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

**Minutes of Meeting on Thursday January 19, 7-9 pm.**

**Held at the First Christian Church, 1400 Washington Ave., Parkersburg, WV**

**In Attendance:** Eric Engle, group leader, Bill Ambrose, Jean Ambrose, Adeline Bailey, Mike Bailey, Dave Ballantyne, Harold D. Brown, Lynn Cady, Andrew Clovis, Sherry Dugan, Wayne Dunn, Jeff Fox, Jerrie Green, Kat Hawbaker, Dawn Hewitt, Carol Hildebrand, Paul Hildebrand, Janice Hill(for welcome), Michael Ireland, Carl Long, Louise Long, Donald Lynch, LeRoy McCarty, Rylea Mercer, Ruth Meyers, Chip Pickering, Cindy Taylor, Carson Tucker, Joe Tucker, and Roger Wilkens\*. (\*designates guest speaker) Total: 30

**I. Welcome and Introductions.** Eric Engle. Eric welcomed all to the meeting. Those in attendance briefly introduced themselves.

**II. Location for MOVCA meetings**. Eric Engle. Rev. Janice Hill, Pastor for the First Christian Church welcomed all to the church and renewed the invitation for MOVCA to use their facilities for regular meetings and possible outreach events. She answered questions which members had about use of space, access, setting up for meetings, and facilities. She also expressed support for MOVCA and confidence that both organizations could work together in reaching agreeable solutions to any situations which might arise. It was agreed by unanimous vote that MOVCA will relocate regular meetings to the First Christian Church and investigate options for wider public presentations, such as showing films. Details of arrangements (including financial) were not presented and it is assumed they will be made by MOVCA’s leadership group and shared at the next MOVCA meeting.

**III. Special Program: “After Fossil Fuels: Creating the New Clean Energy Economy”. Roger Wilkens,PhD**

**Roger Wilkens,** recognized for his ability to promote cooperation and community energy organizing, gave an enlightening and inspirational presentation about the current status of energy concerns regarding fossil fuel use, alternative energy development and his work in Athens County, Ohio to help create a “New Clean Energy Economy”. He emphasized the urgent need to create more alternative energy solutions in order to mitigate the climate change crisis which impacts us all- globally, nationally and regionally, and the effectiveness of working locally. In October 6-8, 2016, he was among a group from Athens, OH who attended **Oberlin College’s conference “*After Fossil Fuels: The Next Economy”***, that focused on considering if the post-fossil fuel economy will be prosperous, fair, durable, and resilient. Handouts were shared which presented a summary of key points made by national leaders, who spoke including: Bill McKibben, founder of *350.org*, Michael Brune, Executive Director of *Sierra Club*, Juliet Schor, Professor of sociology at *Boston College*, and Tom Steyer, president of *NexGen Climate*. See [**http://new.oberlin.edu/events-activities/after-fossil-fuels/**](http://new.oberlin.edu/events-activities/after-fossil-fuels/)and there is a link to archives of the live stream and you can see and hear what you missed. Roger’s **Oberlin Conference 7 Takeaways:** 1) We have just 15 yrs to transition off fossil fuels if we are to have 50/50 chance of staying below 2 degrees Centigrade in Global temperature increase (one MOVCA member felt it was already too late). 2) Investment is shifting through divestment and stockholder actions. 3) Areas of great progress are developing in several states (CA, CO and New England). 4) **Local projects are most important**. 5) We must create alternative economic institutions. 6) We must be **positive**- fight **For** something – **Envision Winning!** & 7) **We must work to create a new clean energy economy that brings green jobs to everyone – especially the disadvantaged in the current economy and those displaced by the transition off fossil fuels.**

