

## AGENDA

Climate Action Working Group – Marin Conservation League

9-11 AM, Friday, December 5, 2014

### **NOTE CHANGE OF LOCATION!**

San Rafael Corporate Center, Tamalpais Room, 781 Lincoln Ave. San Rafael, CA

1. Brief introductions
2. Approval of agenda
3. Approval of minutes
4. Presentation on energy efficiency programs by Marin Clean Energy, followed by discussion
5. Presentation by Energy Efficiency subcommittee and discussion - Ed
6. Reports
  - a. Community Marin - Nona
  - b. Sustainable groups - Bill
  - c. MCEP - Cory
7. Announcements
8. Next meeting
9. Adjourn

**DRAFT**

**MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE**  
**Climate Action Working Group: October 31, 2014**  
**Mt. Tamalpais Conference Room, 175 N. Redwood Drive, San Rafael**

Present: Co-chairs Pam Reaves and Doug Wilson; also Tamra Peters, Bill Carney, Kate Powers, Nona Dennis, Susan Robinson, Ed Mainland, Steve Turitzin, Roger Roberts, Bob Bundy, Rick Fraites, Tom Flynn, David Haskell, and Kiki LaPorta

Pam and Doug opened the meeting.

**Quick Intros:** Attendees introduced themselves.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Additions to agenda – Nona's report on Community Marin Action Committee; Susan's report on presentation of Santa Venetia's Draft Community Plan to the County Planning Commission. Approved with additions.

**Approval of September 26, 2014 Minutes:** Corrections suggested and minutes approved.

**Reports:**

**1) Marin Clean Energy: Follow-up to presentation by Beckie Menten, MCE Energy Efficiency Director (Ed Mainland)**

Ed circulated copies of his email to Dawn Weisz and the MCE Tech Committee on MCE Resource Planning and Energy Efficiency. Ed appeared before the committee and requested a strategic overhaul of their energy efficiency program. MCE's twin pillars are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through procurement of renewables and through energy efficiency. However there is a disproportion of energy efficiency to the rest of program. MCE has become a clean energy procurement company. Ed said his letter spelled out ideas of how things can be rectified to bring energy efficiency up to what it's supposed to be.

MCE is underfunded by CPUC. Dawn and others at MCE have a plan to breakdown hindrances legally and politically. They need more help in building alliances to support their efforts. This is the time for environmental groups to get behind a reform effort because the old order at CPUC is shaken.

The less energy that's consumed in the County the less energy has to be procured. MCE's Integrated Resource Plan will be finalized in November.

Tamra mentioned California Climate Credit on our PG&E bill as a result of the Global Warming Solutions Act-- we are part of the cap and trade process. \$60 comes off our energy bill twice a year but most are unaware of it.

Tom said there are ways that MMWD can save \$40,000 in energy efficiency on their administration building alone, not including pumping. MMWD is MCE's largest energy customer. The least expensive, cleanest, safest way for MCE to procure power is through efficiency.

The principal of the standard offer approach is to provide a value on energy efficiency that is competitive with the procurement of energy. There are opportunities and many strategies

available on efficiency.

Bill – Is there something MCL, other orgs, CAWG subcommittee, could do to help MCE to do more with energy efficiency? Ed recommended being in touch with MCE's lawyer, Beth Rasmussen, who is in touch with filings at CPUC and try to get in sync so MCL can write letters and weigh in at appropriate times. MCE by itself stands little chance of prevailing at CPUC. MCE needs outside alliance of environmental and civic groups to weigh in with CPUC and augment what MCE is trying to do.

Bob - Energy efficiency economics are not there. It takes tremendous one-on-one education and selling. There are not the economic incentives that solar leases have, for example.

Kiki – The other way to look at it is that energy efficiency is procurement. MCE should change their lens to see that no matter how it's obtained a Megawatt has value. MCE currently is a mini PG&E b/c they are a utility just procuring a different kind of power. Kiki said they're not doing what their mission is to reduce GHGs and energy consumption.

David –MCE cannot carry us to the finish line. The County has a high degree of fragmentation. There's no unified voice. The question is how do we build a new economic and climate prosperity vision.

**Action Item:** Subcommittee formed to delve further into energy efficiency topic. Kiki La Porta, Ed Mainland, Tom Flynn, Steve Turitzin, Bob Spofford, David Haskell will participate. Ed will lead committee. Group will meet and report back at next CAWG meeting.

## **2) Sustainables and 350 Marin (Bill Carney)**

Rising Waters, Rising Voices recent meeting had 10 representatives from different organizations. At the meeting, Leslie Alden, of Kate Sears' office, announced budget hearing on newly available County funds. The staff recommendation at the hearing was for \$250,000 to support County climate vulnerability assessment, \$500,000 for solar on the Civic Center. No action yet. Bill Carney emphasized the need for coordination of all jurisdictions in the County. He would like to see the precedent of this proportion (1/3 to 2/3) of money for adaptation vs. mitigation emphasized. Final vote for appropriation will be November 4.

At Climate Action Plan quarterly update meeting in San Rafael, Cory Bytof, Kate Colin, Paul Jensen of SR all spoke about sea level rise. Cory said Marin Climate and Energy Partnership would be the natural place for coordination of leadership on sea level rise and overall County vulnerability assessment.

