

Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting

June 5, 2019 Meeting

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

ExCom Members Attending: Pratima Agrawal, John Butler, Sue Edwards, Jim Kaff, Dave Moscatello, Prasad Ramnath, Jim Wylie

ExCom Members Absent: Ken Hemphill, Kevin Little

Other Members Attending: Karen Melton, Abby Wysor

The Meeting was called to order by Jim. [agenda](#)

Secretary: (Emily Davis)

The Minutes were approved. All minutes are available at [About Us](#) section of the SPG Website

Treasurer: (Jim Wylie)

Emily Davis is our new Treasurer, Jim Wylie is assistant Treasurer

C3 – about \$8,000

C4 – about \$10,000

Standing Committee Reports

Nomination Committee:

There are 3 vacant ExCom seats (Dennis, Ken, Ann)

Jim nominated Tim Beckham to fill Dennis' seat (term to expire Dec, 2019), who lives in Montco and has attended a couple of ExCom meetings this spring. I'll ask Tim for a more formal bio, but here is something he shared with me yesterday:

“I've been working on a project to extend the support of churches, especially Unitarian churches, to climate action groups. I started calling on the churches about a month ago and presenting my ideas. This is a lone wolf escapade. Today I went to a church in York, one in Lancaster and one in West Chester. They all seemed like productive meetings, but the driving was exhausting for this 75 year old dude. I'm not sure if I can keep this up alone, but I think it's a good enough idea to try to continue in some form. Starting 3-4 years ago, I programmed and built a website that is basically an information source on energy, climate and climate change. I took it down about 3 months ago, however, because I did not have time to keep it up to date, and I was not sure I was being accurate in what I wrote.”

The nomination was approved, 6-0

The Nominating Committee to look at the other vacant seats (expiring end of 2020) and fall elections this year.

Conservation Committee: (Jim Wylie, Dave)

Ready for 100 events

June 19 Renewable Energy Lobby Day in Harrisburg

June 22 Summer Solstice Celebration in Kimberton (northern Chester County)

June 29 Montco Clean Energy Celebration and What's Next? Conference

West Chester Area Transitioning to 100% RE “Visioning” public meeting – TBD, probably July

Delco towns are exploring collaboration on planning – RF100/Delco to facilitate

Solarize Southeast PA is up and running

SEPTA gas plant

Final hearing on Apr 30 – the board is taking public comments till May 30. Final decision in early July.

PGW LNG plant

Karen to testify at city council on 6/6. Try to have people speak in this topic every week. We don't know when it might come up for a vote.
Tim suggests partnering with Sunrise on this issue
Pratima reports that we have been working with Nicole
May 16 Pratima brought her middle school students to testify and connected with Councilman Green. Thanked Gym and Jones for voting NO.

Youth Climate Strike

calling council offices. Next action in Sep.

Plastics

Councilman Squilla plans to presents a plastic bag ban this month.

Political Committee: (Robin Mann, Jim Wylie)

Successes of our endorsed candidates in the primaries:

In Philadelphia:

City Council District 3 – Jamie Gauthier won

City Council At Large – Helen Gym won

In Bucks County – Jordan Yeager won a seat on the Bucks County Court of Common Pleas
Delaware County: County council interviews by end of June. All judge candidates seem to be connected w/ Sunoco. Local elections will be considered in Middletown and Media to be considered on June 1 and July 12, Oct date to be set.

Newsletter/Communications:

June 15 is the planned date for emailing the chapter newsletter, “The Sylvaniaian.” This newsletter will combine the Sylvaniaian and SPG blog format with a few additional stories will be added for SPG region.

Education Committee: (Karen Melton / Kevin Little, Pratima Agrawal)

Philly Talks Climate: Have you all been keeping up with Philly Talks Climate? This show airs on Friday at noon on PhillyCAM's radio station WPPM 106.5 LP FM in Philadelphia. You can hear the audio afterwards as a podcast Links to all 12 episodes are nowon the Volunteer page.

(<https://www.sierraclub.org/pennsylvania/southeastern/volunteer>)

Chester County Events: The Chester County Team will co-host a talk by writer, Ken Ilgunas (This Land Is Our Land and Trespassing across America) at WCU in September. Volunteers are needed. They are again planning WCU Film Series for the fall as well.

Philadelphia Events Karen and team are working with Weaver's Way Coop on showings of the film, Tapped in – July, August and October in Chestnut Hill, Mt Airy, and Ambler and a lecture on plastics in the fall.

New Member Engagement:

Outings: (Jim Kaff, Amy Kwasnicki)

Old Business

Fundraising

Possible Event: Makinlee Fox (prof fundraiser and event planner) has been asked for proposal.

