

**Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting
Meeting
June 6, 2018**

Doylestown Public Library

ExCom Members Attending: Pat Beaudet, Sue Edwards, Jim Kaff, Kevin Little, Dave Moscatello, Prasad Ramnath, JimWylie

Attending by Phone: John Butler

ExCom Members Absent: Dennis Winters, Alexa Manning

Other Members Attending: Karen Melton, Sharon Furlong, Filomena Cimino, Nicholas Macelko, AJ Focht, Tracy Carluccio

The Meeting was called to order. By Jim Wylie at 6:00. [Agenda](#)

Secretary: Minutes were approved unanimously as emailed

Treasurer: Jim displayed 2018 SPG Budget Spreadsheet, which showed May expenditures of \$1,067 in May for rent and expenses for DSM. Plus \$300 in online donations were transferred from Paypal to First Trust account. C4 balance = \$10,981.

Standing Committee Reports

Conservation Committee: (Jim Wylie)

Mariner East Pipeline: Rally for Community Safety on June 9 in West Chester. [Proposal](#) for SPG to sign onto letter calling for permanent shut down approved 11-0.

Penn Environment Lobby day: sign-on letter complete. 52 signers including 27 elected officials (including Kenney and Peduto) will be included in lobby info package.

Future Energy SubCommittee: Dave
[Report attached](#)

Political Committee: 4 recommended endorsements: Bradford, Hohenstein, Houlahan, Kenyatta. All were approved unanimously – 11-0 (absent excom members emailed their votes in) [written report](#)

Newsletter/Communications: No report.

Education Committee: no report – Tracy Carluccio presented at the ExCom meeting.

Nomination Committee: (Alexa Manning) No report

New Member Engagement: (Prasad Ramnath / Pat Beaudet)

Slow going. Prasad will cover for Delco since there is no clear volunteer to do outreach. Pat would like to work with Nicole if possible in Phila.

Outings: (Jim Kaff, Amy Kwasnicki) [written report](#)

Old Business

New Business

Business Cards: Jim proposed that SPG purchase “volunteer cards” which will have the SC logo and SPG website address on the front (with space to write in a name/phone). The back can be a project specific logo and website (RF100/Chesco or DSM or Bucks Sierra). Up to a max of about \$200 total for all projects. We did not vote, but there was general agreement. Jim solicited feedback on card design. Staples can do 250 for \$15. 500 for \$20.

If anyone wants personalized cards (printed names and contact info), then Jim will provide the file and you can print yourself at your expense.

Greenfest: Dennis has registered us for a double table. Nobody on the ExCom stepped up to be point person. After the meeting, Mena Cimino (turtleisland@att.net) offered to help with this.

Web Site: Jim put out a call for website updates. Many pages are getting old. Prasad, Sharon and Tracy offered to help with Bucks, Elcon and PennEast pages. Jim will follow up with specific requests. Sue offered to add material on Justice. Also, the SPG flyer should be updated and printed. Jim will put out a call for volunteers on the Volunteer list.

Presentation – Tracy Carluccio

Tracy presented on 3 environmental challenges facing southeastern PA:

1. Expanding Fossil Fuel infrastructure – pipelines, oil trains and refineries. PES has declared bankruptcy, but they have not gone away. Pollution still spews. Taxes are not paid.
2. PFCs - perfluorinated chemicals – are in our groundwater and soil. The chemicals never degrade, but can be filtered with charcoal. They are a byproduct of chemicals like Teflon manufacturing. Has been shown to cause kidney cancer. Largely has come from military bases in Bucks County using flame retardant foam during drills.
3. Plastics – we need to change our lifestyles to reduce single-use plastics. There is a legislative fight about preemptively outlawing the banning of plastic bags at the municipal level.

Agenda

5:45 – pizza arrives (based on registration headcount)

6:00 – meeting starts

Introductions, volunteer for note-taker (mostly just writing down the vote tallies)

Approval of [May minutes](#)

[Budget report](#) (for ExCom members)

Approve - Political Endorsements – 4 new candidates. Applications [HERE](#)

Please review before meeting, not much time for discussion.

Bradford – 70, hero, Montco

Hohenstein – 177, Phila

Houlahan – CD 6, Chesco

Kenyatta – 181, Phila

Approve - [Sign-on letter in support](#) of halting the Mariner East pipeline construction. See Alexa's encouragement below.

