

Sierra Club of Pennsylvania, Southeastern PA Group Executive Committee Meeting

July 10, 2019 Meeting
City Coho

ExCom Members Attending: Pratima Agrawal, Tim Beckham, John Butler, Sue Edwards, Jim Kaff, Kevin Little, Dave Moscatello, Jim Wylie

ExCom Members Absent: Prasad Ramnath

Other Members Attending: Karen Melton, Amy Kwasnicki, Meenal Raval, Emily Davis

The Meeting was called to order by Jim at 6:20. [agenda](#)

Secretary: (Emily Davis) no minutes presented

Treasurer: (Emily Davis)

C4: Checking Account: **\$13,666.44** (balance) (income, expenses from June 5)
Income: \$10,000.00 loan from Jim Wylie
\$ 1,075.00 Donations
Expenditures: \$ 3,091.59 includes Strawberry Festival, Arbor Day, Outings
PayPal Account: **\$ 1,909.85** (2019 balance, only)
Income: \$ 2,625.58 Donations, From Jan 1, 2019
Expenditures: \$ 715.73 includes Zoom, Website, RF 100 Philly, from Jan 1, 2019
C3: Balance: **\$ 8,749.88**
Jim discussed the current treasury situation

SPG Volunteer of the Year Presentation:

Jim presented Meenal Raval with a trophy honoring her work in advocating for a better climate. (Trophy showed Meenal at a microphone as she often is at various hearings.) Meenal also hosts a local radio program called *Philly Climate Talks*. The program is also available as a blog with links to research. She also has a monthly column in *Grid Magazine*. She welcomes ideas for both.

Standing Committee Reports

Nomination Committee: There are seats to fill on the executive committee.

Conservation Committee: (Jim Wylie, Dave)

Ready For 100:

Philadelphia: Pratima reported that the team was scheduling meetings with city council members. The team has developed a packet of materials that they will be presenting to the council members.

Montgomery County: On June 29th, Lou Anne Merkle, Bill Sabey and their team held a conference for the 10 municipalities that have signed on to Ready for 100. Representatives from 19 municipalities were present. Julia Griffin, a town manager from Hanover, NH, which signed on to Ready for 100 in 2017 was the keynote speaker. The program also included small group sessions.

Chester County: The team is meeting with the public and elected officials to envision the transition to clean energy

Delaware County: The Delaware County team is co-hosting a renewable energy expo on August 3 at Penn State's Brandywine campus.

Solarize Southeast PA: Meenal reported that this project is like Solarize Philly. They are working on municipal solar aggregation, identifying installers, group discounts and permitting. Lawn signs are available.

Plastics: Bag bans have been introduced in a number of towns but at the State level there is push back in the form legislation barring on bans or taxes on plastic bags by municipalities

Fighting Fossil Fuel Expansion: We are part of a coalition of groups are fighting the LNG plant proposed by PGW on the Schuylkill River in South Philadelphia.

Future Energy Report: Dave

Political Committee: (Robin Mann, Jim Wylie)

None of the county endorsement teams were ready to present candidates. Most of the counties are in the process of planning meetings with candidates.

Newsletter/Communications:

Karen reported that a summer newsletter had been sent out. The SPG newsletter has merged with the *Sylvanian* (Chapter Newsletter). Eleven of the 14 articles in the newsletter were written by SPG members. The deadline for the next newsletter is August 15.

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

The next education even, a showing of the film “Tapped” is being done in conjunction with Weaver’s Way Coop on Tuesday July 23 in the backyard of the Chestnut Hill branch of the coop. We will have a table there. Karen is working on a talk by a Penn State professor on plastics in the fall

New Member Engagement: no report

Outings: (Jim Kaff, Amy Kwasnicki)

The annual Chapter outing is this coming weekend. Also planned are a hike at Heinz National Wildlife Refuge and camping/canoe trip in the Pine Barrens. There are a number of new outings leaders who will begin leading outings in the fall.

