**Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action & local chapters of Citizens’ Climate Lobby (CCL) and 350.org**

**Minutes of Meeting on Thursday November 15, 2016, 7-9 pm.**

**Fort Boreman Room, Judge Black Annex, Parkersburg, WV**

**In Attendance:** Eric Engle, group leader, Bill Ambrose, Jean Ambrose, Adeline Bailey, Mike Bailey, Dave Ballantyne, Sister Molly Bauer, Lynn Cady, Nancy Cordonier, Wayne Dunn, Michael Iafrate\*, Michael Ireland, Jeannie Kirkhope\*, Carl Long, Louise Long, Donald Lynch, Carol Sedgewick, Cindy Taylor, and Wendy Tuck. (\*designates guest speakers) Total: 19. Note: Several left after speakers’ presentation.

**I. Welcome and Introductions.** Eric Engle. Eric welcomed all to the meeting and emphasized the importance of continuing our work, especially after the recent presidential election. Words of encouragement and bonding of spirit seemed appreciated by those in attendance. He asked each person to briefly introduce themselves and share personal stories about why they were attending and how they related to the mission of MOVCA. The shared concerns and individual testimonies were inspiring and also reflected the diversity of the MOVCA membership. Cindy Taylor agreed to record minutes of tonight’s meeting.

**II. Special Program: “Faith and Justice in Appalachia: Cry of the Poor”** by Jeannie Kirkhope and Michael Iafrate, Co-Coordinators of the Catholic Committee of Appalachia (CCA); Speakers were introduced by Wendy Tuck, MOVCA’s Faith-Based Initiative group.

Both Jeannie Kirkhope and Michael Iafrate share a dedication to their Catholic faith, love for the natural landscapes and resources of the Appalachian mountain region, and a commitment to raise the voice of the poor in addressing the needs and concerns of the people of Appalachia and their homeland. As an educator, editor, and Catholic worker, Jeannie lives and works out of Roane Co., WV while Michael (who grew up in Parkersburg WV and is also a lyricist/songwriter) lives in Wheeling, WV, attended Wheeling Jesuit University and did his doctoral studies in liberation theology at The University of Toronto’s St. Michael’s College in Toronto, Canada. During his studies, he became fascinated by the ability of the two Appalachian pastorals to present Catholic teaching from below, rooted in people’s movements and communities (compared to the traditional top-down approach). He recognized the need for a new pastoral which came directly from the people and became its primary author, writing in “free verse”. Working with Jeannie and the Catholic Committee of Appalachia offered an opportunity to talk directly with the people, record their stories, and present their voices in a new way. Their inspiring Powerpoint presentation shared how faith-based groups in Appalachia continue to make a difference by working together, presenting the voices of the poor, and being a voice for the mountains and all creatures which dwell within. Included in the presentation were vivid images related to the impact of climate change and related environmental crises, including: mountain top removal, toxic water from mine drainage and fracking, related health issues, and threats of extinction of numerous native animal species. As our speakers noted, directing faith to action is challenging and in so doing new voices are needed as well as new approaches and activism is critically important. For more information about the Catholic Committee of Appalachia, website is: <http://www.ccappal.org/>

As summarized by the *Appalachian Chronicle*: “Since 1970, the Catholic Committee of Appalachia has existed to serve Appalachia, her poor and the entire web of creation. Mountaintop removal, labor, private prison development, sustainable lifestyles and communities, poverty, health, clean water, racism and climate change are among those issues which CCA has addressed. CCA has taken responsibility for the organization and ongoing promulgation of two groundbreaking pastoral letters of the Catholic Bishops of Appalachia, *This Land is Home to Me* (1975) and *At Home in the Web of Life* (1995). . . its third People’s Pastoral, [is]*The Telling Takes Us Home: Taking Our Place in the Stories that Shape Us [Dec.2015]*.” Copies of these publications were available for purchase and the most recent is also available to read on-line or download in pdf format (without charge) see: <http://www.ccappal.org/thetellingtakesushome2015.pdf>

[Postnote: proceeds collected from tonight’s sales were donated to MOVCA following the meeting].

**III. Minutes of October 20, 2016 Meeting.** Adeline Bailey. Adeline’s MOVCA minutes of the October meeting had been sent via email and were accepted by membership tonight without correction. Adeline will put them in MOVCA’s Dropbox folder.

**IV. MOVCA Treasurer’s Update.** Dave Ballantyne reported: the Sept. $25 registration fee for the Youth Expo was paid from MOVCA treasury. Currently there is $406.50 in the MOVCA checking account and $75.00 in the CAG account.

**V. MOVCA Grant Application to the Dunn Foundation.** Jean Ambrose. (At previous MOVCA meeting Jean Ambrose had been “volunteered” to write the MOVCA grant proposal to the Dunn Foundation). Jean announced that a request for $5,700 has been submitted; decisions are expected Dec. 4th. She summarized MOVCA’s grant request: 1) $2500 in funds to increase public education about climate change which includes TV PSA, TV Advertising, and costs for public programs (such as documentary films and speakers); 2) $2200 in support for increasing MOVCA visibility and membership (booth fees, participation fees, banners, signs, brochures and educational materials, T shirts, and giveaways on climate change; 3) $700 request for attending regional and national meetings to link MOVCA to the broader climate change movement; and 4) $300 in funds for the administrative cost for WVCAG Education Fund. MOVCA’s fiscal agent, WVCAG Education Fund, submitted their audit to the Dunn Foundation and asked that MOVCA’s application be accepted as part.

