First Unitarian Universalist Society of Marietta

Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting

12:30 p.m., Sunday, October 17, 2021

Zoom platform

In attendance: From FUUSM on Zoom: Mike Bailey, Adeline Bailey, Dave Ballantyne, Shari Ballantyne: off site on Zoom: Maggie Meyer, Rebecca Phillips, Dawn Hewitt, and Ginnie McNeil.

**Dawn Hewitt** called the meeting to order at 12:36 p.m.

**Minutesof the September meeting** were approved as submitted.

**ReImagine Appalachia report - George Banziger**

George commented on the report he had sent to GSC members prior to the meeting. (His full report is attached at the end of these minutes.) He briefly discussed the initial responses to the

ReImagine Appalachia resolution from Kevin Ritter, Washington County Commisioners chairman, and his follow-up phone conversation with Mr. Ritter after discussing Ritter's concerns with a ReImagine member. George expressed his openness to finding common ground, but says it will be challenging since Mr. Ritter sees the resolution as a "Marxist treatise" that is trying to mobilize the working class against other interests.

Geroge and Rebecca Phillips will attend the Marietta City Council meeting on October 21, with opportunity to present the resolution during the open session of the meeting.

As requested at last month's GSC meeting, George had investigated how ReImagine Appalachia is funded: the Heinz Foundation is the major source of funding.

**Clear into the Future Grant Projects Update: Rebecca Phillips**

Prior to the meeting, Rebecca updated progress on the pollinator habitat and solar charging bench projects. (Her report is included at the end of these minutes.)

**Pollinator habitat**

Phase Two planting at the pollinator habitat was completed on October 2. Other plants delivered after October 2 will be held over for spring planting. The soaker hose system was donated by Chris Hoke and Al Tuttle, and has been installed under the direction of **Jim Grecni**.

The Fort Street habitat has influenced further pollinator-friendly development: the Harmar butterfly garden was planted on October 2; and Rebecca will be meeting with Peoples Bank about another project.

**Solar charging bench**

The solar charging bench will be delivered sometime in the last half of October. Presently, the plan is that the city will store it until such time as the Lock One Park actually breaks ground. If the committee doesn't want to wait, we will need to work with the city to find another location. Rebecca will investigate feasibility with the city and with Engo, the bench manufacturer, allowing GSC to make an informed decision once the bench had been delivered.

Rebecca will be confering with **Michael Chisholm** to determine what needs to be reported to CITF grantors, and what other requirements still need to be met.

**Mid-Ohio Valley Climate Action Update**

Adeline reported that Angie Iafrate, the youth programming director, has resigned her position, but will continue as a volunteer and adviser to the group for the programs and contests she has set in motion. Submissions for the contest challenging high school and college students to create a 30-second PSA on climate issues for TV or radio broadcast are due November 1. Other programs are planned and will be initiated later in the year.

MOVCA is currently running a Facebook fundraiser in support of youth programming.

MOVCA's opinion column, MOV Climate Corner, that is published regularly in the *Parkersburg News and Sentinel* continues to influence readers in the region.

The group's October public program offered on Zoom on Thursday, October 21, from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., will feature screening of a pre-recorded webinar, ***PFAS, Endocrine Disruption, and Shale Gas Development,***  shared by Halt the Harm Network and the Environmental Health Project, and followed by a live discussion led by Dr. Randi Pokladnik. MOVCA also promotes the WV Center on Climate Change webinar, **"Carbon Removal and More: What Lies Ahead for these Climate Solutions?",** scheduled for Tuesday, October 26, at 7:00 p.m. Adeline will send info and registration links for both Zoom events via the Green list.

MOVCA is applying for 501C3 status, with hopes of gaining that by the first of 2022.

**CCL Marietta Update**

**George** reported that CCL's current campaign is focused on urging President Biden to use his influence with Congress to include carbon pricing in the reconciliation bill. The House has set an October 31st deadline for the bill. Senators Manchin and Sinema are still creating problems with what is in the bill.

George and Dave will meet with Rep. Johnson's aide, Sam Hattrup, in early November to discuss areas of common ground.

George recently attended a webinar on Republican suppport for carbon pricing.

George's full report is included at the end of these minutes.

**FACT Ohio Update**

**Ginnie McNeil** reported that FaCT, the Ohio Brine Task Force, Buckeye Environmental Network and UU Justice Ohio are currently working against bills in the Ohio legislature that would permit AquaSalina, made from radioactive brine waste, to be sold as a retail commodity.

They are also workiing on taking action on transportation "justice" issues in Ohio. A webinar is scheduled for October 24th, at 5:00 p.m.

Ginnie also noted that FaCT Ohio is seeking a representative in the SE Ohio region for the group, preferably someone from a faith-based perspective,

Related to FaCT's work on brine waste, George shared a petition from the Tri-State Alliance to stopbarging of frack water, and said the group had asked about barging activity at the Shelley and Sands docking area near Marietta. (The petition is included in George's report on injection wells.)

