

**Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting**  
**August 2, 2017 Meeting**  
**City Coho**

**ExCom Members Attending:** Pat Beaudet, Mathew Himmelein, Alexa Manning, Dave Moscatello, Margaret Nersten, Prasad Ramnath, Jim Wylie

Attending by Phone: Dennis Winters, Ken Hemphill

**ExCom Members Absent:** Gerald Brown, John Butler

**Other Members Attending:** Jim Kaff, Emily Davis, Karen Melton, Kevin Little, Amy Kwasnicki, Amy Kamerdze, Allison Chabot

The Meeting was called to order by Jim Wylie and 6:15. [agenda](#)

Secretary: The minutes were accepted with corrections. [See attached](#)

Treasurer: Balance in C4 account is \$6029

Expenditures this month: \$200 - coho rent

\$355 - East Goshen Safety & Environmental Advocates Website

Establishment. This is part of Bernie Greenberg's Pipeline Grant

**Standing Committee Reports**

***Conservation Committee:*** (Jim Wylie)

***SEPTA Gas Plant:***

Karen and Dave are preparing a letter asking the Health Department's Air Management Services to deny the permit necessary for construction to begin on SEPTA's Gas powered generating plant in Nicetown. This is a campaign of 350.org which we have been supporting. Sierra club has an electric vehicle campaign that supports goals that align with this project. A email support vote will be taken.

There is a constituent meeting in Cindy Bass's district on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August.

***Campaign Consolidation:***

Sierra Club's fossil fuel campaigns have been joined together in to the Dirty Fuels Campaign.

Kelly Martin is directing.

***Mariner East Pipeline:*** (Alexa)

Recently, I have been very involved with the ME2 pipeline issues in Uwchlan Twp, meeting with my state rep, attending local meetings and rallies re: environmental public health impacts and on conference calls with the mariner east group, Karen Feridun, Clean Air a Council, etc. We have a legislators' sign on letter that just went out to all state reps with over 1,200 signatures. ( Bernie was the first to sign and I am #84).

Townships in Chester County are all forming coalitions with a larger loosely based coalition led by Lynda Farrell and Karen Feridun and others. Litigation has been proceeding too as you know. Dinniman has led the way and Comitta, Krueger-Branekty, Quin have signed on asking for a halt in construction. Many thanks to Bernie and everyone education and fighting this for a long time. The momentum is growing rapidly now that is is HERE. Awful. This has to stop one way or another and we're fighting at all levels on all fronts. I will let you know when there may be a Day of Action and appreciate SC help.

***Philadelphia Ready for 100:*** The team is planning a launch party for September 28 at the Ethical Society on Rittenhouse Square

***Future Energy Sub Committee*** (Dave)

[See attached](#) articles and links

Renewable Energy Drumpfs of the Month ([see attached](#))

***Political Committee:*** (Alexa Manning)

Chester County Political Committee report: We are in the process of reviewing previously interviewed candidates and will interview additional local race candidates to consider for endorsement by the deadline in August.

John Butler is running for Maple Township Commissioner

Bret Binder, who we endorsed 4 years ago is a candidate for judge. The position for which he is running does out community service assignments.

The endorsement votes will be done by email poll. See [addendum](#)

**Newsletter/Communications:** (Ken Hemphill)

**Education Committee:** (Karen Melton)

Karen reported that she plans to have monthly program, September to June. The Fall program is:

September: Joanne Kilgore – Harrisburgh Update

October: Chari Towne – Schuylkill River Clean-up

November?: Office of Sustainability or Ready For 100 or Energy Coordinating Agency –

Mat said he could speak for this group.

She plans to return to sending postcards but one for listing several Programs

Dates have been set for the Fall film series for 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of the month. in West Chester.

The activist call will continue to include a mini-program and we are looking for ideas.

**Nomination Committee:** (Alexa Manning)

The committee is still looking for a third person.

## **Old Business**

### **County committees:**

Jim is working on connecting the county conveners. He reports that we are looking for another convener for Montgomery County.