John's wife has prices for venues around the area. Jim to talk to Makinlee about a scaled down event. Less risk.

Fundraising Letter: Joanne K has offered to help and she has offered that Zakia may be able to help.

I've been drafting a letter, call script, backup info and contact list. This is planned to take place in June and July action. The group felt this should be a paper letter as well as an email and funds were allocated for a paper mailing.

GoFundMe for Purple Air monitors: Jim is looking for assistance with this project.

<https://www.gofundme.com/what-am-i-breathing> Good spots to put them need to be identified

and possible sponsors such as School PTOs which might fund and/or sponsor, also township EACs

Chapter grants status: After talking with Tom Au, these chapter “small grants” are being considered by the review team:

\$2500 for plastics (split 50/50 between chapter and SPG)

\$5000 for RF100 (split 50/50 between chapter and SPG)

TBD for PFOA work – need to see what needs are

\$2000 (50/50) for Open Space defense – need further def of what \$ would be spent on (legal expenses)

New Business

Announcements:

Meeting Call-in Number:

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

Agenda

Attendees: Jim, Dave, Karen, Pratima, John, Tim, Pat, Sue, Abbie, Jim K, Prasad

- **Introductions**
- **Approve May meeting minutes**
- **Treasurers Report**
- **Filling vacant ExCom seats**
- **Fundraising**
- **Political endorsements**
- **Education**
- **June newsletter –**
- **Conservation**
- **Resisting fossil fuel expansion in Phila-**
 - Status of SEPTA gas plant
 - - status of PGW LNG plant
- **Plastics**
 - Phila bag ban status

- **July ExCom meeting** – is scheduled to be Wed July 3, in-person. Do we want to push to July 10?

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Reports

John Butler

Interesting question again in Swarthmore, are they buying 100% renewable. Tim the former Mayor and now state senator says they stopped when PECO stopped selling wind. Really should find out which towns are really buying it. Also he thinks energy for their offices are purchased by an office in state when I press them on 100 % for their offices. Maybe when in Harrisburg on the 19th Lobby Day, I can get an answer.

C pace: Issue raised in Delco members in other county doing it ?

Price of PECO power goes down June 1. Anyone that purchased thru the 800 number can reset their rate for a year if lower with 100% wind. Do have concern with green mountain and other vendors selling renewable at our events at much higher prices

That was my pitch to Radnor commissioners. Why would you not want to buy renewable at a savings of 7%.

What we did at Massey House was to change out all lights to LED. The only other high user is the heater which they are not about to change. I did a direct purchase with the supplier so there was no broker markup that can be as high as 5mil added to the price that you don't see. I got a four year price and somehow they are getting a \$300 gift card.

The only "community solar" is swarthmore college where they are sharing solar between buildings within two miles. This eliminates distribution charge. West Chester has solar on the garage and most likely could expand it to supply other buildings.

Lower Merion took "savings" and purchased rec's. They were just reduction in electric supply prices rather than investing in efficiency. Brokers are making a lot of money one mil at a time claiming

they are getting you s better deal. Haven't seen them looking at seasonal pricing and you can buy power starting say six months out.

Practical energy was involved with Newtown sq and they hired CM3. With an esco. Many things are wrong

Group buy doesn't always save you money because pricing is based on load factor and a town that has a water or sewer utility is running 24/7 so they get a much better price. A group buy increases their price.

Esco on street lights many times use average price for power but lights are about 3.5 cents and average including gs is mid 5. Real savings are 3.5 cents.

Inside lighting. You can now replace lights with LED tubes just direct wiring them in the existing fixture. Cutting power maybe 40%. Cannot dum but but most people don't use that feature. Tube under \$10. I replaced my t12 in basement with bypass led in existing fixture just by replacing lamp. Cosco under \$15 for two.

Dave Moscatello

Future Energy - Conservation Subcommittee Report June 2019 – DKM

POLITICS

More offshore drilling. BRIEFCASE The Philadelphia Inquirer Friday May 3, 2019, pA8

WASHINGTON — Here is how Philadelphia-area members of Congress voted on major issues last week: House: **Keeping America in climate accord.** The House on Thursday voted, 231-190, to continue U.S. participation in the 2015

Treaty status for Paris pact. Voting 189-234, the House on Thursday defeated an amendment to HR 9 (above) that sought to end U.S. participation in the Paris Agreement by reclassifying it as a treaty requiring ratification by a two-thirds Senate majority. The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday May 5, 2019, pB5

Inslee Promotes Climate Initiative. It Would Cost More Than \$9 Trillion, Shifting Energy Markets And Transforming Nation's Infrastructure. By Bill Barrow Associated Press The Philadelphia Inquirer Friday May 17, 2019, pA10

3 governors commit to one clean Delaware River. By Frank Kummer STAFF WRITER **The Philadelphia Inquirer** Friday May 17, 2019, pA10

Pipeline activists face tough Texas move. If the governor signs off, protesters could get terms up to 10 years. Other states are considering options. By Ari Natter BLOOMBERG NEWS The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday May 22, 2019, pA13.