Despite the challenges, Roger has worked effectively with government, educational institutions, financial institutions, businesses, private, non-profits and community groups to make a difference in Athens County and other regions of Ohio. As he emphasized, local projects grow from the ground UP and he is convinced this is where we can be most effective (and gave numerous examples and brief summary of the process of working cooperatively). The **Center for the Creation of Cooperation (CCC),** which he founded in 2008 and currently directs, has been the key to this success. Roger presented an organizational map **“ORGANIZING THE LOCAL ENERGY ECONOMY”** which shows key organizations and projects (identified in next paragraph) and how they are working cooperatively toward building a “New Clean Energy Economy” which transitions off fossil fuels and builds the local economy. Roger commented that it is not easy and it takes time; but emphasized that it is possible and important to keep a positive outlook; and reminded us that we can help each other and learn from each other and one group could not do everything. He offered to help MOVCA and welcomes future discussions. Upon request he will send links for videos of the Oberlin conference, websites of organizations in Southeast Ohio and other resources. He can be reached via email at this address: cooperative.culture@gmail.com

Roger is the Executive Director of the **Center for the Creation of Cooperation**, Athens County, OH ; <http://www.cooperativeculture.org/index.html> ; leader of the **Athens Energy Institute** <https://athensenergyinstitute.org/the-athens-energy-institute/> ; and founder and newly-elected President of the Board of **ARECC, the Appalachian Renewable Energy Consumer Cooperative** <http://arecc.coop/> . He is a board member of **UpGrade Ohio** <http://www.upgradeohio.org/> and active with the project, **UpGrade Athens County** <http://www.upgradeathens.org/> ; and networks with **SOPEC, Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council** which provides energy efficiency programs that identify sources of energy waste and recommend energy efficiency investments, and ways to create local energy production and control, etc see <http://sopecinfo.org/> and mission statement: <http://sopecinfo.org/about-sopec/> More recently, he is helping facilitate possibilities with **OH-SUN** (Ohio Solar United Neighborhoods) to create solar energy options for businesses and residents by forming local co-ops , the most recent being the creation of **Appalachian OH Solar Co-op** and a new **Mid-Ohio Valley Solar**. See and find links to Co-ops at <http://www.ohsun.org/front-page/who-we-are/> . Helpful information at <http://www.ohsun.org/front-page/learn-about-solar/> Other region projects include: *REAP* (Renewable Energy Assistance), *Co. Energy Plan* (Broadband &Virtual Power Plant), *Solar Access for Everyone, Community Solar (a way for low and moderate income families to participate), Distribution Food & Energy (electrical vehicles for commercial transportation), EE (Energy efficient) Wood Heat, Battery Storage, and Pilot Microgrids*. <https://www.ohio.edu/compass/stories/15-16/01/microgrids-voinovich.cfm>

**III. Special Program: Working with Local Municipalities: Marietta Dave Ballantyne**

It was September of 2016 when Dave Ballantyne, as a representative of MOVCA, made his first presentation to the Marietta City Council volunteering his services to advise and assist with any projects or concerns of various standing committees on issues related to climate that were on their agenda. The City Administration welcomed MOVCA’s offer and since that time Dave has listened, digested, researched, assessed, and worked diligently with various committees and officials and is pleased to present the progress to date and offer opportunities for more MOVCA members and friends to participate. Joe Tucker, Marietta City Engineer, was present and contributed specific examples of energy saving actions and progress and more detailed information related to long-range plans, concerns or possibilities.

Dave has posted his presentation on MOVCA’s Facebook page and it is available to all to view. He is happy to email this to individual members as well, and welcomes responses and volunteers to work with him. **newcastle9k2k@hotmail.com** . The City of Marietta, like other municipalities, has a long- range Plan and in 2013 made an assessment of how far they had come to reach the goals. Marietta’s plan is subdivided into different categories: Business and Economic Development, Education, Historical Perspectives, Infrastructure and Services, Natural Environment, Public Health and Safety, Recreation, Transportation and Cross-category recommendations. Dave took that report and highlighted all items which overlap with the goals of MOVCA, which he has defined as: 1) **Localization**: build robust, dynamic, diverse and attractive local community , which encourages citizens to shop, live and find recreation within the easily accessible local area. 2) **Alternative Transportation**: provide and encourage mixed modes of transportation not based on carbon fuels. 3) **Energy efficiency**: foster a culture of energy efficiency in preservation, development, renovation of properties, and in movement of people and product, minimizing fossil fuel use. **4)** **Parking & Vehicle Use:** accommodate energy efficient vehicles, while minimizing vehicle use and need. **5) Long Range Planning:** Build the local infrastructure needed to achieve future goals. **6) Climate Change Impact Management:** Climate Change is happening and puts stress on infrastructure and resources. Plan & build for the infrastructure needs of the Climate of tomorrow. 7) **Green Space**: Create balance between the planet’s green CO2 consumers and its human CO2 generators.