#### **Bucks County Report**

Presad moved that we support the Bucks County group with \$80.00 for the purchase of a banner. Pat seconded. The motion passed

#### **Chester County Report**

### **New Membership Engagement:**

There was discussion of contacting new members, perhaps by phone as email has not been effective in making connections. There are about 50 new members from each county each month. Jim the suggested we could robo call program. Having an event specifically for new members was suggested as a possibility. Amy said such an event should be listed on campfire.

### **Outings:**

Amy Kwasicki said there would be meeting for people interested in learning about becoming outings leaders on August 14 in the Muir Woods room. This session includes all types of outings (general member outings, veterans outings and ICO (Inspiring Connections Outdoors - youth oriented outings). Jim Kaff reported that there were still spots for the moonlight paddle on Giving pond on August 25 in Upper Black Eddy.

## **New Business**

### **Middletown Coalition for Community Safety**

Amy Kamerdze and Allison Chabot requested support for their organization which is fighting the Mariner East Pipeline. The Group has 40 active members and about 2000 Facebook friends. The group is hoping to get 501(c) 3 status and would like financial support for the fees and legal support necessary to obtain this status. Jim moved we support the Middletown Coalition's efforts to obtain 501(c)3 status with a grant of \$500. Dennis will check with National. The discussion was tabled. Amy will send more information about the specific goals that 501(c)3 status would allow them to achieve.

**Announcements:** Meeting Call-in Number: 1-866-501-6174, PIN is 1004100#.

## **Agenda**

- **Introductions**
- **Approval** of [July minutes](#)
- **Announcements**, agenda updates
- **County Organizing** – meet the county leaders, status, needs
- **Mariner East Pipeline** – support for local resistance proposal
- **Treasurers Report** – [spreadsheet here](#) (only ExCom members can see)
  - Review 2017 budget – do we want to make any changes in allocations?
  - RF100/PHL funding request - \$250 for launch event
- **Letter to Phila Gov about SEPTA CHP Plant - ?** – Dave
- **Politics**
  - Nominees: Binder (Magistrate Judge), Craig (Phoenixville Mayor), DiCampello (Bristol Supervisor)
    - Deadline – Aug 10
- **Member Engagement**
  -
- **ExCom NomCom**
  - Call for nominees. Notice in summer newsletter
  - NomCom Cmte.
  - Need final list and decision of current ExCom members on whether they will be running again by Oct 1 (?)
- **Communications**
  - Summer Newsletter
    - Draft available?
    - News from chapter – no more paper !!
    - send date ... July ??
  - Social Media
    - Communications planning meeting – week of Aug 14 – facilitated by Tom Torres
- **Educational Programs**
  - Mini-programs – on hiatus for Aug.
    - Nominees for fall?
  - New lecture series with West Chester University – 1<sup>st</sup> Advisory Board Meeting Aug 15
  - Need a web page
- **Outreach**
  - Tabling Coordinator – Emily
  - Greenfest – coordinating cmte meeting Aug 3
  - Shall we have a “hike for Bill” ?
- **Outings**
  - Outings Calendar
  - Chapter outing – heard it was good
- **PA Clean Energy Planning Meeting** – report from Aug 1 & 2 meetings in H'burg
- **Conservation Committees**
  - Ready For 100 - PHL
    - Workshop held for Phila volunteers – about 35 attended, 5 subcommittees
    - Expanding organization,
    - Statewide coordination
    - Council meetings ongoing, drafting resolution w/ input from community groups
    - Launch party in planning for late Sep
    - Targeting big splash at Greenfest
  - Ready For 100 – Burbs
    - Planning a workshop for municipal officials
  - PA Nuclear Bailout – 1-page SC position paper available.

---

## Reports

### **Bucks County Sierra Club Report July 2017**

Report from the Ban the Fracking action in New Jersey 7/25/2017:

A group of about 25 members of Sierra Club and other environmental organizations met at the State Annex Building where Chris Christie moved his offices during renovations. There was a half hour news conference with about 7 reporters. Jeff Tittel, Chapter Chair of Sierra Club New Jersey spoke, along with Tracy Carluccio of Delaware Riverkeepers, and representatives of Food and Water Watch and Clean Water Council. During the speeches, a long printed roll of paper was rolled out with 9000 names, a small number of the over 60,000 names collected asking for a permanent ban on fracking in the Delaware river basin area. The petitions themselves were presented to representatives of the governor's office while the vocal crowd chanted on the steps. Other actions in this week of Ban Fracking actions in lux: presentation of the Ban to the New York Governor on Monday, the Delaware governor on Wednesday, a news conference and presentation to Governor Wolf on Thursday, and the final presentation to the Army Corp of Engineers offices in Philadelphia on Friday.