**VI. Upcoming MOVCA Outreach Activity, Marietta, OH: “Merry-Etta” Christmas Parade, Sat. Nov. 26th.**

MOVCA agreed to try to participate in Marietta’s Christmas parade and plans to walk with the MOVCA banner and provide handouts to the public. Volunteers were recruited and Eric Engle will be in contact with membership via email to provide updates. Eric will follow up on required paperwork and pay any fees required. MOVCA can reimburse from treasury if so requested.

**VI. MOVCA Communications Update. Eric Engle** announced: **1)** **Kayla Deem** has volunteered to work on a **website for MOVCA** and Eric is excited and impressed by the progress. Plan to showcase the site to the membership at the first meeting in January 2017. **2)** **Rick Montalbano** is helping Eric get a **listserv** started to **facilitate email communications for MOVCA.**

**VII. Possible new location for MOVCA meetings and activities at First Christian Church, Parkersburg.** Bill Ambrose announced that he, Eric Engle, and Miranda Maiers recently met with Janice Hill, who leads the congregation at the First Christian Church, 1400 Washington Avenue, Parkersburg, WV. She envisions the church becoming a “community hub of activity” and welcomes having MOVCA use their facilities on a limited basis, pending approval of both organizations. MOVCA would compensate the church with a financial contribution and Bill suggested $30 per month to use their facilities, which seemed agreeable. Physical assets which this church offers include: WIFI, a full kitchen, a permanent professional level video projection/sound system in the main sanctuary, a parking lot with entrance immediately accessible up and down to meeting spaces, multiple meeting spaces, including smaller meeting rooms and a very large, open, unobstructed basement with movable tables and chairs and a permanent screen on the stage. (Bill is willing to loan a large HDTV and DVD player for all to use). Bill noted that funds were requested in our recent grant proposal to the Dunn foundation that would more than cover the “facilities fees.” There are possibilities to show movies to the community and have more major presentations at this location. Financial arrangements will need to be discussed more fully to reach final agreements and clarification of all policies.

It was agreed that MOVCA will pursue this option and make arrangements to meet at the First Christian Church on two occasions in January. The first Thursday, Jan 5th, all MOVCA members can meet Janice Hill, tour the facilities, test the WIFI by presenting the new MOVCA website, and discuss the possible arrangement and other business. On the third Thursday, January 19th, MOVCA will meet again at the First Christian Church to present MOVCA’s guest speaker and regular MOVCA meeting. Further plans and agreements will be presented and voted on at future MOVCA meetings.

**VIII. News and announcements from Membership: 1) Carol Sedgewick** and her colleagues/co-workers have been busy since the recent election and she wanted to share information which mightencourage more activism by MOVCA membership. She provided a handout: **“Contact your Congresscritters”** which has contact information for West Virginia and Ohio Senators and Representatives and suggested the following script to say/write when you make your phone calls or write: “I’m …., a constituent concerned about the President-Elect’s record denying climate change. I ask that <Senator/Representative> publically condemn Trump’s threats to repeal the Clean Power Plan and withdraw from the Paris Agreement. I want <Senator/Representative> to refuse to compromise with the President-Elect if he appoints climate change deniers.” Find your Senators’ Contact information here: <http://www.senate.gov/senators/contact/> Carol advised that it is best to click through the contact link & look up the office # in their state. For Representatives: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/> **2)** **Dave Ballantyne** said that he would like to update the membership about working with the City of Marietta, Ohio regarding climate-related actions and hopes to get more MOVCA members to help. It was suggested to share this on January 19, 2017 after the presentation by our planned speaker.

3) **Adeline Bailey** announced that **Roger Wilkens** will present a program **“After Fossil Fuels: Creating the New Clean Energy Economy”** for **the Jan. 19th meeting of MOVCA.** Roger is a board member of UpGrade Athens County <http://www.upgradeathens.org/> , leader of the Athens Energy Institute <https://athensenergyinstitute.org/the-athens-energy-institute/> , and the newly-elected President of the Board of ARECC, the Appalachian Renewable Energy Consumer Cooperative (of which he is a founding member) <http://arecc.coop/> Recognized for his ability to promote cooperation and community energy organizing, Roger is also this year’s recipient of the Appalachian Peace and Justice Network Art Gish Peacemaking Award. See the announcement: <http://www.upgradeathens.org/wilkenspeace/>

**IX. Next MOVCA meetings.** It was agreed that there will be **NO meetings of MOVCA in December. MOVCA plans TWO meetings in January 2017 at the First Christian Church, 1400 Washington Ave,** (a block from PHS on Dudley), **Parkersburg, WV:**

**Thursday, Jan. 5th at 7pm at First Christian Church**. Meeting will include touring the facility and presentation of MOVCA’s new website. Parking available beside the Church.

**Thursday, Jan. 19th at 7pm at First Christian Church, Parkersburg, WV. Special program: “After Fossil Fuels: Creating the New Clean Energy Economy” presented by Roger Wilkens** (see description above)followed by a **report from Dave Ballantyne about working with City of Marietta** and other business.

*Minutes recorded by Cindy Taylor*