

**Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting
December 5, 2018 Meeting
Via Zoom**

ExCom Members Attending: Pat Beudet, Sue Edwards, Jim Kaff, Kevin Little, Alexa Manning, Dave Moscatello, Prasad Ramnath, Jim Wylie

Attending by Phone:

ExCom Members Absent: John Butler, Ken Hemphill, Dennis Winters

Other Members Attending: Karen Melton, Abby Wysor, Emily Davis

The Meeting was called to order by Jim at 6:20. [Agenda](#) Jim asked Abby to introduce herself. She is from Media and has worked on the political committee and with RF 100. She is also active with the Keep Media Green Program.

Secretary: The minutes were approved as emailed

Treasurer:

C4: Balance: \$12,000

C3: Balance: \$ 8,835

Jim put together a [chart of the funds](#) budgeted and spent in 2018 and a chart for source of funds. This needs to be considered as we plan for 2019. The negative number in the rent line is due the fact that rent is paid in 6 month increments. Members with outstanding reimbursement requests are asked to bring them to the party. Dennis will have the check book.

Standing Committee Reports

Conservation Committee: (Jim Wylie)

- ▶ Jim is revising the conservation pages on the web site and would like help with the content.
- ▶ The “Don’t Spray Me Team” is planning a silent auction fund raiser similar to the previous event.
- ▶ Ready for 100 Philadelphia hopes that the Municipal resolution will be presented this month.
- ▶ Coalition to Stop LNG Plant. Karen reported that a coalition is being built to stop the building of a LNG plant by the Philadelphia Gas Works. A bill to allow this will probably be presented in Council in January 2019
- ▶ [Future Energy](#)

Political Committee: no report

Newsletter/Communications: (Ken Hemphill) no report

Education Committee: (Karen Melton / Kevin Little)

Karen submitted a [list of the programs](#) offered in 2018. There is one more on Tuesday in the second half of the volunteer call. It will be on the Swell responsible investing program. Karen will be sending out a survey asking members for ideas for programs and their format.

Kevin is working on events for young people.

Nomination Committee: (Alexa Manning)

Voting for SPG executive committee members is on-going. To this date 90 people have voted. Expanded bios have been posted on the blog page.

New Member Engagement: (Prasad Ramnath / Pat Beudet)

Pat reported on the plans for the holiday get together which will take place tomorrow (Dec 6) at Coho. \$0 people have responded. Santa will be there, Jim will be master of ceremonies. There will be door prizes –

people are asked to bring an item to “regift.” The main dishes will be provided and attendees have been asked to bring a salad or a dessert.

Outings: (Jim Kaff, Amy Kwasnicki) no report

Announcements:

We are asked to support power at the Philadelphia City Council meeting as they rally to support the bill on working schedules that will be voted on this week.

Meeting Call-in Number:

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

Agenda

1. **Introductions as needed**
2. **Approval of Nov minutes (Emily sent out)**
3. **ExCom Elections**
 - a. [Ballot](#)
 - b. Status – 90 votes submitted to date (postcards have not gone out yet)
4. **Education Report for 2018**
 - a. See Karen's [2018 list below](#)
5. **Holiday Party Prep**
 - a. 40+ registered
6. **New Conservation Web Pages Design**
 - a. [Prototype here](#)
 - b. Need content help for new pages
7. **Treasurer/Chair Report for 2018 (not final)** The bottom line is – we didn't come close to spending what we planned to last Jan. And we raised a whole bunch without really trying.

This could be because we didn't do as we planned to do, or that we didn't get reimbursed for all of the expenses that we incurred. Or we are just good at not spending money to be the activists we are. It's probably all three. Let's discuss..

If you do have unreimbursed expenses, please try to [get them in ASAP](#). Dennis will have his checkbook at the party Thur night.