RF100 AddUp Campaign for Bristol Township launched

<https://www.addup.org/campaigns/readyfor100-in-bristol-township>

Bucks County Website updated

<http://www.sierraclub.org/pennsylvania/southeastern/bucks-county>

Bucks County Group meeting held on July 22, 2017

Ban Fracking (Submitted by Sharon Furlong)

On Thursday, July 27th, several people spoke at a press conference in the Rotunda in the State Capital Building in Harrisburg regarding the need for Governor Wolf to enact a complete and total Ban on Fracking in the Delaware River Basin. The speakers were: Tracy Carluccio of Delaware Riverkeepers Network, Karen Feridun, a longtime activist from Berks Gas Group, Joanne Kilgore of the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Sierra Club, and *Sharon Furlong of Bucks Environmental Action (and Bucks County Sierra Club)*. Each person spoke of the different reasons why a permanent ban is needed and how the Governor must act in order to preserve the health of the people, plants and animals and fish, land and water resources, and against the greed and the short sightedness of the natural gas industry and the pipeline companies. A scroll containing a portion of the over 63,500 signatures amassed in the ban were printed up along a declaration of the group's intent. It was displayed for the cameras and then was presented to the aide of Governor Wolf after the conference was over. A video of this conference can be seen at the DRN Facebook page. [Back](#)

## **Chester County**

### The Fountain

Thanks to Jim Salva from Friends of Marshal Square Park for giving us a very nice, short, history of the park (perhaps the first arboretum in PA) and commissioning (in 1889), demise in the 1950s, and rediscovery/resurrection in 2012.

Fascinating. Perhaps we will organize another presentation, with a bit more pub, in the near future. To see some photos of the fountain through the years, AND MAKE A DONATION, please visit <https://marshallsquarepark.org/>

### Chester County Outings

Brigitte Anderson has volunteered to coordinate with park rangers for hikes in Valley Forge and Coventry Woods - probably in Sep.

Carol Armstrong is working on a cleanup service outing at the Heinze Refuge.

### Mariner East Pipeline

Bernie reported:

1. Construction continues in Chesco (East Goshen and Uwchalan townships) Delco and west of us.

2. The judge would not issue a ruling in the West Goshen litigation regarding township ordinances banning pipeline construction in residential areas. He implied that this would be a "landmark" decision that he was not able to make. The good news is that he did not just dismiss this case which is being appealed.
3. The Middletown Coalition litigation regarding setback ordinances is still pending as is the case against Sunoco's ability to use eminent domain (is it really a public utility) will be heard next year in Federal court in Philly. Also pending is the litigation against PA DEP for approving Sunoco's technically flawed environmental permit applications.
4. Pipeline advocacy groups have recently been formed in East Goshen and Uwchalan townships with the following goals:
  - a. Make ME 2 as safe as possible. Sunoco's assurances don't suffice.
  - b. Develop area wide evacuation plans (none have been written) to include schools.
  - c. Educate the residents on the risks associated with ME 2.
  - d. Work to ensure that townships have enforceable local ordinances to prevent any further pipelines from crossing through Chester County.

Check out the evolving Web Series produced by the Middletown Coalition - <https://marinereasttheseries.com/>

Today's status (StateImpact) – Sunoco has agreed to halt drilling operations related to the Mariner East 2 pipeline construction in Chester County, where several dozen residents have been without water for the past week due to aquifer intrusion by horizontal directional drilling. [Read more >>](#)

### **Open Space Preservation**

The [Paint Chester County](#) project is up to about 34 registered artists. The show and fundraiser will be on Nov 4 at Galer Estate Vineyard in southern CC. If you'd like to help with promotion or day-of tasks, contact Ken.