Pat Beudet reported that she is organizing a boat trip to Bartram’s garden from Walnut Street on the Schuylkill Banks Park which would take place either Sept 22 or October 6 and be 3 hours in length. She explained cost options and asked us to consider reserving the whole boat since seats would be least expensive that way. Amy moved that we reserve the whole boat at a cost of \$800. The motion passed.

Old Business

Fund Raising (Jim)

An email has been sent to a list of about 400 past donors to either the chapter or the group. The plan is to follow up with telephone calls. Joanne Kilgour and Zakia Elliot will make calls to the A list.

All ExComm members agreed to make about 20 calls. Jim will draft a call script and divide the list.

There will be a training on zoom.

New Business

Announcements:

Meeting Call-in Number:

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

Agenda

- **Introductions** (as needed)
- **Approve June meeting minutes** ([draft notes here](#), if Emily formalizes before meeting we can approve)
- **Volunteer Recognition**
- **Treasurers Report**
- **Fundraising**
 - Emails have gone out to the list of previous SPG donors – about 400
 - A little over \$2,200 in response to emails (online donations)
 - Remember that \$1,000 bequest from last Dec? That came in. I'm counting that for fundraising.
 - We have a \$5,000 (c3) + \$5,000 (c4) matching challenge from anonymous donor.
 - Next step is follow-up calls
 - Need 15 volunteers to make about 20 calls each
 - Joanne & Zakia will make calls to "A-List" volunteers
 - [GoFundMe](#) for PurpleAir monitors is live, but we haven't promoted yet
- **Political Endorsements**
 - Focus on county commissioner races
 - Delco team set a deadline of 7/18 to receive questionnaires from candidates
 - Local as we have volunteer capacity
 - Our deadline is to have **SPG recommendations done by Aug 17** so as to be considered by PA Chapter on Aug 24. So we can plan to vote on endorsements at the Aug 7 ExCom for all that are ready and have a special Zoom mtg the week after for any others.
- **Outings**
- **Education**
 - SE PA Sierra Club is collaborating with Weaver's Way Co-op Plastic Reduction Task Force for an outdoor screening of the film Tapped -- about water rights, bottled water and plastic trash. All are welcome -- July 23rd, Chestnut Hill Weaver's Way backyard. Flyer attached.
 - Have you all been keeping up with [Philly Talks Climate](#)?
- **Newsletter**
 - the '[Summer](#)' issue was published in late June. 11 of 14 articles were from SE PA writers. The Sylvanian and the SE PA newsletters have been merged. Most articles will be published state-wide, with some locally focused articles published in the SE PA version only. The next issue is targeted for publication on September 15th, with **articles due August 15th**.
- **Conservation**
 - **RF100**
 - Philly – meeting w/ council (sitting and candidates)
 - Montco – Energy Leaders Kickoff event
 - Chesco – Solar Tour in Oct, [West Chester area energy planning](#)
 - Delco – RE Expo in Aug at PSU/Brandywine
 - Muni-Solar-Aggregation Projects
 - [Solarize Southeast PA](#)
 - **Plastics**
 - Philly – bag ban introduced by Squilla on June 27
 - West Chester – bag ban approved for hearing on July 17
 - PA – forbids muni restrictions on bags until July, 2020.
 - WC may challenge
 - **Resisting fossil fuel expansion in Phila**
 - SPETA gas plant
 - PGW LNG plant
 - LNG plant across the river
 - PES refinery explosion

POLITICS

PowerPost Analysis

The Energy 202: Democrats' climate debate debate is not going away. By Dino Grandoni The Washington Post June 14, 2019. https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-energy-202/2019/06/14/the-energy-202-democrats-climate-debate-debate-is-not-going-away/5d026d971ad2e52ca1223d74/?utm_term=.b924072e5798

N.J. takes two steps back toward program. The rules aim at rejoining Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative.

By Mike Catalin AP The Philadelphia Inquirer Tuesday June 18, 2019, pB2

EPA official resigns amid ethics probe. Bill Wehrum, who helped roll back rules, is accused of improperly aiding ex-clients. By Michael Biesecker AP The Philadelphia Inquirer Thursday June 27, 2019, pA10

Trump is gutting fuel standards to the point where automakers are begging him to stop. Mark Sumner Daily Kos Staff DAILY KOS Wednesday July 03, 2019.