BCDC is working with SR in the PDA of the downtown station area and adjacent areas prone to flooding. SR is working on a multi-hazard plan that FEMA requires cities to do including planning for climate change based on Berkeley and Emeryville model plans.

Doug and Bill met with 350 Marin. 350 has approached Christina O'Rourke, a planner, about

doing a forum on engaging the public on the status of climate action plans in the county and developing a scorecard. Tentative date is January 29. Sustainable San Rafael and 350 Marin are partners.

**Action Item:** MCL to evaluate whether they would like to partner in the forum on the status of local climate action plans.

**3) Local Coastal Plan and C-SMART (Collaboration: Sea-level Marin Adaptation Response Team) (Nona)**

C-SMART is being led by Jack Liebster. Meetings are designed to bring attention of sea level rise to those that will be affected in Marin's coastal communities. Three community meetings held recently in Stinson Beach, Tomales Bay, and Point Reyes.

Kate Sears' Sea Level Rise workshop held at Tam High on November 1. It is an attempt to test engagement on sea level rise at the local grassroots level.

**4) Marin School of Environmental Leadership (Tamra Peters)**

MSEL is a program within Terra Linda High with 30 students per grade. The program was started in 2011 by Strategic Energy Innovations' Cyan Dandridge. The program promotes leadership skills and stewardship of the environment. This year, the first group of students will graduate. The students go to meetings, take on internships, work in the community on LEAD projects. Resilient Neighborhoods worked with students last year on a LEAD project. This year it will be part of the curriculum for freshman students.

**5) Marin CAP Draft 2014 Update (Doug)**

Marin County came out with their Climate Action Plan in August. MCL's, Sustainable Marin's and Sustainable San Rafael's comments are online. County is doing well. Emissions have reduced in unincorporated areas by 50% of 1990 levels though the County hasn't begun to address the tougher tasks yet. We've already picked low-lying fruit. It will be hard to get to 80% reductions by 2035.

MCAP did not count carbon sequestration strategies in MCAP solutions. If they included it in MCAP reduction plan, it would close funding loop for cap and trade dollars for groups like the Marin Carbon Project. It avoids double counting but it does mention them in the plan.

The ranchers have challenged the MCAP calculations for the agricultural community. UCCD is examining the County's CAP and saying that ag emissions are much lower because it is not predominately a tilling, cultivating type of agriculture in West Marin, but a grazing agricultural economy.

Urban forests and open space, restoration and expansion of salt marshes, and management of wetlands all contribute to carbon sequestration.

## **6) Community Marin Action Committee (CMAC) (Nona)**

CMAC is a group of individuals from Community Marin that are focused on the absence of coordination around sea level rise. CMAC met with Cory Bytof, current lead of Marin Climate and Energy Partnership, a coordinating body made up of City and County staff members. Sanitation agencies to be next group being contacted by CMAC in planning for sea level rise.

## **7) Santa Venetia Draft Community Plan (Susan Robinson, Nona)**

The Planning Commission didn't accept draft plan because it didn't deliver any recommendations that would serve as guidance to the Planning. It did not address land use or sea level rise. Santa Venetia's two issues are traffic and flooding. Community Plan included more on existing conditions, than policies. Lack of consensus of Santa Venetia residents on issues was blamed. There was consensus on strong community support for open space though. Not enough money or time to make relevant policy recommendations also cited. Staff is going to draft letter to the Board of Supervisors that reflects Planning Commission's decision and that asks them to review their marching orders for the direction and objectives of the Community Plan.

### **Discussion: Best methods to further climate action planning; MCE; MCCMC; moving towards a unified County approach.**

MCEP has added adaptation to its charge as an amendment of their bylaws. They were previously focused on mitigation. MCEP has formed a subcommittee/partnership with Marin County Council of Mayors and Councilmembers (MCCMC). Christine O'Rourke is a consultant for MCEP.

Pam raised governance issue about how and when MCEP's work shifts to bodies where decisions get made in a transparent public process. MCCMC contact is important. Leveraging \$250,000 from County for vulnerability with regional money including individual City money is important. Vulnerability assessment needs to be a broad assessment that not only includes sea level rise. It also is just the first step. It needs to be scoped to lead to a preparedness plan.

Marin Community Foundation is now putting money into the environment because they see a social equity dimension to it. MCF has hired Bruce Riordan, strategic consultant to ABAG and BCDC and the Bay Area Joint Policy Committee, to scan what is happening around the Bay Area in terms of climate adaptation and how it all fits together.

Kiki suggested writing a letter and presenting them at all City and Town Councils as well as to County promoting MCEP as the focus vehicle for expanding vulnerability assessment work and for increasing work toward achievements on climate action goals. Tasks will require funding and City budgeting will be coming soon. It would be possible to get a number of organizations as signatories on the letters.

**Action Item:** Kiki will draft the letter.

Possible topics for the December CAWG agenda were discussed.

**Next Meeting:** December 5, 9:00–11:00 a.m., at San Rafael Corporate Center Conference Room, 750 Lindero Street, San Rafael.

Meeting adjourned 10:58 a.m.

Notes: KP