The [Crebilly Farm](#) continues to hold hearings to get community input about permitting issues. Ken is going to be tabling at the [West Chester Turks Head](#) Music Festival on Sunday, July 16 (tomorrow). If anyone wants to help, contact me or [kenne.hemphill@gmail.com](mailto:kenne.hemphill@gmail.com)

### **West Goshen**

Susan is working with some other West Goshen residents to establish a Sustainability Committee for West Goshen Twp. Perhaps with an eye towards forming a formal Environmental Advisory Cmte. Perhaps with a priority of promoting renewable energy. Just getting started. If you live in WG and want to join the team, contact Susan Charkes [susan@susancharkes.com](mailto:susan@susancharkes.com)

### **Don't Spray Me**

Margaret Hudgings is leading and block captains are passing out info packets to residents.

### **Fall Film Festival**

Margaret Hudgings is leading a cmte to plan for 3 or 4 film viewings at WCU focused on pollutants and harmful chemicals in our environment. Details coming shortly.

### **WCU/Sierra Club Lecture Series**

Jim is forming an advisory board. Volunteers needed.

[Back](#)

## **Future Energy - Conservation Subcommittee Report August 2017 - DKM New Battery That Could Be Charged in Seconds Developed at Drexel University**

<https://www.inc.com/yoram-solomon/a-drexel-university-discovery-could-be-the-tipping.html>

## **Solid-state batteries: Why Toyota's plans could be a game-changer for EVs**

Gary S. Vasilash, Autoblog July 25, 2017

<https://verizon.yahoo.com/finance/news/solid-state-batteries-why-toyota-172700884.html>

## **Scientists Just Discovered a Material that Cools Roofs & Homes with Zero Energy Required**

Trevor Nace, Contributor, Forbes

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/trevornace/2017/07/28/scientists-just-discovered-material-cools-roofs-homes-zero-energy-required/#70b3b06758da>

## **How Solar Windows Could Put Transparent Panels Everywhere**

By Avery Thompson, Popular Mechanics [July 2017]

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/science/green-tech/amp27521/the-science-behind-solar-windows/>

## **Tesla's Solar Roof is Actually Cheaper Than a Normal Roof**

Melissa Massello apartment therapy Jul 29, 2017

<http://www.apartmenttherapy.com/teslas-solar-roof-is-actually-cheaper-than-a-normal-roof-248454?hl=1&noRedirect=1>

Orders are now being taken for the Tesla Solar Roof at a price of \$21.85 per square foot, which is nearly 20 percent less than the cost of a normal roof — even without factoring in the energy savings. Tesla's Solar Roof tiles are made of glass over a photovoltaic substrate as a replacement for traditional roofing materials.

...Tesla is packaging the system along with its forthcoming Powerwall 2.0 — a battery storage device with a built-in inverter that connects to your home's electrical system, which will cost an additional \$6,500 but could essentially take your house completely off the grid with 100 percent renewable energy, Musk promises.

"We offer the best warranty in the industry—the lifetime of your house, or infinity, whichever comes first," a Tesla rep told Inverse.

## **A Massive 2GW Wind Farm Is Coming to Oklahoma, and AEP Wants to Own It**

by [Julia Pyper](#) GreenTech Media July 27, 2017

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/aep-ge-inenergy-oklahoma-mega-wind-farm>

Oklahoma ...will soon become home to one of the largest wind farms in the nation. Invenenergy and GE North America announced yesterday they're building a 2,000-megawatt wind project in the Oklahoma panhandle, which, upon completion, could hold the title of second-largest wind farm in the world. The Wind Catcher facility will generate electricity from 800 of GE's state-of-the-art 2.5-megawatt turbines that will be installed, owned and operated by Chicago-based Invenenergy. The project is already under construction and expected to be fully on-line by 2020.

## **Minnesota co-op plans state's biggest energy storage project**

**Written by Frank Jossi July 28, 2017**

<http://midwestenergynews.com/2017/07/28/minnesota-co-op-plans-states-biggest-energy-storage-project/>

Minnesota's largest retail electric cooperative is in negotiation with vendors to build the largest storage energy project in the state alongside three solar installations. Connexus Energy plans to install storage capable of storing 20 megawatts, the equivalent of 40 MW hours of energy, according to Brian Burandt, vice president of power supply and business development. The battery storage installations would be co-located at the solar sites, Burandt said. The co-op is "still in negotiation" about the solar projects.