Information on the October 24th webinar is included at the end of these minutes.

**Injection Wells Update**

**George** reported that a scecond meeting of citizens concerned about injection wells contamination of the water supply will be scheduled soon. His full report is included in the minutes.

**Concerned Ohio River Residents; Interfaith Power and Light; UUMFE**

**Dawn** noted that we share many interests with these groups and suggested we might look at finding ways to support their work.

**CORR** is concerned about barges on the Ohio River carrying fracking waste.

**IPL** has contacted several from GSC about their Cool Congregation contest, a program in which FUUSM was awarded "honorable mention" shortly after the solar array was first installed. A new competition is available, with new categories. Rebecca will investigate and see if any of our projects would fit requirements.

Adeline mentioned that we also might consider joining in some of the programs and activities sponsored by **UU Ministry for the Earth.** In particular, UUMFE is offering a community screening of *The Condor and the Eagle*, a highly regarded documentary on climate justice, Adeline will look into setting up a screening for FUUSM in November.

**Other business**

Shari Ballantyne suggested that GSC look for opportunities to offer recycling at upcoming local events. She asked about the recycle boxes GSC purchased and used to service several events in pre-covid days. Mike said he had stored them and thought they were still usable. Shari asked about upcoming races and expressed willingness to head up making them available; George said there might be something in Devola this fall and suggested contacting race organizers for help in making recycling a success. Members are to be on the lookout for any community events where we might offer this service. Dawn thanked Shari for the reminder and willingness to make it happen.

Dave reminded everyone of the CCL meeting is (tomorrow ) October 18, 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 1:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Adeline Bailey, scribe

Next GSC meeting: Sunday, November 21, 12:30 p.m., (probably on Zoom)

Following are reports from George Banziger, Rebecca Phillips,and Ginnie ONeil

**ReImagine Appalachia Report - George Banziger**

Follow-up Discussion with Kevin Ritter, President of the County Commissioners

I spoke on the phone with Mr. Ritter on October 11 to follow up on the meeting I had with the commissioners on September 16. At that time Mr. Ritter had said that he had no problems with what I said in introducing the Resolution, but he does have problems with the document itself. He said that he thought we might be able to come together on some common ground in a later discussion. I sent a copy of the comments Ritter had made to Natalia Rudiak of ReImagine Appalachia, who gave me a point-by-point response to each of his comments. In my October 11 phone meeting with Mr. Ritter, I started answering his concerns, following Ms. Rudiak’s comments. At one point in our conversation Ritter made it clear to me that he sees the resolution as a Marxist treatise, as he considered the language on working people—i.e., he interprets the document as a statement in support of the working class promoting some kind of attempt to mobilize the working class against other interests.

I then asked him what he thinks are the major challenges in our Appalachian county. He said that the biggest problem he sees is affordable housing. He has an “all-of-the-above” view of energy. He did agree with me that fossil fuels have led to profits and growth on the part of interests outside of the county.

I told him I would send him an email message with responses to his concerns, but given his philosophical/political objection to the document, I am not sure he and I can make any progress on finding some common ground on this resolution.

Attendance at Marietta City Council – October 21.

I contacted Susan Vessels, President of the Council to ask if I could have a meeting with the Council about the Resolution. She did not offer a specific/exclusive time, as the county commissioners did, but she asked us to come to the open period of the council meeting on the second and third Thursday of the month. I am going on October 21 with Rebeca Phillips, who is a resident of the City of Marietta (I am not).

George Banziger

**CCL Marietta Report - George Banziger**

**October 14, 2021**

1. Carbon Pricing Campaign for the White House. CCL national has determined that President Biden can be influential with Congress about what appears in the Reconciliation package. To that end they launched a campaign to promote the inclusion of carbon pricing with the president. Here is the link for that campaign:

[**https://community.citizensclimate.org/topics/reconciliation-actions**](https://community.citizensclimate.org/topics/reconciliation-actions)

1. Planning Meeting with Sam Hattrup (Cngressman Johonson’s Advisor on Energy Policy)

Dave Ballantyne and I are planning a meeting with Mr. Hattrup for early November. When we met with him last August, he suggested that date for our next meeting. We plan to focus on problem-solving and attempts to find common ground. We want to ask about Johnson’s role in the Congressional Problem Solving Caucus, of which he is a member. George hopes to gain some information from an October 24 webinar sponsored aby CCL and Braver Angels (a national group omitted to bridging the political divide) on climate change policy and share that information with Hattrup. We also want to ask about Johnson’s view of the Glasgow Summit, scheduled for November 1-3. Another question we have is whether Johnson is aware of the economic impact of the projects on renewable energy in western Ohio. We would like to request a face-to-face meeting with the congressmen some time after November. We have sent these agenda items to Hattrup.