As Time Permits (email discussions welcome – or we can have a mid-month conf call):

1. Feedback on volunteer business card prototypes
2. [Greenfest](#) Sep 9 – time to start planning to plan – need a leader
3. [People's Climate March 2018](#) = [Climate, Jobs & Justice](#) = distributed actions on Sep 8 – how can SPG help? Will there be an event in Doylestown?
4. [Renewable Energy Lobby Day](#) – June 12 in Harrisburg
5. [Defend The Artic](#) – June 15 in DC – Robin offered carpool to bus in DE
6. Call for [web site](#) updates
7. Communications – summer newsletter
8. Member outreach – welcome to new members, county organizing, summer social?
9. Outings plans for the summer
10. Education

6:45 – Guest Speaker - Tracy Carluccio

Today's Environmental Threats Facing Southeastern Pennsylvania

Reports

Philly ICO

Report for SPG ExCom
6/05/18

Prepared by Amy Kwasnicki, Philly ICO Chair

Philly ICO offers Outings to youth members through work with Partner Agencies. Our current partnerships are with the YMCA's Y-Achievers program; Kensington Health Sciences Academy; the Philadelphia Sikh Society; the [League of United Latin American Citizens \(LULAC\)](#) education enrichment program, LNEESC; [Congreso de Latinos Unidos](#); Mighty Writers South; and Neighborhood Bike Works.

With the Y-Achievers, Philly ICO has been offering a Youth Outdoor Leaders Training program (YOLT) for which Mabari Byrd, Philly ICO Coordinator, developed a curriculum with Philly ICO Volunteers Vinti Singh and Reenie Martins. The culminating event is a kayak training and tent-camping weekend on June 23-24th.

Other June events include an ICO adult training on June 9th and a canoe trip with the Sikh Society on June 30th.

In the past four months we have also grown our adult leadership team by adding four new members and acquired new tent camping gear for outings of up to 20 people.

Email: phillyico@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/105917679460156/>

MeetUp: <https://www.meetup.com/PhillyICO/>

From: Alexandra Manning <alexamanning1@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 3, 2018 5:05 PM
Subject: SPG Ex Comm request for Organization Sign on letter to PUC

Hello all,

I am not available to attend the meeting in person on Wednesday to present this for consideration for SPG Ex Comm to sign on. Bernie Greenberg and I would appreciate if you would read the forwarded information sent by Lynda Farrell of the Pipeline Safety Coalition in regard to supporting efforts by area legislators such as Senator Dinniman and Rep Carolyn Comitta, organizations and individuals regarding pipeline issues and vote to sign on to the letter as an organization. There is also an individual citizen's sign on letter. Please let me know if you have any questions.

FYI- there is a Stop the Pipeline rally in West Chester on Saturday, June 9 at 3 pm. I will be there.

Thank you very much,
Alexa

Other Conservation Stuff – Jim W

Ready For 100 – Chesco – helping with drafting of 3 RFPs to solicit energy transition planning and aggregated elec purchasing. Also, serious discussion in 3 or 4 townships (EAC meetings).

Ready For 100 – Montco – teams are making presentations to Regional Planning Commissions, EAC and Supervisors.

Ready For 100 – Delco – organizing in Radnor, Media.

Ready For 100 – Philly – met with OOS to discuss expression of RE goals in next version of the Clean Energy Vision. Pressing for sign on to Lobby Day letter.

Don't Spray Me – gearing up for mosquito season. Organizing block captains and materials – some conflict with county health department. Starting an Adopt-A-Drain program with youth teams and using a SC Grassroots Grant for WCU intern.

Env Education – wrapping up WCU lecture series with June 20 talk about Feeding Wildlife in Urban Areas. Planning for fall film series.

Pipeline Tour – early discussions about organizing a tour of impacted sites along ME for officials and candidates that haven't already seen it – perhaps Montco officials. Was requested by Greenleaf Jr.

Political Stuff – Jim W

Next opportunity to recommend endorsement applications will be at our July 11 SPG ExCom. There will be a mid-July chapter call just for endorsements.

We still have several heroes that have not been processed – trying to arrange short interviews.