Dave mentioned AEP rebate programs that the City of Marietta could participate in, and Joe Tucker mentioned ODOT Funding opportunities and how all of these opportunities could help ecologically, but also financially. Cost- analysis (showing costs over a longer term) can show that energy-efficient actions are good financial investments and finding ways to present this information will guide policy decisions. Participation in such programs also creates public awareness which encourages more community action. Dave is gathering more data from the city and he would like to create a score card. One method of analysis he is considering is representing all the different types of energy use in terms of CO2 emissions. Showing the financial benefits will be important, too. Joe Tucker mentioned the city-wide energy assessment that had been done a number of years ago by an outside firm and how, following those suggestions, the city had already saved money. With all the improvements in energy choices, since that time, Joe suggested that a new assessment would be helpful. Dave noted that other municipalities of the MOVCA region may benefit from what MOVCA has done so far and hopefully our work can continue and grow. He is encouraged by the progress in working with the City of Marietta, and called on us all to help. Dave circulated a sign-up sheet and encouraged members to sign-up in one or two areas that interested them.

**IV. Follow-Up Discussion by Members.** Members expressed their appreciation of the work by both speakers and shared knowledge of projects which were taking place and organizations which might be helpful. As different states have different regulations and different energy providers, and different local or regional policies, it is important to be familiar with the opportunities within the local regions.

**Chip Pickering,** MOVCA member and the CEO of Pickering & Associates, an Architectural and Engineering Firm located in Parkersburg, WV, generously gave a brief presentation about **Pickering Energy Solutions**, and the work he has been doing to introduce solar energy, energy-efficiency, and other forms of renewable energy in the Mid-Ohio Valley in both OH and WV. He also summarized the situation for WV residents. Chip’s company is not only working with the City of Marietta, but the entire Mid-Ohio Valley region in OH and WV. He reported on a number of the recent projects to install PV Systems in the local area, including: schools, city buildings, recycling centers, businesses, churches (FUUSM), non-profits (Habitat for Humanity) and residential properties. They also sell the power through Power Purchase agreements or Solar leasing, making the solar option affordable to a wide variety of customers and Chip is happy to discuss opportunities. Chip also donates his time and expertise to help globally and has worked on several projects in both Haiti and Africa. For more information see: Chip’s website [www.cpickering.us](http://www.cpickering.us) and Pickering Energy Solutions <http://www.sesllc.us/about/>

**V. Meeting Concluded. Eric Engle.** As the meeting was running late, all scheduled reports and business discussions were dismissed or postponed until the next meeting. These included reading and approval of previous minutes, treasurer’s report, reports and discussion of public education campaign and Dunn Foundation Grant, creating organizational checking account, officers and bylaws, and discussion of pursuing a lawsuit in collaboration with Our Children’s Trust. Eric will be in communication via email.

**V. Next Meeting Dates:**

**Thursday, Feb 2, 2017 from 7-9pm at First Christian Church, 1400 Washington Ave, Parkersburg**

This is primarily the **MOVCA Business Meeting** for discussion and decisions on agenda items. It is of primary importance for MOVCA Leadership. All members are welcome to attend and join in.

**Thursday, Feb. 16 from 7-9pm at First Christian Church, 1400 Washington Ave, Parkersburg**

**MOVCA Public Outreach Meeting.** Eric will communicate more via email.

*Recorded by Cindy Taylor*