[\*\*Back\*\*](#)

## Renewable Energy Drumpfs of the Month:

As reported in "The Energy 202" in **The Washington Post**:

-- While President Trump has rolled back several Obama-era rules regulating the coal industry, his push specifically for "clean coal" — "we're going to have clean coal, really clean coal," he said in March — has so far been largely rhetorical.

On Wednesday (7/12), Sens. Heidi Heitkamp (D-N.D.), Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.), Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) and John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) will introduce a bill to strengthen tax credits for "carbon capture and storage" projects -- or CCS for short. Still, some environmental groups, such as the Sierra Club, say the technological challenge of making CCS work at scale is too great and that there is no guarantee any carbon dioxide stored deep in the Earth won't one day leak and still warm the planet. **To boot, the economic viability of carbon-capture technology, even with government support, remains an open question.** Last month, a flagship power plant in Mississippi meant to showcase "clean coal" with Energy Department grant money [shuttered](#) its carbon-capture operation after years of financial difficulties.

The existing law gives firms a \$20 tax credit for each metric ton of carbon dioxide stored underground and \$10 for each metric ton used in enhanced oil recovery — amounts, Crabtree said, that were not enough to spark private research and development. **The bill would up the current tax credit values to \$50 and \$35 per metric ton, respectively. Indeed, [modeling from the Energy Department](#) suggests that tax credits that high will boost CCS deployment.**

**Under the Trump budget, research and development into carbon capture would be slashed to \$16 million from \$101 million while research and development funds for carbon storage would be cut to \$15 million from \$106 million.**

-- **Trump is set to tap longtime coal lobbyist for EPA's No. 2 spot:** "President Trump will nominate a prominent coal lobbyist and former Senate aide, [Andrew Wheeler](#), to serve as the Environmental Protection Agency's deputy administrator, according to two senior administration officials," The Post's Juliet Eilperin and Brady Dennis [report](#). "Wheeler, a principal at Faegre Baker Daniels Consulting, is a lobbyist for coal giant Murray Energy and served as a top aide for Sen. James M. Inhofe (R-Okla.) when Inhofe chaired the Senate Environment Committee. He has represented Murray Energy — whose chief executive, Bob Murray, is a prominent supporter of the president — since 2009."

-- **Pruitt's "top-10" list:** "Pruitt vowed Tuesday to cut through bureaucratic red tape that has slowed the cleanup of toxic Superfund sites and follow a task force's recommendations to act more boldly in holding companies responsible for past contamination," [reports](#) The Post's Darryl Fears. "Pruitt said the EPA is creating a 'top-10 list' of key sites where nearby residents are in harm's way so that the agency can aggressively address those locations."

**The context:** While scaling back the agency's reach elsewhere, Pruitt has emphasized cleaning up Superfund pollution sites as a priority under his so-called back-to-basics approach at the EPA.

**The problem:** The White House budget actually calls for the EPA to reduce funding for Superfund sites by \$330 million annually.

-- Delaware's Democratic senators [released a joint statement](#) on Tuesday (7/25) calling on the Trump administration to oppose requests from companies that want to conduct seismic surveys in the Atlantic Ocean in order to map sites for offshore drilling. Sens. Christopher A. Coons and Thomas R. Carper, the top Democrat on the Senate Environment and Public Works committee, said their opposition reflects concerns from local leaders and members of the coastal communities.

The statement reads: "Their concerns are well-founded. While offshore oil and gas development could present economic benefit in selected areas along the coast, these areas are already the beneficiaries of greater economic benefits derived from and contingent on a healthy, vital and sustainable ocean environment off their shores."