County teams are trying to interview all candidates that have filled applications (about 25) and then pick the best 2 or 3 to recommend. Help is needed.

Future Energy - Conservation Subcommittee Report June 2018 – DKM

Politics

Correction: EPA-Pruitt-Clean Air Act story

Associated Press May 11, 2018 By Ellen Knickmeyer, Associated Press

<https://verizon.yahoo.com/finance/news/pruitt-hear-economic-arguments-enforcing-clean-air-act-163055422--finance.html>

PowerPost Analysis

The Daily 202: Trump supporters suffer unintended consequences of his policies

By [James Hohmann](#) The Washington Post May 15, 2018 at 8:45 AM

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/daily-202/2018/05/15/daily-202-trump-supporters-suffer-unintended-consequences-of-his-policies/5afa0c8830fb0425887994fd/?utm_term=.331b7c78fe06&wpisrc=nl_most&wpmm=1

Trump's new NASA head: Humans contributing in 'major way' to climate change

By Miranda Green – **THE HILL** 05/17/18 05:24 PM EDT

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/388228-trumps-new-nasa-head-says-humans-are-heavily-contributing-to>

How weakened U.S. fossil fuel regulations threaten environmental justice in Colorado

American oil output is beginning to rival Saudi Arabia and Russia

Stephanie Malin **salon** May 20, 2018 *This article was originally published on [The Conversation](#).*

https://www.salon.com/2018/05/20/how-weakened-u-s-fossil-fuel-regulations-threaten-environmental-justice-in-colorado_partner/

Health & Science

Amid ethics scrutiny, EPA's Pruitt also finds his regulatory rollbacks hitting bumps

By [Juliet Eilperin](#) and [Brady Dennis](#) The Washington Post May 20, 2018 at 6:32 PM

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/epas-pruitt-praised-for-effectiveness-hits-bumps-in-his-rollback-campaign/2018/05/20/c6ca13d8-53b3-11e8-abd8-265bd07a9859_story.html?utm_term=.c440078fad2&wpisrc=nl_az_most&wpmk=1

Emails show cooperation among EPA, climate-change deniers

Ellen Knickmeyer, Associated Press, Associated Press May 25, 2018

<https://verizon.yahoo.com/finance/news/emails-show-collaboration-among-epa-climate-change-deniers-205359286--politics.html>

Commentary: For opponents of Utah monuments, it's not about the facts

What to do, then, when facts don't matter and sense is so uncommon?

By [Eric C. Ewert | For The Tribune](#) · May 29, 2018

<https://www.sltrib.com/opinion/commentary/2018/05/29/commentary-for-opponents-of-utah-monuments-its-not-about-the-facts/>

FOSSIL FUELS & NUCLEAR POWER ISSUES

WorldViews

Russia says its sea-based nuclear power plant is safe. Critics call it a 'Floating Chernobyl.'

By [Cleve R. Wootson Jr.](#) The Washington Post May 1, 2018 at 5:35 PM

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2018/05/01/russia-says-its-sea-based-nuclear-power-plant-is-safe-critics-call-it-a-floating-chernobyl/?utm_term=.e4bc46b8f129&wpisrc=nl_az_most&wpmk=1

Mariner 1 pipeline can restart

An emergency order issued after sinkholes were found was lifted.

By *Andrew Maykuth STAFF WRITER* The Philadelphia Inquirer Friday May 4, 2018, pA9

Tech / #PowerUp

Jeff McMahon, *Forbes* MAY 9, 2018 @ 12:01 AM 1,527

Coal Collapsing Faster Under Trump; Wind, Solar, Gas All Benefit

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jeffmcmahon/2018/05/09/coal-collapsing-faster-under-trump-wind-solar-gas-to-benefit/#104c9d9e5ee4>

REGULATION & POLICY

Region fails smog test, EPA says

The agency, late in ruling, rates the Phila. area as “marginal” — close to compliance.

By Frank Kummer STAFF WRITER The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday May 2, 2018, pA2

States sue over auto-mileage rollback

Calif. was joined by 16 other states, including Pa. and N.J. The EPA intends to scrap Obama-era standards.