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2018 Budget and Expenditures

2018 Budgeted	Category	2018 Actual Spending (12/1)
\$3,300	Conservation Work (new allocation)	\$2,284
\$3,579	Conservation Work (2017 rollover)	
\$3,000	Education	\$410
\$750	Political	\$50
\$750	Community Support	\$640
\$1,500	Outings	\$630
\$750	Member Support	\$739
\$700	Rent, Fees	-\$391
\$15,079	Total	\$4,362

	Fundraising	2018 Actual Spending (12/1)
	Donations (in bank)	\$1,305
	Donations (in PayPal)	\$466
	Chapter Allocation C3	\$3,314
	Chapter Allocation C4	\$3,314
	DSM 12/1 Fundraiser (estimate)	~\$6,000
	Total	\$15,399
	Monthly commitments via PayPal	\$58

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Education Report – Karen

At SPG Meetings:

- At CityCoHo, Jerome Shabazz, Overbrook Environmental Center
- At Swarthmore, Student project presentations
- At Doylestown, Delaware Keeper Network presentation
- At CityCoHo, Wildlife presentation

Tours

- Science History Institute (Chemical Heritage Museum)
- Philadelphia Water Works

Mini presentations on weekly volunteer calls – audio recordings for most [HERE](#)

Richard Freeh, Philadelphia Clean Energy Vision

Robyn Weaver, Environmental Justice

Carol Armstrong, Globally Responsible Eating

Justin Williams, Community Solar
Meg Lemieur, Impact of fracked gas on water in PA/NJ
Meg Clark, PA PowerSwitch
Amanda Lozinak, Regional biking infrastructure
Nathaniel Smith, mosquito control
Jackie Kent, Wildlife support
Natasha Bagwe, Climate and children's health
Dawn Webster, Thru Hiking
Zakia Elliott, Sierra Club - Philadelphia Climate Works
Tom Torres, Sierra Club - plastics campaign
Dave Moscatello, Dirty Power Plan
Sue Miller, Using Social Media
Amy Kwas, Sierra Club - Inspiring Connections Outdoors (ICO)
Juliana Roth, Environmental writing
Ed Perry, Land & water conservation fund
Alisa Shargorodsky, zero waste
Sarah Casper, book review
Jennifer Quinn, Election Update
Rachel Rosenfeld, Sierra Club - water defender programs
Amberjae Feeman, Sustainable Investing
Joanne Kilgour, Sierra Club PA Director, Update on Loyalstock

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[Future Energy](#) - Conservation Subcommittee Report December 2018 – DKM

POLITICS

Opinions. Republicans say they want free-market innovation. Then they should want a carbon tax.

By Catherine Rampell **The Washington Post** November 26, 2018 at 7:57 PM

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-gops-latest-lousy-excuse-for-ignoring-climate-change/2018/11/26/4b14d732-f1c4-11e8-bc79-68604ed88993_story.html?utm_term=.e4c36ba01d98&wpisrc=nl_most&wpmm=1

OFFSHORE OIL. Seismic surveys for East Coast. U.S.-approved blasts will put tens of thousands of marine animals at risk, according to studies. By Darryl Fears **The Washington Post** The Philadelphia Inquirer Saturday December 1, 2018, pA1

FOSSIL FUEL ISSUES

Business. In race to fill LNG supply gap, project goalposts have changed. By Sabina

Zawadzki, Reuters November 12, 2018

<https://www.yahoo.com/finance/news/race-fill-lng-supply-gap-project-goalposts-changed-070905169--finance.html>

COMMENTARY: Fossil fuels' poison: Will we ever learn?

WILL BUNCH The Philadelphia Inquirer Tuesday November 27, 2018, pA13

CLIMATE CHANGE & ADAPTATIONS

U.S. to release report on climate change. Some environmental groups claim the Trump administration hopes to obscure the findings. By Frank Kummer Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Friday November 23, 2018, pA3

Climate change 'will inflict substantial damages on US lives'. Oliver Milman in New York, **The Guardian** Fri, Nov 23, 2018 4:48 PM EST
<https://www.yahoo.com/news/climate-change-inflict-apos-substantial-183016184.html>

Climate Change Is Bad News for the Economy, U.S. Government Says.
FORTUNE Bloomberg Sat, Nov 24, 2018 8:38 AM EST
<https://www.yahoo.com/finance/news/climate-change-bad-news-economy-133844398.html>

CLIMATE CHANGE. Harsh impact seen on Pa., N.J. Report predicts rising temperatures and sea levels.