POLICY

CHANGING CLIMATE: Greener Future Is Big Test For PGW. With more focus on global warming and reducing fossil fuels, council has decisions to make on city-owned utility. By Andrew Maykuth Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday May 5, 2019, pA1

Wastewater plant rejected. Falls Twp. says no to plan for facility by Israeli firm after years of controversy. By Katie Park STAFF WRITER The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday May 1, 2019, pB6

State DEP to deny wastewater permit. Setback for processing facility is a win for opponents in Falls Twp. By Frank Kummer STAFF WRITER **The Philadelphia Inquirer** Thursday May 16, 2019, pB1

Task force visits Montco over contamination. Members of Congress to push legislative action for cleanup and to set a drinking water limit. By Justine McDaniel and Laura McCrystal STAFF WRITERS The Philadelphia Inquirer Tuesday May 7, 2019, pA3

City should use green methods to reduce stormwater pollution. By Jacquelyn Bonomo The Philadelphia Inquirer Tuesday May 7, 2019, pA11

Action sought on PFAS rules. House subcommittee chair wants Congress' involvement. By Justine McDaniel STAFF WRITER The Philadelphia Inquirer Thursday May 16, 2019, pA2

States aren't waiting for the Trump administration on environmental protections. Scientists say that as global warming nears an irreversible level, the president has been promoting business growth, not climate fixes. By Brady Dennis and Juliet Eilperin **The Washington Post** May 19, 2019 at 7:14 PM

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/states-arent-waiting-for-the-trump-administration-on-environmental-protections/2019/05/19/5dc853fc-7722-11e9-b3f5-5673edf2d127_story.html?utm_term=.1bf854c9a342&wpisrc=nl_most&wpmm=1

Zoning proposals give pause on climate impact. By Alex Schieferdecker The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday May 22, 2019, pA16

Elsewhere: **Unlikely bedfellows.** BRIEFCASE **The Philadelphia Inquirer** Friday May 24, 2019, pA8

The Sierra Club and billionaire Charles Koch have found at least one thing to agree on: They hate Ohio's plan to take away renewable power subsidies and give them to coal and nuclear plants. — Bloomberg News

FOSSIL FUEL ISSUES

Sunoco Parent: New Projects Mean 1,200 Jobs. \$200M investment based at Marcus Hook. By Andrew Maykuth. **The Philadelphia Inquirer** Tuesday April 30, 2019, pA7.

Sunoco buys homes along Mariner East pipeline. By Erin McCarthy Staff Writer **The Philadelphia Inquirer** Wednesday May 1, 2019, pB8

COMMENTARY: Methane proposal falls short. By Greg Vitali **The Philadelphia Inquirer** Friday May 3, 2019, pA10

CLIMATE CHANGE & ADAPTATIONS

Pa. joins U.S. Climate Alliance. The state, a large fossil-fuel producer, also released a new plan to cut greenhouse gas. By Laura Legere PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE **The Philadelphia Inquirer** Tuesday April 30, 2019, pB2.

Americans Have Never Been Known To Run Away From A Battle. Until Climate Change | Opinion Michael E. Mann **Newsweek** On 5/10/19

<https://www.newsweek.com/climate-change-climate-emergency-usa-run-battle-1422047>

Farms behind schedule. With more storms due in the next week, farmers are on edge. By Brian K. Sullivan BLOOMBERG NEWS **The Philadelphia Inquirer** Thursday May 16, 2019, pA13

Midwest farmers hope for time to plant. A weather system that leaves storms locked in place has fields drenched and planters behind schedule. By Ashley Robinson BLOOMBERG NEWS **The Philadelphia Inquirer** Wednesday May 22, 2019, pA13

NUCLEAR POWER

Three Mile Island to close. Attempts at a nuclear bailout stalled, the owner said. The plant, near Harrisburg, employs 700. By Andrew Maykuth Staff Writer **The Philadelphia Inquirer** Thursday May 9, 2019, pA1