<https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2019/7/3/1869238/-Trump-is-gutting-fuel-standards-to-the-point-where-auto-makers-are-begging-him-to-stop?detail=emaildkre>

POLICY

City to pay \$8.4M of toxic cleanup. The federal Superfund site, bordering the Eastwick neighborhood, is in its final stage of remediation By Frank Kummer Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday June 12, 2019, pB1

America's air quality is stagnating. By Seth Borenstein and Nicky Forster Associated Press The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday June 19, 2019, pA4

FOSSIL FUEL ISSUES

Bucks pipeline battle heats up. Adelphia Gateway plan still needs approvals. Local officials, residents fight it. By Vinny Vella STAFF WRITER The Philadelphia Inquirer Tuesday June 4, 2019, pB1

NATURAL GAS. Quiet plan to create LNG storage. Environmentalists say DuPont's former Repauno plant in Glouco is part of a stealth export effort. By Andrew Maykuth Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Monday June 10, 2019, pA1

Exclusive: Natural gas driller lays off employees. By Paul J. Gough, Pittsburgh Business Times June 11, 2019. Range Resources Corp., one of the largest natural gas production companies in the region, on Tuesday laid off about 40 employees.

<https://www.bizjournals.com/pittsburgh/news/2019/06/11/exclusive-natural-gas-driller-lays-off-employees.html?ana=yahoo&yptr=yahoo>

Shale-gas export pier wins OK. Delaware River officials rejected environmentalists' pleas for further study at the former explosives factory. By Andrew Maykuth Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Thursday June 13, 2019, pA9

Council approves LNG facility. The liquefied natural gas plant will be built at PGW's Passyunk Plant. Climate activists were opposed. By Andrew Maykuth Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Friday June 14, 2019, pA7

Fire 'like a nuclear bomb' rips through Philadelphia refinery. By Jarrett Renshaw, Reuters June 21, 2019

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/fire-burns-control-philadelphia-refinery-094206534.html>

EDITORIAL Be proactive, not reactive. The Philadelphia Inquirer Monday June 24, 2019, pA8

In a city with high residential density, it's crucial to plan for environmental safety, such as with an oil refinery.

The U.S. government has studied the longest oil spill in history — 14 years after the leak began. By Darryl Fears The Washington Post June 24, 2019.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2019/06/24/fourteen-years-after-it-started-federal-government-has-studied-longest-oil-spill-history/?utm_term=.27027af27bfc&wpisrc=nl_most&wpmm=1

Fire could push refinery closer to brink. The cost of replacing equipment could top \$100 million. PES may not have the financial resources. By Andrew Maykuth Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Tuesday June 25, 2019, pA1

<https://digital.olivesoftware.com/Olive/ODN/PhiladelphiaInquirer/Default.aspx>

Refinery has long been a worry to neighbors. Explosion has drawn new attention to the single largest air polluter in Philadelphia. By Frank Kummer Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Tuesday June 25, 2019, pA2

Is President Donald Trump losing his fight to save coal? Third major company since May files for bankruptcy. Kristin Lam USA Today Thursday, July 4, 2019.

<https://www.yahoo.com/finance/news/president-donald-trump-losing-fight-032519841.html>

CLIMATE CHANGE & ADAPTATIONS

Canada's Wildfire Season Is Off To A Ferocious Start. By Amanda Coletta The Washington Post June 11, 2019. https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/canadas-wildfire-season-is-off-to-a-ferocious-start/2019/06/10/9d2d67bc-88a2-11e9-9d73-e2ba6bbf1b9b_story.html?utm_term=.2c6c74e3a6ce&wpisrc=nl_most&wpmm=1

Planet is entering 'new climate regime' with 'extraordinary' heat waves intensified by global warming, study says. By Jason Samenow The Washington Post June 11, 2019.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/weather/2019/06/11/climate-change-intensified-last-summers-northern-hemisphere-heat-wave-it-may-be-starting-all-over-again/?utm_term=.e8721de16cbd