[Back](#)

**Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting  
July 11, 2017 Meeting**

**ExCom Members Attending:** Gerald Brown, Ken Hemphill, Dave Moscatello, Margaret Nersten, Prasad Ramnath, JimWylie

Attending by Phone: Pat Beudet, John Butler, Alexa Manning, Dennis Winters

**ExCom Members Absent:** Mathew Himmelein

**Other Members Attending:** Karen Melton, Emily Davis, Carly Statz, Jim Kaff, Bryan Crenshaw, Jeanne Myers

The Meeting was called to order. [Agenda](#)

Secretary: Minutes were approved as emailed

Treasurer:

Beginning Balance:		<b>\$5,759</b>
Income	:	\$891
Bus Ticket Contributions		\$385
PayPal Transfer		\$306
PayPal Transfer		\$200
Expenses:		\$766
Flyer Reimbursement - Printing		\$201
Rally Bus Ticket Advance		\$365
CityCoHo/Philly Nexus Rent – July		\$200
Ending Balance:		<b>\$5,884</b>

The Graham Huggins fund has \$1050. These funds are allocated for a series of film program in West Chester – to be held at West Chester University

*Budget Reallocation:* Jim pointed out that we are half way through the year and fund allocated for several of the items will not be spent. \$500 was allocated as donations to organizations that have not requested the donation. Since we will not need to print a fall newsletter with a ballot, that line can be reallocated. There was a question about Bernie’s pipeline grant and if those funds are included in this budget. No decisions were made.

*Funding request:* The Philadelphia Ready for 100 team requested funds for a Launch party. The purpose of the event, to be held Thursday, September 28 from 6:00 to 8:00, is to promote the campaign within the community and with city officials as well as attracting new team members. Pat moved we provide the Philadelphia Ready For 100 team with \$250 for the event. Dave seconded. The motion passed

### **Standing Committee Reports**

***Conservation Committee:*** (Jim Wylie)

***Clean Energy for all campaign:*** Jim

Jim asked all members to read the [statement](#) from the national team

***SEPTA Nicetown Plant:*** Karen

Was was a hearing at a rec center in North Philly. The room was packed – 40 people. All comments were opposed to the plant. Karen read Pratima’s letter. The project needs a permit from the Health Department’s Air Management services (AMS) before it can begin construction. AMS sized it as major pollution source. It will take several weeks to process all of the comments. Karen and Dave will draft a letter to the mayor from the Executive Committee regarding this issue.

***PA Nuclear Bailout:***

Tom Torres will be discussing this on a call Thursday July 13.



***Political Committee:*** (Karen Melton)

Jim Kaff from the Bucks County politic team reported that they have interviewed Kris Ballerini who won her primary for supervisor in Upper Makefield Township. Alexa will have candidates to present for Chester County. The Chapter committee has asked for endorsement recommendation. SPG plans to have recommendations ready at the end of August. There was a brief discussion of the endorsement of candidates who are not likely to succeed.

**Newsletter/Communications:** (Ken Hemphill)

*Newsletter:* Ken is working on the final formatting and particularly the links. He has 10 strong articles.  
*Website:* Ken is waiting for content from county groups  
*Instagram:* We have a new account: delawarevalleysierra (DelValSierra)

**Education Committee:** (Karen Melton)

The June program was postponed due to storm warnings. There will be no program in July or August. Karen wants to set all Fall programs now so they can be promoted as a group. She is planning to have Joanne Kilgore present a Harrisburgh update as one program. West Chester will have the Graham Huggins Film program series.

**Nomination Committee:** (Alexa Manning)

There are 11 seats on the SPG executive committee. Each seat has a 2 year term, 6 are elected in even years, 5 in odd years. This year the terms of Jim, Prasad, John, Dennis, Sgt Brown are ending. Bill resigned after being re-elected last year but resigned. Margaret was appointed to his seat. Those interested in running for re-election should let Alexa know. The nominating committee (Alexa, one ExCom members, one non-excom member) is looking for nominations. Alexa will reach out to County leaders.

**Old Business**

**Outreach / Tabling:**

There have been 2 tabling events since the last meeting, Ken tabled at an Open Space event, Sue and Emily tabled at a neighborhood event in North Philly.

We have rented a double space at Green Fest (Sunday September 10) Solar states will be there with us.

**Outings:** Bryan Crenshaw

The Group has 6 trained outings leaders. Recently there have been Kayak trips and walking tours of gardens. A campout for the Vets is planned at Elk Tannery. George Edwards is assisting with the event which is the last weekend in July.

The chapter outing which was listed as full may have openings – it is July 27, 28 and 29. Participants will be sleeping in cabins but providing their own food.

