

Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting

Meeting May 4, 2017
Swarthmore College

ExCom Members Attending: John Butler, Ken Hemphill, Alexa Manning, Dave Moscatello, Margaret Nersten, Prasad Ramnath,, Jim Wylie

Attending by Phone:

ExCom Members Absent: Pat Beudet, Gerald Brown , Mathew Himmelein, Dennis Winters,

Other Members Attending: Sue Edwards, Jill Clarke (Delaware County Leader), Bob Pollet

The meeting was preceded by a tour of the College grounds let by Ken Hemphill.

The Meeting was called to order at by Jim Wylie (see [agenda](#))

Secretary: Minutes were approved as emailed.

Treasurer: Balance C4: \$6625 (primary expenditures were rent (\$200) and \$293 for pipeline forum (Bernie – from grant), C3: 424.39

Standing Committee Reports

Conservation Committee: (Jim Wylie)

Events:

Tom Torres is organizing an action “Defending the EPA Action” on Monday 11:30 to 1:30 at the EPA office

DEP Environmental Justice Listening Tour will have two stops in SEPA, on April 23 in Delaware County and on April 25 in Philadelphia.

The Philadelphia Office of Sustainability has an on-line survey. The link was sent to the Philadelphia Group.

The Philadelphia Office of Sustainability will have a Philadelphia Energy Vision Listening Session on May 4 at 4:00 in the Municipal Building.

Ready for 100

The Philadelphia team is working on Mayors for Clean Energy with the office of Sustainability. They would like funds to purchase T-Shirts. Chester County is working on two mayor and Jill in Delaware County on 3 mayors. Mayors who sign on will be recognized at the Mayors Conference in June. Kristin El Idrissi from the Philadelphia team will be attending a National Conference in June

Political Committee: (Jim Wylie)

Our endorsement of West Chester mayoral candidate, Dianne Herrin, was announced at Marshal Square Park

Karen reported that there was a conference call with political committee members to review endorsement procedures, identify resources. The Philadelphia Co committee considered looked at the District Attorney race, but determined that the purvue of the DA's office is not a good fit with our interests. Jim looked into local Buck Co races, -- none we need to take a position on for the primary, will evaluate prior to the general election

Newsletter/Communications: (Ken Hemphill)

The newsletter went out. The next newsletter will go out on July 15. July 5 will be the deadline for submission. Ken will put the articles in a google docs file and share it with us.

Jim described the changes in the website format on the new platform. Our new URL is

<http://www.sierraclub.org/pennsylvania/southeastern>. The right hand side of the page is provided by

national. There will be links to the web pages and facebook pages for each of the counties. Jim asked county leaders to provide content.

Education Committee: (Karen Melton)

Pipeline Forum is tomorrow evening at CCP

Nomination Committee: (Alexa Manning)

No report

Membership Engagement: (Margaret Nerston)

There have been 373 new members since April. Jill said she had not received any responses to the letters. It was suggested that joining the google group be “opt in” rather than automatic. Prasad suggested that county leaders have a meeting to discuss the process .

Old Business

Tabling

We tabled at three events: Philly Food Fest (Dave Moscatello, Mary Jo Harris, Lynne Medley, Emily Davis) , Phila Academy Earth Day Festival (Emily), Villanova Earth Day (Anne Lovatt, Dale Harris). We were scheduled to table at Narberth Earth Day but it was postponed because of rain and we were unable to staff. Sue Edwards tabled at a Move the Needle event in Delaware County. We need more three-fold brochures

Outings:

The Chapter Outing will be at Hickory Run State Park July 28 to 30th. Attendees will be staying in the cabins. There will be no tent camping. Upcoming local events include garden tours and Kayak tours of the refineries

People's Climate March

We coordinated 10 buses from the Philadelphia Area. Pictures will be on our website. If you have pictures post them to the google docs file.

Gas Leaks Monitoring No Progress

New Business

Media Campaign proposal:

Bob Pollet presented a proposal to us. He is looking for a 5019(C)3 group to pass through funding for an advertisement campaign the goal of which would be to educate people about actions they can take to decrease their environmental footprint. He has spoken to CBS about this project. CBS would produce 15 15 second spots that would air 2 to 3 times per day over several weeks. Bob will provide the funding but needs a non-profit to be the official producer. Sierra Club National would need to approve this action since the name would be used.

Bears Ears National Monument support Letter:

Prasad moved that we sign on to a letter supporting Bears Ears National Monument. Margaret seconded. Sierra Club National has already signed on. The motion passed

Meeting location: Ken asked if we might meet at Swarthmore again. There was no objection.

Announcements:

Meeting Call-in Number:

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

Renewable Energy Drumpfs of the Month:

- **Fact Checker Analysis EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's claim that 'clean coal' helped reduce carbon emissions.** Michelle Ye Hee Lee. The Washington Post April 5, 2017. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/fact-checker/wp/2017/04/05/epa-administrator-scott-pruitts-claim-that-clean-coal-helped-reduce-carbon-emissions/?utm_term=.8d463ff675cd&wpisrc=nl_fact&wpm=1

"We've demonstrated through the steps we've taken already, the pre-1994 levels, because of that technology — we can burn coal in clean fashion. I think that we've done it better than anybody in the world at burning coal clean, in a clean fashion. The innovative and technological advances that we've seen, along with natural gas production and generating electricity, it all contributed to a CO2 footprint that's pre-1994."

