

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

## August 7 Meeting

**ExCom Members Attending:** Tim Beckham, Sue Edwards, Dave Moscatello, JimWylie  
Excom Members Absent: Pratima Agrawal, John Butler, Jim Kaff, Kevin Little, Prasad Ramnath  
Others attending: Emily Davis, Karen Melton, Abbie Wysor  
The Meeting was called to order by Jim. [agenda](#)

A quorum of members was not present so no votes could be taken.

Secretary: (Emily Davis) presented via email

Treasurer: (Emily Davis)

### C4: Checking

Beginning Balance: \$13,666.44  
Income: \$ 5,090  
Expenditure: \$ 1,422.81  
Ending Balance: \$17,333.60

### PayPal

Beginning Balance: \$ 2,173.32  
Income: \$ 983.48 (\$77.70 of which is recurring)  
Expenditures: \$ 15.89 (zoom)  
Ending Balance: \$ 2,995.56  
C4 Ending Balance: \$20,329.19

### C3: Beginning Balance: \$ 8,749.88

Income: \$ 0  
Expenditure: \$ 150.15 (reimbursement to C4 amount – receivable)  
Ending Balance: \$ 8,599.73

## Standing Committee Reports

### Nomination Committee:

We still need 2 additional Ex Comm Members

### Conservation Committee: (Jim Wylie, Dave)

#### *Ready For 100 Bucks County*

Meenal and Prasad were at the Middletown Township PennEnvironment Renewable Energy Expo, tabling Solarize SoutheastPA and Bucks County Sierra Club respectively. Meenal was able to connect with a few township leaders who were eager to kick off RF100 in their townships. Jordan Yeager also promised to provide support. We need to coordinate this with the RF100 kickoff in September that we discussed last time we met together in Bucks.

#### [Future Energy](#) (Dave Moscatello)

### Political Committee: (Robin Mann, Jim Wylie)

The Del Co political Team is submitting 3 candidates for endorsement for County Commissioner, Evelyn Shaffer, Monica Taylor and Christine Reuther. All are running for open seats. Term limits prevented the current office holder from running again. The Mont Co, Chester Co, Philadelphia Teams will also present candidates for endorsement. A special Meeting, or email vote will be held next Wednesday as the Chapter ExComm will be voting at the Chapter Meeting being held on August 24. There will be another opportunity to present candidate in September. ([Results of Email Vote](#))

**Newsletter/Communications:** (Karen Melton, Sondra Moore)

The deadline for articles for the newsletter is August 15. The newsletter will go out in the middle of September. Possible articles so far are on Plastics (Jim), Sunrise Movement and Youth actions (Sue) Belize trip (Emily), Rallies in Philly, Plastics in Philly (Meenal) and Pipelines (Bernie)

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

Film "Tapped" has been rescheduled for August 15

**New Member Engagement:** No report

**Outings:** (Jim Kaff, Amy Kwasnicki)

July overnight canoe/kayak camping trip in the Pine Barrens was great! There were 14 participants. We canoed/kayaked the Mullica River and spent the night at a wilderness campsite on its banks. Monthly hikes at Heinz Refuge and the Wissahickon are on pause for August but will resume in September. Hickory Run Chapter Outing 8/23-8/25. A number of SPG Outings Leaders are helping with this trip. There will be white-water rafting, a bike trail trip, swimming, fishing, an invasives removal service project, nature art projects, lots of family-friendly programs, stargazing, campfires, a barn dance, and more.... Rustic cabin and tent camping options. Please sign up soon through Campfire!!

*Schuylkill River to Bartram Trip (Pat Beaudet)*

I have confirmed that the Sunday, Oct. 6, 12 pm tour is fully available. Cost: \$800 for 35 seats. Suggest we charge \$25 per person and add a 23 and under children's price for \$15. Check [www.schuylkillbanks.org](http://www.schuylkillbanks.org) for more details. I'd like to get a Save the Date notice out before the end of August.

