demand/#736ca2c15393>

Look, No Wires

A Malvern company envisions EV buses getting a wireless charge.

By Andrew Maykuth STAFF WRITER The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday April 29, 2018, pE1

CONSERVATION

TECHNOLOGY

Another Look At City Litter. A Trenton recycling firm wants to be the solution to crop of cigarette butts.

By Anna Orso Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Tuesday April 3, 2018, pA11

\$42M more for waterway initiative

In all, the William Penn Foundation has pledged \$100M for the Delaware River Basin.

By Frank Kummer Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday April 5, 2018, pAB1

Earth's mammals have shrunk dramatically, and humans are to blame

By Jason Bittel The Washington Post April 19, 2018

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/animalia/wp/2018/04/19/earths-mammals-have-shrunk-dramatically-and-humans-are-to-blame/?utm_term=.3216f1eaa6f5&wpisrc=nl_az_most&wpmk=1

Speaking of Science

A dead sperm whale was found with 64 pounds of trash in its digestive system

By Kristine Phillips The Washington Post April 11, 2018 at 4:29 PM

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/speaking-of-science/wp/2018/04/11/a-dead-sperm-whale-was-found-with-64-pounds-of-trash-in-its-digestive-system/?utm_term=.93a9811a0974&wpisrc=nl_az_most&wpmk=1

Science

Plastic-eating enzyme holds promise in fighting pollution

Reuters Tue, Apr 17 5:35 AM EDT

<https://verizon.yahoo.com/news/plastic-eating-enzyme-holds-promise-fighting-pollution-093541923.html>

AP Exclusive: Water delivery suspended in Nevada mine battle

By Scott Sonner, Associated Press **abc NEWS** RENO, Nev. — Apr 28, 2018, 12:12 PM ET

<https://abcnews.go.com/Technology/wireStory/ap-exclusive-water-delivery-suspended-nevada-mine-battle-54802123>

Drumpfs of the Month:

The Energy 202: Trump administration again targets California's environmental rules

By [Dino Grandoni](#) The Washington Post April 3, 2018 at 9:04 AM

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2018/04/03/the-energy-202-trump-administration-again-targets-california-s-environmental-rules/5ac29b5e30fb042a378a3037/?utm_term=.ffe1f68baca5

ENERGY #TrumpsAmerica

Trump May Greenlight An \$8 Billion Attack on Competitive Energy Markets

Forbes Apr 11, 2018, By Dick Munson EDF's Director, Environmental Defense Fund, Midwest Clean Energy

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/edfenergyexchange/2018/04/11/trump-may-greenlight-an-8-billion-attack-on-competitive-energy-markets/#25f5a33933d8>

Energy and Environment

The Trump administration has officially clipped the wings of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

By [Darryl Fears](#) and [Dino Grandoni](#) The Washington Post April 13, 2018 at 5:33 PM

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/04/13/the-trump-administration-officially-clipped-the-wings-of-the-migratory-bird-treaty-act/?utm_term=.bd7108c92775&wpisrc=nl_az_most&wpmk=1

[PowerPost Follow @powerpost](#) PowerPost Analysis

The Energy 202: Scott Pruitt praises emissions drop but still hasn't conceded climate change is real

By Dino Grandoni The Washington Post April 19, 2018

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2018/04/19/the-energy-202-scott-pruitt-praises-emissions-drop-but-still-hasn-t-conceded-climate-change-is-real/5ad7b44730fb046acf7bcd15/?utm_term=.514061ecae2b

[Return](#)

Our next Excom on June 6 is planned to be in the Doylestown Library.

<https://goo.gl/maps/whZSwN1HWhq>

The meeting will be in the Small meeting room.

Tracy Carluccio from Delaware Riverkeepers will be the featured speaker. P.S. I have heard her speak before and she is an impassioned advocate for the Delaware river.

The Lansdale/Doylestown Train schedule can be found here

http://www.septa.org/schedules/rail/w/LAN_0.html

Proposed schedule

Arrive on 5:37 Train - Google says 10 minute walk to Library. If someone has difficulty walking I can arrange a ride - please let me know

Pizza will be available by 5:45.

Excom Business - 6:00 - 6:40

Tracy Carluccio 6:40 - 7:35

The return train is at 7:53pm.

[Return](#)

Huplits 2018 Committee Chair
c/o Barb Grover
barbgroverHuplits2018@gmail.com

Dear Ms. Grover:

I am writing to convey my support the application of Monty Kapec from the Camp at Elk Tannery, LLC for the Huplits award.

Here, in the Southeast Pennsylvania Group (SPG), we have for several years supported the outreach to veterans organizations. In our experience, this has been a win-win experience, because we've enhanced Sierra Club's outreach to communities that otherwise have little interactions with the environmental movement, and in turn, veterans have become a vital, active component of our efforts, including a vet that has served on the SPG Executive board.

Importantly, SPG provided the initial cadre veterans for the first outing at Camp Elk Tannery, and we have observed what an extraordinary program the Camp provides for our veteran participants. Our commitment to veterans and to outings at Camp Elk Tannery is exemplified by the fact that one of our Outings Leaders, Dr. E Bryan Crenshaw III, is focused on veterans outings outreach, and serves on the Camp Elk Tannery board.

In addition to the public outreach component of the proposal, I feel that the efforts at Camp Elk Tannery to enhance the ability of the sustainable forests to maintain a fertile habitat for threatened wildlife species is a crucial mission that needs support from the Sierra Club.

For these reasons, on behalf of SPG, I enthusiastically support this grant proposal.

Sincerely,

Jim Wylie
Group Chair
Southeast Pennsylvania Group
Sierra Club

[Return](#)