Global Warming Threatens A Reduction In Sea Life. By Seth Borenstein AP The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday June 12, 2019, pA6

The new plan to remove a trillion tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere: Bury it. By Laura Reiley The Washington Post June 12, 2019

https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2019/06/12/new-plan-remove-trillion-tons-carbon-dioxide-atmosphere-bury-it/?utm_term=.29ce635222ab&wpisrc=nl_most&wpmm=1

Heat records shattered across Europe last week. Brutal temperatures are finally starting to relent. By Ian Livingston Washington Post The Philadelphia Inquirer Tuesday July 2, 2019, pA5

Moody's Analytics says climate change could cost \$69 trillion by 2100. By Steven Mufson The Washington Post July 3, 2019.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/moodys-analytics-says-climate-change-could-cost-69-trillion-by-2100/2019/07/02/f9fb94ac-99cb-11e9-916d-9c61607d8190_story.html?utm_term=.a443f426b21a

Tree planting 'has mind-blowing potential' to tackle climate crisis. Research shows a trillion trees could be planted to capture huge amount of carbon dioxide. Damian Carrington Environment editor The Guardian Thu 4 Jul 2019.

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2019/jul/04/planting-billions-trees-best-tackle-climate-crisis-scientists-canopy-emissions>

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Going Solar. Six Flags Great Adventure Is One Of The First Sun-Powered Theme Parks.

By Frank Kummer Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Thursday June 13, 2019, pB1

BRIEFCASE Green Energy Eclipses Coal. The Philadelphia Inquirer Thursday June 27, 2019, pA14.

The amount of electricity generated by renewable-energy sources in the U.S. topped the amount generated by coal for the first time in April, the US. EIA said Wednesday, by a margin of 68.5 gigawatt-hours to 60.1.

COMMENTARY Can we get serious about green energy? Will Bunch The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday June 26, 2019, pA11

Green advocates eye future uses. Refinery will need years of remediation first. By Frank Kummer Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Thursday June 27, 2019, pA7

New life for 1,400 acres on waterfront? With refinery's closure, some look ahead, ranging from the "realistic" to "once-in-a-generation." By Jacob Adelman Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Thursday June 27, 2019, pA8

N.J. lets contract for ocean wind farm. Danish company plans to build 15 miles off Atlantic City as part of a string along the East Coast. By Christopher Martin BLOOMBERG The Philadelphia Inquirer Saturday June 22, 2019, pA6

Orsted and Germany's EEW Plan Offshore Wind Factory in New Jersey. Paulsboro, New Jersey could become the site of the first major U.S. offshore wind manufacturing facility, producing the enormous foundations for turbines. Karl-Erik Stromsta Greentech Media July 03, 2019.

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/orsted-and-germanys-eew-plan-offshore-wind-factory-in-new-jersey>

UTILITY-SCALE SOLAR

WoodMac: Spanish 'Gold Rush' Helps Fuel New European Solar Boom. Subsidy-free projects, corporate deals, competitive tenders and green-minded politicians. Europe's rebounding solar market has it all.

Karl-Erik Stromsta Greentech Media June 26, 2019

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/spanish-gold-rush-fuels-new-european-solar-boom>

MARKETS & POLICY

Another Wind PTC Extension? No Thanks, Many in Industry Say. Karl-Erik Stromsta Greentech Media June 14, 2019

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/another-wind-ptc-extension-no-thanks-say-many-in-industry>

As clean energy jobs grow, a push for more. With Pa. ranking 11th in such employment, more city incentives, stronger state goals are urged. By Ellie Rushing Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday June 19, 2019, pA9

MICROGRIDS

Remote Alaskan Microgrid Will Use Battery Storage for Seasonal Salmon Surges. The Saft system will cut down on expensive diesel consumption and allow better utilization of local hydropower. Julian Spector, Greentech Media June 12, 2019.