*Outings Philly ICO:* (Amy Kwasnicki)

We have a 70-kid hike on Thursday August 8th at Valley Forge National Historic Park with St. Anthony's. We have planning meetings with Puentes De Salud later in August for the academic year. On Saturday September 7th we will be doing our first outing with new partner SEEMAC. A Summer Social for current & new leaders is scheduled for Wed. 8/28, 6:30-8:30pm at the Forest & Main Brewing Co. in Ambler. Any adults interested in volunteering with Philly ICO are welcome to attend. The Social is posted on MeetUp and Campfire.

**Old Business**

**Fund Raising:**

**New Business**

**Announcements:**

**Meeting Call-in Number:**

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

**Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Special Meeting  
Email Vote Taken Between August 14 and August 16**

The following candidates were presented by the County teams for endorsement. Members reviewed the candidate's questionnaire, notes from the interview, and the application for endorsement completed by the committee. Eight of the 9 members of the Executive committee participated in the vote

- Elaine Schaefer (Del County Council) – Yes – 8, No – 0, Abs - 0
- Monica Taylor (Del County Council) – Yes – 8, No – 0, Abs - 0
- Christine Reuther (Del County Council) – Yes– 8, No – 0, Abs - 0
- Val Arkoosh (Mont. County Commissioner) – Yes– 4, No – 3, Abs - 1
- Ken Lawrence (Mont. County Commissioner) – Yes– 4, No – 3, Abs - 1
- Josh Maxwell (Chester County Commissioner) – Yes – 8, No – 0, Abs -
- Marian Moscovitz (Chester County Commissioner) – Yes – 8, No – 0, Abs - 0
- Sherrie Cohen (Phila. City Council at-Large) – Yes – 8, No – 0, Abs – 0

Elaine Schaefer, Monica Taylor, Christine Reuther, Josh Maxwell, Marian Moscovitz and Sherrie Cohen will be presented to the Chapter Executive Committee for consideration. Since Sherrie Cohen has a legal challenge to her place on the ballot, she will not be informed of her endorsement until the challenge is resolved.

[return](#)

Wed, Aug 7, 2019

Join the Zoom call - <https://zoom.us/j/7825257851>

Or by phone: 929 436 2866 Meeting ID: 782 525 7851

### Agenda

- Introductions
  
- Approve [June](#) and [July](#) Meeting Minutes
  
- Treasurer's Report
  
- Fundraising
  
- Endorsements – Please see 3 applications (Schaefer, Taylor, Reuther) in the Delco folder: SPG / [Political Cmte](#) / [Delco](#) /
  
- Newsletter
  
- Nominating candidates for Dec ExCom election
- Events
  - Thu 8/8 @ noon - Reminder: rally at EPA hqtrsto support AFGE union of EPA employees against heavy-handed federal gov't moves. 17th & Arch Sts., Phila.
  - Sun 9/8 Greenfest
  - Sat 10/5 - Girard Ave. Street Festival tabling? Sat., Oct. 5th
  - Sun 10/6 - Boat to Bartram's Tour- request for funds - \$800. See updated report below.
  - Chapter outing - when?

[Return](#)

## Future Energy - Conservation Subcommittee Report August 2019 – DKM

### POLITICS

**Warnings on utility pressures. Pa. tells customers that high-pressure tactics to switch electricity providers are scams.** By Andrew Maykuth Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Tuesday July 16, 2019, pA8

**Environmentalists, tribes blast Utah national monument plan.** Brady McCombs, Associated Press July 26, 2019. <https://www.yahoo.com/news/us-government-issues-final-management-160059205.html>

**Calif. foiling Trump on environment.** The state has been aggressively passing laws and forming alliances to thwart administration rollbacks. By Paul Rogers SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS The Philadelphia Inquirer Monday July 29, 2019, pA4.