By Frank Kummer STAFF WRITER The Philadelphia Inquirer Tuesday November 27, 2018, pA1

Energy and Environment. Countries vowed to cut carbon emissions. They aren't even close to their goals, U.N. report finds. A new 'emissions gap' report says we're even further from where we need to be than we thought. By Chris Mooney **The Washington Post** November 27, 2018
https://www.washingtonpost.com/energy-environment/2018/11/27/countries-vowed-cut-carbon-emissions-they-arent-even-close-their-goals-un-report-finds/?utm_term=.cc3a39b4a567&wpisrc=nl_green&wpmm=1

Energy and Environment. Companies launch plan to capture methane from hog manure lagoons. *Smithfield and Dominion join to capture methane emissions that contribute to climate change.* By Steven Mufson **The Washington Post** November 27, 2018.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/energy-environment/2018/11/27/companies-launch-plan-capture-methane-hog-manure-lagoons/?utm_term=.dcea917b97bb&wpisrc=nl_green&wpmm=1

Economics of climate woes. The Philadelphia Inquirer Thursday November 29, 2018, pA12

NUCLEAR POWER MARKETS & POLICY

Business. Utility reaches \$2B settlement over failed nuclear plants. Associated Press November 25, 2018
<https://www.yahoo.com/finance/news/utility-reaches-2b-settlement-over-failed-nuclear-plants-020113430.html>

Fight brews over nuclear plants. State lawmakers release report urging action to rescue facilities at risk of being closed by owners. *By Marc Levy Associated Press* The Philadelphia Inquirer Saturday December 1, 2018, pA4

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Phila. to develop a solar farm for power. Purpose-built facility near Gettysburg would have all city-owned buildings get 22 pct. of electricity from it by 2020. By Frank Kummer The Philadelphia Inquirer Friday November 2, 2018, pB1

PA Environment Digest Blog Wednesday, November 14, 2018

Leadership Opportunity: Pennsylvania Should Make Mine Water Geothermal A Key Part of Its Clean Energy Transformation

By: Michael C. Korb, P.E., Senior Mining Engineer, [Tetra Tech, Inc.](#)

<https://paenvironmentdaily.blogspot.com/2018/11/leadership-opportunity-pennsylvania.html>

State of the US Renewables Market: Rapid Growth and a 'Lot of Risk'. The energy transition is underway. For the renewables industry, the opportunity is mixed with uncertainty. [Julia Pyper, Emma Foehringer Merchant, Julian Spector Greentech Media](#) November 16, 2018
<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/renewables-market-rapid-growth-risk>

WIND & SOLAR PROJECTS

RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT **How Dispatchable Wind Is Becoming a Reality in the US.** Capacity applications are only three to five years away in selected states where policy and regulation are emerging as key drivers. [Victoria Knauf Greentech Media](#) November 06, 2018
<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/how-dispatchable-wind-is-becoming-a-reality-in-the-us>

BRIEFCASE The Philadelphia Inquirer Thursday November 29, 2018, pA10

It's sunny and windy in Texas. Exxon Mobil Corp., the world's largest publicly traded oil firm, has agreed to buy half a gigawatt of renewable energy to help run operations in Texas. Denmark's **Orsted A/S** will supply the largest U.S. oil producer with 250 megawatts of solar and 250 megawatts of wind power beginning in 2020. That's enough power to supply about 400,000 average U.S. homes. — *Bloomberg*

ENERGY STORAGE

Can these 35-ton bricks solve renewable energy's biggest problem?