Firms specialize in quick teardown. They drastically shorten the time it takes to deal with the residue of closed reactors, resulting in lower costs. By Will Wade BLOOMBERG NEWS **The Philadelphia Inquirer** Monday May 20, 2019, pC1

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Solar, onshore wind costs set to fall below new fossil fuel energy-report. By Nina Chestney, Reuters May 29, 2019. <https://www.yahoo.com/news/solar-onshore-wind-costs-set-131955841.html>

Renewable Energy Costs Take Another Tumble, Making Fossil Fuels Look More Expensive Than Ever. Dominic Dudley, Forbes May 29, 2019, 07:00am
[Renewable Energy Costs Take Another Tumble, Making Fossil Fuels Look More Expensive Than Ever](#)

MARKETS & POLICY

A setback for Chesco housing proposal. Environmental board objects to amendments with O'Neill firm to develop former factory site, which has contamination. By Frank Kummer STAFF WRITER **The Philadelphia Inquirer** Tuesday April 30, 2019, pB1

ENERGY STORAGE

Sonnen Brings Homebuilder Strategy to Illinois With Passive Home Project. The battery company expanded its effort to put high-end batteries into new-build, eco-friendly homes. Julian Spector Greentech Media May 24, 2019

[Sonnen Brings Homebuilder Strategy to Illinois With Passive Home Project](#)

Why Lithium Stocks Are Plunging Amid Electric Car Boom. By Matthew Johnston Investopedia Updated May 16, 2019. https://www.investopedia.com/investing/why-lithium-stocks-are-plunging-amid-electric-car-boom/?utm_campaign=quote-yahoo&utm_source=yahoo&utm_medium=referral&ypr=yahoo

Utah Aims to Shatter Records With 1,000MW Energy Storage Plant. The one-of-a-kind facility would combine compressed air storage in salt caverns with hydrogen storage, large flow batteries and solid-oxide fuel cells. Julian Spector Greentech Media May 30, 2019.
<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/utah-aims-to-shatter-records-with-1000-mw-energy-storage-plant>

CONSERVATION

City should use green methods to reduce stormwater pollution. By Jacquelyn Bonomo **The Philadelphia Inquirer** Tuesday May 7, 2019, pA11

Reclaiming Land. Historic Burlington Island being prepped for a comeback. By Henry Savage STAFF WRITER **The Philadelphia Inquirer** Monday April 29, 2019, pB1

Beyond Meat is a hit. Beyond Meat Inc. piled on the market value, serving up the year's best first day for a U.S. initial public offering. BRIEFCASE **The Philadelphia Inquirer** Friday May 3, 2019, pA8

A setback for Chesco housing proposal. Environmental board objects to amendments with O'Neill firm to develop former factory site, which has contamination. By Frank Kummer STAFF WRITER **The Philadelphia Inquirer** Tuesday April 30, 2019, pB1

Turf Battle: Feelings run high over a proposed development in a quiet rural corner of Lancaster County. By Katie Park STAFF WRITER **The Philadelphia Inquirer** Sunday May 5, 2019, pB1

Scientists warn a million species at risk of extinction. By Gus Trompiz, Reuters May 6, 2019
<https://www.yahoo.com/news/scientists-warn-million-species-risk-extinction-103919269--finance.html>

Record catch of invasive fish. 50-pound catfish pulled from York County creek, but species isn't wanted there. By Frank Kummer Staff Writer **The Philadelphia Inquirer** Thursday May 9, 2019, pB1

Waste Not Big brands signing on to reusable glass and steel containers. By Taylor Telford Washington Post **The Philadelphia Inquirer** Sunday May 26, 2019, pE2

Bears in the crosshairs. As grizzlies' range expands, a legal fight over hunting brews. By Matthew Brown ASSOCIATED PRESS **The Philadelphia Inquirer** Tuesday May 28, 2019, pA2

Road salt brings concerns. Too-high levels found in area freshwater streams are toxic to aquatic life.
By Frank Kummer STAFF WRITER **The Philadelphia Inquirer** Wednesday May 29, 2019, pB1

DRUMPPFS OF THE MONTH:

CENTER FOR SCIENCE AND DEMOCRACY > ATTACKS ON SCIENCE

Trump Administration Orders the Removal of 30 Species from the Endangered Species List. Union of Concerned Scientists Last Revised Date: May 14, 2019

<https://www.ucsusa.org/center-science-and-democracy/attacks-on-science/trump-administration-orders-removal-30-species>

The Trump administration takes climate denial to new heights. By Paul Waldman, Opinion writer
The Washington Post May 28, 2019 at 11:02 AM

[Opinion | The Trump administration takes climate denial to new heights](#)

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