**Member Engagement:**

336 new Member letters have been sent since June 1 (a large number were duplicates).

**Leadership:**

Jim would like to have executive committee members bring action items: proposals, letters of support (or complaint) to the meetings for discussion.

**New Business**

No new business

**Announcements:**

**Meeting Call-in Number:** 1-866-501-6174, PIN is 1004100#.

Email From: Jim Wylie, sent Aug 12

Sent to: Alexa, Dennis, Dave, Emily, Sgt Brown, Karen, Ken, Margaret, Mat, Pat, Prasad, Jim,

As we discussed at the ExCom meeting last Wed, we will be doing a 3-day review and vote on candidates recommended for endorsement by our political leaders.

**The candidates are:**

Bret Binder – Magisterial District Judge, Chester County, D, recommended by Wylie

Nate Craig – Mayor of Phoenixville Borough, Chester County, G, recommended by Manning & Wylie

Mary LaSota – Supervisor, West Goshen Twp, Chester County, D, recommended by Manning & Wylie

Robin Stuntebeck – Supervisor, West Goshen Twp, Chester County, D, recommended by Manning & Wylie (There are 2 open seats in the West Goshen Supervisor race. Mary and Robin are running a “joint campaign”.)

Ann DiCompello – Council, Bristol Twp, Bucks County, G, recommended by Kaff

Kris Ballerini – Supervisor, Upper Makefield, Bucks County, D, recommended by Kaff

John Butler - Council, Marple Township, Delaware County

**The Executive Committee approved the endorsement of all seven candidates**

Here’s the process.

- Review the endorsement request forms for each of the candidates. The endorsement request forms, interview notes and questionnaire responses are [HERE](#) – 4 in Chesco, 2 in Bucks.
- Discussion via email. Reply-all to this mail.
- The review period will be 3 days. On Tue, 8/15, we will vote (ExCom voting members only). I’ll set up a google form, I think that will be the cleanest.
- If anyone requests a conf call, we can do that on Monday evening. Let’s say 8pm.
- The PA ExCom meeting is Aug 22 where they will be voting on our recommendations. I need to submit to Dave H by end of 8/15.

[Questionnaires](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B28yV9yCsnvMN19GSGZXMzlnWUk) (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B28yV9yCsnvMN19GSGZXMzlnWUk>)

John filled out a response to our questionnaire (Delco file), but no “interview” was done. John is a member of the SPG ExCom. I think we know John, but if anyone has any questions regarding this campaign – fire away.

Other notes of interest (from Jim)–

**Robin and Mary** in West Goshen were interviewed by a team in the spring before the primary. We liked both, but we decided to defer till after the primary to consider endorsement. Robin and Mary won the Dem primary and now face 2 Rep for 2 open seats in West Goshen Twp. The big issue in WG right now is the Mariner East 2 pipeline. Their statement re the pipeline is that they plan to hold Sunoco to the agreement WG has made with Sunoco. A week statement at best. The Rep candidates are pro-pipeline.

**Nate Craig**, candidate for Phoenixville Mayor, is a Green Party candidate. Phoenixville is a progressive borough. The current mayor signed the Mayors For Clean Energy pledge (part of the Ready For 100 campaign). The current mayor is not running for reelection (term limited??). He has endorsed the Dem candidate (who did not return our invitation for endorsement interview and who has very little about the environment on his campaign website). Nate is young and politically inexperienced, but he really knows the env issues and is very pro clean energy transition. And he has done his homework about local municipal processes and politics. Is there a chance that the two progressive candidates will split the D vote and hand the win to the very-weak-on-environment R candidate? Nate doesn’t think so. He has a plan to win this race and the Green Party is backing him as a showcase candidate.

**Bret Binder**, candidate for Magisterial District Judge, - I was initially planning to skip this request as not being in strategic interest of Sierra Club. A magisterial judge does not create legislation or even determine if any legislation is constitutional. I called Bill Brainerd and asked if there was any precedent for endorsing a local judge. He said yes. And we should consider that if we like the candidate he might go on to higher office. And Bret was endorsed previously for PA house race. Bill knew of Bret, likes him and recommended endorsement. Bret is a big open space advocate.

[Back](#)