These giant towers use a very low-tech solution to store energy created when the sun shines or the wind blows so it can be used later.

By Adele Peters **FAST COMPANY** 11.07.18

[INNOVATION AGENTS](#)

<https://www.fastcompany.com/90261233/can-these-35-ton-bricks-solve-renewable-energys-biggest-problem>

GREEN BUILDINGS

INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE **How a Record-Hot Summer Turned 200 Buildings Into Grid Heroes**

And they got paid for it. [GREENTECH MEDIA David Klatt](#) November 02, 2018
<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/summer-turned-200-buildings-into-grid-heroes>

POLLUTION & HEALTH

Human cost of rule rollbacks. Federal filings show harmful effects. By Noam N. Levey and Evan Halper Los Angeles Times The Philadelphia Inquirer Friday November 23, 2018, pA13

TAINTED WATER Contaminant levels exceed U.S. averages. Residents near Bucks, Montco bases had blood tested for firefighting chemicals found in the water. *By Laura McCrystal and Justine McDaniel Staff Writers* The Philadelphia Inquirer Tuesday November 27, 2018, pA1

INDUSTRY. Dela. bridge traffic jam: The potential threat from gas leak. By Joseph N. DiStefano Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Friday November 30, 2018, pA11

Water advisory in 3 Bucks towns. By Chris Palmer Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Friday November 30, 2018, pB3

ELECTRIC VEHICLES & TRANSPORTATION

NYPA Tackles EV Range Anxiety With New High-Speed Charging Corridor. The public utility has identified 32 new public charging locations along major traffic routes. [Julia Pyper Greentech Media](https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/nypa-tackles-ev-range-anxiety-with-new-high-speed-charging-corridor) November 23, 2018
<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/nypa-tackles-ev-range-anxiety-with-new-high-speed-charging-corridor>

Lessons from N.Y. traffic. Councilmen take notes on how to fight congestion and meet Vision Zero. By Jason Laughlin STAFF WRITER The Philadelphia Inquirer Friday November 30, 2018, pB2

CONSERVATION

Stoneleigh spared. L. Merion schools eye different site for athletic fields. *By Kathy Boccella.* The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday October 23, 2018, pB1

Exotic-animal trade is loosely protected. Industry is regulated by federal, state, and county agencies, but their staffs are plagued by vacancies. By Tim Darragh and Michelle Merlin Allentown Morning Call The Philadelphia Inquirer Friday November 23, 2018, pB2

THE FAIRMOUNT PARK TROLLEY. A Hike Into the Past. For years, trolleys carried visitors to Fairmount Park. Now, the forgotten line is being revived as a nature walk.

By Samantha Melamed STAFF WRITER The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday November 25, 2018, pA1

ENVIRONMENT. The Wissahickon, from 800 feet up. An environment-themed plane ride shows humble start, right to the end. *By Frank Kummer.* The Philadelphia Inquirer Monday December 3, 2018, pA1

Drumpfs of the Month:

Opinions. The world is on fire — and Trump is playing with matches. By Eugene Robinson Columnist The Washington Post November 26, 2018 at 5:44 PM

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-world-is-on-fire--and-trump-is-playing-with-matches/2018/11/26/fd30ce38-f1c1-11e8-bc79-68604ed88993_story.html?utm_term=.3827b394e2b0&wpisrc=nl_most&wpmm=1

Trump on climate change: 'People like myself, we have very high levels of intelligence but we're not necessarily such believers.' By Josh Dawsey, Philip Rucker, Brady Dennis and Chris Mooney **The Washington Post** November 27, 2018 at 7:08 PM

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/trump-on-climate-change-people-like-myself-we-have-very-high-levels-of-intelligence-but-were-not-necessarily-such-believers/2018/11/27/722f0184-f27e-11e8-aeaa-b85fd44449f5_story.html?utm_term=.a8b2ae8164e9&wpisrc=nl_most&wpmm=1

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