**Report: WV governor's companies owe \$2M Virginia tax debt.** Associated Press Thu, Aug 1 2:52 PM EDT <https://www.yahoo.com/finance/news/report-wv-governors-companies-owe-161238126.html>

**Defying the state on plastic-bag ban.** "It's the right thing to do," a West Chester councilman said. The ban won't take effect for a year, but some have started. By Vinny Vella Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday August 4, 2019, pB1

**Trump official resigns after climate change warning is blocked.** Juliet Eilperin, The Independent July 11, 2019. <https://www.yahoo.com/news/trump-official-resigns-climate-change-102424002.html>

**WMD-detection programs dismantled.** "We're not as secure as we were 18 months ago," a former Homeland Security official said. By David Willman Los Angeles Times The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday July 21, 2019, pA2

### POLICY

**23 governors join Calif. in opposing Trump mileage standards.** Ellen Knickmeyer, Associated Press July 9, 2019. <https://www.yahoo.com/news/23-us-governors-join-calif-042517718.html>

**White House opposes PFAS actions in bill.** Amid concerns nationwide, administration objects to water cleanup and firefighting foam phase-out. By Justine McDaniel and Laura McCrystal Staff Writers The Philadelphia Inquirer Thursday July 11, 2019, pA2

### FOSSIL FUEL ISSUES

**California governor criticizes increase in fracking permits.** Kathleen Ronayne And Andrew Oxford, Associated Press July 12, 2019.

<https://www.yahoo.com/finance/news/california-governor-criticizes-increase-fracking-220108483.html>

**EDITORIAL Public needs say on pier.** The Philadelphia Inquirer Tuesday July 23, 2019, pA10

**Coal-fired plant agrees to pay \$1M in pollution case.** By Frank Kummer Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Thursday August 1, 2019, pA12

**Fierce Laurel pipeline fight may end.** Agreement comes after Phila. refinery closure, would allow Midwest refiners greater access to Pa. markets. By Andrew Maykuth Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Friday August 2, 2019, pA9

**'It was terrible': 1 dead, up to 7 missing after natural gas line explosion in Kentucky.** Louisville Courier Journal, USA TODAY Thu, Aug 1, 2019.

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/gas-explosion-kills-least-1-112918628.html>

**Report: WV governor's companies owe \$2M Virginia tax debt.** Associated Press Thu, Aug 1, 2019.

<https://www.yahoo.com/finance/news/report-wv-governors-companies-owe-161238126.html>

**Coal left Appalachia devastated. Now it's doing the same to Wyoming.** Vulture capitalists are sucking value from a dying industry. By David Roberts Vox Jul 9, 2019.

<https://www.vox.com/energy-and-environment/2019/7/9/20684815/coal-wyoming-bankruptcy-blackjewel-appalachia>

## CLIMATE CHANGE & ADAPTATIONS

**Climate crisis demands action.** As global warming sets new records, Harrisburg's "climate caucus" supports a bill that would lock in fracking for an additional 20 years, if not longer. Will Bunch The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday July 21, 2019, pC3

**The Arctic Is on Fire, and It Might Be Creating a Vicious Climate 'Feedback Loop'.** The worst Arctic wildfire season in recent history is releasing unprecedented emissions that feed into climate change, creating the conditions for more fires. By Madeleine Gregory MOTHERBOARD TECH BY VICE Jul 29 2019, 12:06pm

[https://www.vice.com/en\\_us/article/qv7g3m/the-arctic-is-on-fire-and-it-might-be-creating-a-vicious-climate-feedback-loop](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/qv7g3m/the-arctic-is-on-fire-and-it-might-be-creating-a-vicious-climate-feedback-loop)

**Fire at the top of the world: Earth's largest forest is burning, and it won't be coming back soon.** Mark Sumner Daily Kos Staff DAILY KOS Wednesday July 31, 2019.

<https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2019/7/31/1875681/-Fire-at-the-top-of-the-world-Earth-s-largest-forest-is-burning-and-it-won-t-be-coming-back-soon?detail=emaildkre>

**Greenland Ice Sheet Loses 11 Billion Tons Of Water In One Day Amid Historic Heat.** Conor Finnegan and Julia Jacobo, Abc News August 2, 2019.