By Kathleen Ronayne ASSOCIATED PRESS The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday May 2, 2018, pA3

[Environment](#) [Local News](#) [Northwest](#)

EPA won't test air in Washington state, downwind of B.C. lead smelter

The Seattle Times Originally published May 5, 2018 at 7:56 pm Updated May 5, 2018 at 9:25 pm

By Becky Kramer *The Spokesman-Review*

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/epa-wont-test-air-in-washington-state-downwind-of-b-c-lead-smelter/>

Ozone-eating chemical is on the rise

A scientist calls it “rogue production” of a compound that’s been banned worldwide.

By Seth Borenstein ASSOCIATED PRESS The Philadelphia Inquirer Thursday May 17, 2018, pA2

MARKETS & POLICY

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>

Appalachia’s struggling coal communities find hope in transition to clean energy

Solar company founder wants to prevent migration of West Virginians in need of jobs.

Mark Hand **THINKPROGRESS** May 11, 2018, 8:00 AM

<https://thinkprogress.org/energy-technology-companies-give-former-coal-workers-hope-00eb402f2ad1/>

CLIMATE CHANGE & ADAPTATIONS

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

Energy and Environment

Earth's atmosphere just crossed another troubling climate change threshold

By [Chris Mooney](#) The Washington Post May 3, 2018

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/05/03/earths-atmosphere-just-crossed-another-troubling-climate-change-threshold/?utm_term=.9b95b760102c&wpisrc=nl_az_most&wpmk=1

[PowerPost](#) Follow @powerpost _____ PowerPost Analysis

The Energy 202: Three senior Scott Pruitt aides resigned from the EPA this week

By Dino Grandoni The Washington Post May 4, 2018 at 8:47 AM

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2018/05/04/the-energy-202-three-senior-scott-pruitt-aides-resigned-from-the-epa-this-week/5aeb7a3a30fb042db57972ea/?utm_term=.f1f7878dc42b

— **A last-ditch climate effort:** After two floods in Sidney, N.Y., local officials knew residents didn't want to rebuild just to have homes and business flood again. But "Sidney has yet to remove more than a few dozen homes from the flood plain or break ground on land away from the river. Its failure so far illustrates how unprepared the U.S. is politically, financially, and emotionally to re-create even a single community away from rising waters in an organized way, preserving some semblance of its character and history."

— **A toxic spread in Texas:** Last month, Texas officials announced an agreement to clean up the San Jacinto Waste Pits, but an investigation by [the Houston Chronicle and Associated Press](#) found damage from carcinogenic dioxin has already spread. More than 30 hotspots where dioxin has settled have been discovered along the river, the Houston Ship Channel and into

Galveston Bay, but details of the spots have not been released by environmental regulators in Texas. “Under the Clean Water Act and state law, Texas authorities were required to address dioxin and PCBs in the river and ship channel, waterways officially designated as ‘impaired,’” the news organizations report. “Setting such standards could have forced the responsible companies to clean up and upgrade contaminated stormwater and wastewater treatment.”

WIND & SOLAR PROJECTS

California to require solar panels on most new homes

Jon Fingas, Engadget May 6, 2018

<https://verizon.yahoo.com/finance/news/california-require-solar-panels-most-173200418.html>

How a D.C. law firm installed solar panels to help low-income people save on utilities

By [Justin Wm. Moyer](#) The Washington Post May 11, 2018 at 7:00 AM

https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/a-dc-law-firm-looks-to-the-sun-to-help-apartment-dwellers-pay-utility-bills/2018/05/10/e302b5aa-4fd5-11e8-b292-edc09f8f590a_story.html?utm_term=.766b22bbc5ce&wpisrc=nl_most&wpmm=1

Massachusetts to clear hurdle to first offshore wind farm

By [The Associated Press](#) *The Associated Press* Originally published May 19, 2018 at 10:35 am

<https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/massachusetts-to-clear-hurdle-to-first-offshore-wind-farm/>

Billionaire Tom Steyer gets Michigan renewable energy deal

abcNEWS By David Eggert, Associated Press Lansing, Mich. — May 18, 2018, 1:53 PM ET

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/wireStory/billionaire-tom-steyer-michigan-renewable-energy-deal-55267200>

WIND PROJECTS

Massachusetts and Rhode Island Contract for 1,200MW of Offshore Wind

Massive new projects put New England states on the forefront of the U.S. offshore wind market.