"As I indicated earlier, we are pre-1994 levels, and do you know why? Largely because of innovation and technology, hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling, because there's been a conversion to natural gas in the generation of electricity." — Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt, interview on "Fox News Sunday," April 2, 2017, **dodging his first sentence lie to hide the fact that emissions have dropped largely because we're burning far less coal now than in 1994, when coal provided almost 50% of U.S. electricity vs. 30.4% now.**

- **Energy and Environment. Trump orders review of national monuments, vows to 'end these abuses and return control to the people.'** Juliet Eilperin. The Washington Post April 26, 2017. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/04/25/zinke-to-review-large-national-monuments-created-since-1996-to-make-sure-the-people-have-a-voice/?utm_term=.d42efec7ceb0&wpisrc=nl_p1most-partner-1&wpm=1

Trump claims his order would "end these abuses and return control to the people, the people of all of the states, the people of the United States." **Trumpese-to-English translation: We wanna give away as much public land as quickly as possible to our buddies in extractive industries while we who hold that public lands have zero dollar value are in power.**

- **Trump aims to expand U.S. offshore drilling, despite low industry demand.** Valerie Volcovici, Reuters April 28, 2017. <https://verizon.yahoo.com/news/nod-oil-industry-trump-order-review-offshore-drilling-010643900--finance.html>

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. President Donald Trump signed an executive order on Friday to extend offshore oil and gas drilling to areas that have been off limits, in a move to boost domestic production **just as industry demand for the acreage nears the lowest in years.** This is a clear example of one of the key principles of **Trumponomics™: Buy high, sell low.** The corollary for public land management requires governments to maximize the area of public land leased when the respective commodity prices are in the dumpster, in order to maximize private shareholder value and minimize the return to the people for the loss of their resources.

- **Energy and Environment EPA website removes climate science site from public view after two decades.** Chris Mooney and Juliet Eilperin. The Washington Post April 29, 2017. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2017/04/28/epa-website-removes-climate-science-site-from-public-view-after-two-decades/?tid=pm_business_pop&utm_term=.58053312a4d7

"As EPA renews its commitment to human health and clean air, land, and water, our website needs to reflect the views of the leadership of the agency," J.P. Freire, the agency's associate administrator for public affairs, said in a statement. "We want to eliminate confusion by removing outdated language first and making room to discuss how we're protecting the environment and human health by partnering with states and working within the law."

"The staffer described the process of reviewing the site as "a work in progress, but we can't have information which contradicts the actions we have taken in the last two months," adding that Pruitt's aides had "found a number of instances of that so far" while surveying the site."

Translation: "we can't have *facts* which contradict the *lies we have spewed* in the last two months,"

"We want to eliminate confusion by removing outdated language first and making room to discuss how we're protecting the environment and human health by partnering with states and working within the law."

Translation: “We want to *sow* confusion by removing *facts* first and making room for *dissembling and misinformation to pretend* we’re protecting the environment and human health by partnering with states *that we already know are in the pockets of industry* and working within the laws *which we know are inadequate and not really enforced anyway, until we can get rid of those pesky regulations altogether.*”

Dave Moscatello

Future Energy - Conservation Subcommittee Report April 2017 – Dave Moscatello

Future Energy - Conservation Subcommittee Report May 2017

Attended several "Ready for 100 - Philadelphia" meetings.

Tabled for Sierra Club at Philly Food Fest, Saturday April 8, 2017.

Prepared additional background information / written testimony on green jobs in support of Ready for 100 (document on Rf100 Google Drive) for City Council.

Participated in the Philadelphia Science March, Saturday, April 22, 2017.

Next Green Justice Philly coordinating committee meeting, Friday May 5, 2017.

Agenda

- **Introductions**
- **Approval** of [Mar minutes](#) (w/ updates) and [Apr minutes](#)
- **Announcements**, agenda updates
- **Treasurers Report** – [spreadsheet here](#) (only ExCom members can see)
- **Politics**
- **Member Engagement**
 - Welcome New Members Letter – 373 since Apr 1
- **Communications**
 - [Spring Newsletter](#)
 - Summer – send date ... July 15?
 - Web Updates – new platform is live, auto-redirect on
 - Address Aliases: www.sierraclub.org/pennsylvania/southeastern
www.sierraclub.org/pa-spg
sc.org/pa-spg
 - Social Media - new facebook?
- **Educational Programs**
 - Pipeline Forum (ME2) in East Goshen, May 4
 - May CCP program?
 - Proposal from Bob Pollet – local Env TV commercials
- **Sign-on letter opposing repeal of new parks letter** - [here](#)
- **Outreach**
 - Tabling Coordinator – Emily
- **Outings**
 - Outings Calendar
 - Chapter outing – July 28 – Hickory Run SP
 - Tree Hugger Day at a Phillies Game – response not overwhelming
- **DEP's EJ Tour** - [info](#)
 - Dates for our area – May 23 in Delco, May 25 in Phila
 - Volunteer Op to assist in getting people to testify
- **Resist**
 - Defending the EPA – May 11 action at Reg 3 HQ (need campfire)
 - Peoples Climate March – [Info Page](#) – 10 buses from Phila, 200,000 in DC
- **ExCom NomCom**
 - N/A
- **Conservation Committees**
 - Ready For 100 - PHL
 - Survey on Energy Mast Plan
 - Met w/ OOS about Mayors 4 Clean Energy
 - Funds request
 - Ready For 100 – Burbs
 - Expenses from PCM promo
 - Gas Leak Monitoring – **Funds Request** – status?
- **ExCom Meeting Calendar** – do we want to pencil in any off-campus meetings? Call-in only?