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/remote-alaskan-microgrid-will-use-storage-for-seasonal-salmon-surges>

ENERGY STORAGE

Energy Vault Funding Breathes Life Into Gravity Storage. Recent investments and patent filings indicate growing interest in a class of energy storage concepts that appear seductively simple but have yet to gain commercial traction. Jason Deign Greentech Media June 06, 2019

<https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/energy-vault-funding-breathes-life-into-gravity-storage>

Massive Solar-Storage Project Is Planned for the Nevada Desert. Brian Eckhouse, Bloomberg June 25, 2019. <https://www.yahoo.com/finance/news/massive-solar-storage-project-planned-130000952.html>

L.A. Looks to Break Price Records with Massive Solar-Battery Project. Jeff St. John Greentech Media July 01, 2019. <https://www.greentechmedia.com/articles/read/ladwp-plans-to-break-new-low-price-records-with-massive-solar-battery-proje>

ELECTRIC VEHICLES & TRANSPORTATION

Malvern Firm Gives A Charge To Bus Plan. New electric vehicles in Indianapolis have fallen short on distance. Recharging units will be embedded in the street. By Andrew Maykuth Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Tuesday June 11, 2019, pA7

Bike Lanes For Better Health. By Randy Lobasso And Samantha Mogil The Philadelphia Inquirer Friday June 14, 2019, pA10

Congestion costs go beyond the gas pump. A new study finds that traffic in Center City is costing commuters millions in fuel and time. By Jason Laughlin Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Tuesday June 25, 2019, pB2

CONSERVATION

Pa. trees may not survive climate change. Some iconic species, such as balsam fir and quaking aspen, might fall victim to worsening conditions. By Frank Kummer Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Monday June 3, 2019, pB1

PFAS are found in food as well as water. By Justine McDaniel Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Friday June 7, 2019, pA1

States act as water safety at EPA lags. Unhappy with feds, Pa., NJ., and others move toward their own drinking-water limits. By Justine McDaniel and Laura McCrystal Staff Writers The Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday June 9, 2019, pA1

FDA says no health risk in PFAS test. The agency found the chemicals in food and, despite their links to cancer, dampened concerns in humans. By Justine McDaniel Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday June 12, 2019, pA2

Closing the Loop on Single-use Containers. NJ. company offers delivery and pickup of low-waste groceries.

By Justine McDaniel Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday June 12, 2019, pB2

Bees are hit hard over the winter. By Seth Borenstein AP The Philadelphia Inquirer Thursday June 20, 2019, pA8

Phila. to launch citywide network of compost sites. By Frank Kummer Staff Writer The Philadelphia Inquirer Thursday June 20, 2019, pB1

Bat-Killing Wind Turbines Outfitted With Systems to Stop Carnage. Christopher Martin, Bloomberg June 26, 2019. <https://www.yahoo.com/finance/news/bat-killing-wind-turbines-outfitted-191851343.html>

P&G proposes recyclable diaper. By Olivia Rockeman BLOOMBERG NEWS The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday July 3, 2019, pA9

DRUMPFS OF THE MONTH:

White House blocked intelligence agency's written testimony calling climate change 'possibly catastrophic'. Officials sought to excise the State Department's comments on climate science because they did not mesh with the administration's stance. By Juliet Eilperin, Josh Dawsey and Brady Dennis The Washington Post June 8, 2019.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2019/06/08/white-house-blocked-intelligence-aides-written-testimony-saying-human-caused-climate-change-could-be-possibly-catastrophic/?utm_term=.0e4659c51109&wpisrc=nl_most&wpmm=1

Park fees to pay for Trump's July 4th. The Park Service will use \$2.5 million intended to improve parks across the U.S. Full cost of celebration is not known. By Juliet Eilperin, Dan Lamothe, and Josh Dawsey Washington Post The Philadelphia Inquirer Wednesday July 3, 2019, pA3

Trump is gutting fuel standards to the point where automakers are begging him to stop. Mark Sumner DAILY KOS Wednesday July 03, 2019.

<https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2019/7/3/1869238/-Trump-is-gutting-fuel-standards-to-the-point-where-auto-makers-are-begging-him-to-stop?detail=emaildkre>

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