Jeff St. John, Julia Pyper Greentech Media **May 23, 2018**

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/massachusetts-and-rhode-island-contract-for-1200-megawatts-of-offshore-wind>

ENERGY STORAGE

The US is funding 100-hour batteries because water won't fix the grid

The US Department of Energy is putting up to \$30 million into long-lasting battery research.

By Gordon Gottsegen c|net MAY 1, 2018 2:18 PM PDT

<https://www.cnet.com/news/us-doe-funding-long-lasting-batteries/>

Tesla's Giant Australian Battery Is a More Massive Success

By [Paul Ausick](#) 24/7 Wall ST May 13, 2018 8:53 am EDT

<https://247wallst.com/energy-business/2018/05/13/teslas-giant-australian-battery-is-a-more-massive-success/>

BUSINESS

Storage Will Be Energy's Next Big Thing

The cost of renewables has been sinking. Harnessing the excess could be huge.

By [David Fickling Bloomberg](#) May 20, 2018, 3:00 AM EDT

<https://www.bloomberg.com/view/articles/2018-05-20/storage-will-be-the-next-biggest-thing-in-energy?cmpIId=yhoo.headline&yptr=yahoo>

ELECTRIC VEHICLES & TRANSPORTATION

[Energy #PowerUp](#) Forbes APR 25, 2018 @ 11:54 AM 8,956

Electric Vehicles Begin To Bite Into Oil Demand

Felicia Jackson, Contributor Opinions expressed by Forbes Contributors are their own.

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

Wanted: Customers

Philly Shipyard is ready to work, but is suffering from a lack of business.

By *Andrew Maykuth STAFF WRITER* The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday May 13, 2018, pE1

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

UPS has new electric trucks that look straight out of a Pixar movie

The company partnered with Arrival to design the delivery vehicles.

[Kris Holt, @krisholt](#) engadget May 9, 2018 in [Green](#)
<https://www.engadget.com/2018/05/09/ups-electric-trucks-arrival/>

CONSERVATION

Illnesses from pests tripled, CDC reports

Cases of sickness related to fleas, ticks, and mosquitoes zoomed from 2004 to 2016.

By *Lena H. Sun* WASHINGTON POST The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday May 2, 2018, pA2

Horses trapped in muddy northern Arizona pond buried on site

FELICIA FONSECA, Associated Press May 4, 2018
<https://verizon.yahoo.com/news/horses-trapped-muddy-northern-arizona-pond-buried-213727113.html>

[Energy and Environment](#)

Humans are causing massive changes in the location of water around the world, NASA says

By [Chris Mooney](#) The Washington Post May 16, 2018
https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/05/16/humans-are-causing-massive-changes-in-the-location-of-water-all-over-the-earth-nasa-says/?utm_term=.a24bc6f8b6ad&wpisrc=nl_az_most&wpmk=1

NATIONAL

Canadian Mining Company Exits Pebble Mine Deal in Alaska, Leaving Project in Question

May 27, 2018 8:03 AM ET **npr** Daysha Eaton
<https://www.npr.org/2018/05/27/614684301/canadian-mining-company-exits-pebble-mine-deal-in-alaska-leaving-project-in-ques>

Drumpfs of the Month:

[Energy and Environment](#)

Pentagon revised Obama-era report to remove risks from climate change

By [Chris Mooney](#) and [Missy Ryan](#) The Washington Post May 10, 2018.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/05/10/pentagon-revised-obama-era-report-to-remove-risks-from-climate-change/?utm_term=.0e071a1531e7&wpisrc=nl_az_most&wpmk=1

EPA prepares to ditch clean car rules over objections of their own scientists

Mark Sumner **Daily Kos Staff DAILY KOS** Thursday May 31, 2018 · 5:44 PM EDT

<https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2018/5/31/1768532/-EPA-prepares-to-ditch-clean-car-rules-over-objections-of-their-own-scientists?detail=emaildkre>

Energy and Environment Analysis

Trump withdrew from the Paris climate deal a year ago. Here's what has changed.

By Chris Mooney **The Washington Post** June 1, 2018 at 10:26 AM

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2018/06/01/trump-withdrew-from-the-paris-climate-plan-a-year-ago-heres-what-has-changed/?utm_term=.61d7a63a4d48&wpisrc=nl_most&wpmm=1