<https://www.yahoo.com/gma/amid-historic-heat-greenland-ice-sheet-loses-11-195421652.html>

## NUCLEAR POWER

**Reactor closure procedure is slow.** Three Mile Island Unit 1 is expected to completely shut down by 2078, at a cost of \$1.2 billion.

By Andrew Maykuth Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday July 17, 2019, pA11

**More Delays Likely for Vogtle Nuclear Plant, Georgia Regulator Says.** Fast-tracking completion of the troubled nuclear project could cause other problems, a report found. Julian Spector Greentech Media August 01, 2019.  
<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/georgia-utility-regulator-more-delays-likely-for-vogtle-nuclear-plant>

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

**Solar Power in Pa. Falling Short.** The state installed more panels in the early quarter of 2019, but still lags behind other Northeastern states. By Ellie Rushing Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday July 17, 2019, pA11.

**UPDATE 1-New York awards offshore wind contracts as governor signs climate bill.** By Nichola Groom, Reuters July 18, 2019. <https://www.yahoo.com/finance/news/1-york-awards-offshore-wind-191406206.html>

**Saturday electricity use sets record.** By Andrew Maykuth STAFF WRITER The Philadelphia Inquirer Tuesday July 23, 2019, pA9

**Solar Power in Pa. Falling Short.** The state installed more panels in the early quarter of 2019, but still lags behind other Northeastern states. By Ellie Rushing Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday July 17, 2019, pA11

## GRID OPTIMIZATION

**Court deals major blow to hydropower transmission line.** Michael Casey, Associated Press July 19, 2019

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/hampshire-court-upholds-rejection-northern-134632685html>

## MARKETS & POLICY

**US Wind Boom Faces New Threat From Proposed Tower Tariffs.** A push for new import tariffs on wind turbine towers could put some projects underwater as the PTC phases down, according to a Wood Mackenzie analysis. Karl-Erik Stromsta Greentech Media July 31, 2019.

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/us-wind-boom-faces-new-threat-from-proposed-tower-tariffs>

## OFF GRID/ENERGY ACCESS

**Alaska village will install new river power generator.** Rachel D'oro, Associated Press July 17, 2019. <https://www.yahoo.com/news/alaska-village-install-river-power-213449445.html>

## ELECTRIC VEHICLES & TRANSPORTATION

**SEPTA embraces renewable energy.** Agency OKs solar farm contract, track signal solar panels, and power-saving upgrades at headquarters. By Jason Laughlin Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Friday July 26, 2019, pA9

**Seeing red, lots and lots of red.** The city's stoplights. mostly old and prone to breakdowns, are no help to easing traffic. By Jason Laughlin Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday August 4, 2019, pB1

## CONSERVATION

**Bringing back the 'founding fish'.** By Mike Newall @MikeNewall The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday July 21, 2019, pB1

**A Sticky Solution. Pa.'s advice: Kill the lanternflies.** Del Val professor has a way to catch them. By Katie Park Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday July 24, 2019, pB1

**Environmentalists, tribes blast Utah national monument plan.** BRADY McCombs, Associated Press July 26, 2019. <https://www.yahoo.com/news/us-government-issues-final-management-160059205.html>

**A winning shell game.** Oysters being restored to filter water, stabilize shorelines. By Wayne Parry Associated Press The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday July 31, 2019, pB2

## DRUMPFS OF THE MONTH:

**Al Gore blasts Trump environmental speech that fails to mention climate change.** David Knowles Yahoo News July 8, 2019

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/al-gore-blasts-trump-environmental-speech-that-fails-to-mention-climate-change-213257128.html>

**USDA squashed the report farmers needed to plan for the climate crisis, and we're all paying for it.** Mark Sumner Daily Kos Staff DAILY KOS Thursday July 18, 2019.

<https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2019/7/18/1872724/-USDA-squashed-the-report-farmers-needed-to-plan-for-the-climate-crisis-and-we-re-all-paying-for-it?detail=emaildkre>

**Opponent of nation's public lands is picked to oversee them.** Ellen Knickmeyer, Associated Press July 30, 2019. <https://www.yahoo.com/news/opponent-nations-public-lands-picked-112224264.html>

[return](#)