1. Latest News on Reconciliation Bill

The new deadline for a final Reconciliation Bill is October 31. This final iteration of this much-debated bill will likely be significantly pared down from the initial $3.5 trillion package. Commentators and legislators who are prognosticating about what might be in the final package mention that climate change is likely to be included. This language will be described as a carbon tax, but it will, in fact, be in the form of a carbon dividend. There may be an exemption to the carbon tax/dividend for gasoline used by consumers (to conform with Biden’s promise not to raise taxes for those making <$400K/year). The door may be open for Joe Manchin to support a carbon tax of some kind, but Kirsten Sinema just announced that she will not support any kind of carbon tax in the Reconciliation Bill.

1. Webinar on Republican Support for Carbon Fee

On October 9 I attended a webinar featuring Ray Ward, A Republican state legislator from Utah. He and some other Republican legislators from that state have written an op-ed in support of a carbon tax. Their position as Republicans is that polluters need to be responsible for the damage they produce, i.e., greenhouse gases. Once they are held responsible, then they products can be bought and they can operate within the free-market system.

**Injection Wells Report - George Banziger**

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| 1. Last week I spoke with Bob Lane who organized the September 14 meeting on injection wells at the Farmers Daughters and Sons site. He told me that the law firm, Bordas & Bordas is finalizing their legal action. It may be against firms like Deep Rock, ODNR or the water companies. Bob will call another meeting similar to the September 14 meeting soon. |
| **2**. Last week I received this petition from the Fresh Water Accountability Project.  **TRI-STATE ALLIANCE PETITIONS TO STOP BARGING OF FRACK WASTE**  **USACE Barge Permit Legal Challenge Continues**    Contact:                   Lea Harper, Managing Director, (419) 450-7042, [wewantcleanwater@gmail.com](https://webmail.suddenlink.net/do/mail/message/mailto?to=wewantcleanwater@gmail.com)  John A. Heer, Esq. Fair Shake Environmental Legal Services,  (234) 255-5627, [jheer@fairshake-els.org](https://webmail.suddenlink.net/do/mail/message/mailto?to=jheer@fairshake-els.org)    (Grand Rapids, OH) FreshWater Accountability Project of Ohio has been working for years to stop the proposed barging of frack waste on the Ohio, Allegheny and Monongahela rivers. Over the past year, a tri-state coalition was formed to combine forces to stop the loading of barges of frack waste in other states that are destined for Ohio waste disposal, including Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Through the coordination of efforts by the coalition, a [petition](https://webmail.suddenlink.net/do/redirect?url=https%253A%252F%252Fsecure.everyaction.com%252FY1ueg_ESeUOUEwhx1g2INg2&hmac=d5361c8efcea6b7293c848fd88140be8) has been initiated to involve the regions’ resident and organizations to request the US Coast Guard and others to stop the barging of frack waste on the rivers before it begins. An informative [article](https://webmail.suddenlink.net/do/redirect?url=https%253A%252F%252Fwww.post-gazette.com%252Fnews%252Fenvironment%252F2021%252F05%252F31%252Fpennsylvania-ohio-monongahela-allegheny-rivers-fracking-wastewater-transport-barges-environment-health%252Fstories%252F202105250142&hmac=463d8338d91cc7c1abe1baef14c44991) in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette stated, “…mul­ti­ple en­vi­ron­men­tal or­ga­ni­za­tions from the tri-state area have strong con­cerns and many ques­tions about those plans, say­ing river waste­wa­ter trans­port is poorly reg­u­lated and in­creases risks of chem­i­cal and ra­dio­ac­tive spills, and those spills can con­tam­i­nate wa­ter­ways that are drink­ing wa­ter sources for mil­lions of peo­ple, and, in­creas­ingly, rec­re­ational ven­ues.”    FreshWater has also worked closely with [Concerned Ohio River Residents](https://webmail.suddenlink.net/do/redirect?url=http%253A%252F%252Fwww.concernedohioriverresidents.org%252F&hmac=b3d9c486de66bb40878574c880985c5e) (CORR) that started a petition signed by over 800 people and posted a [story map](https://webmail.suddenlink.net/do/redirect?url=https%253A%252F%252Fwww.concernedohioriverresidents.org%252Fpost%252Fohio-river-fracking-waste-story-map&hmac=12c274076098fd85a3dd85a3b4c15a7c) about the proposed barge loading/unloading operations. CORR has run an ad and billboard campaign to oppose barging of frack waste and continues to monitor the river for signs of frack waste barges headed for injection wells on the Ohio side.    As pointed out in [a report](https://webmail.suddenlink.net/do/redirect?url=https%253A%252F%252Fwww.psehealthyenergy.org%252Four-work%252Fpublications%252Farchive%252Fpotential-impact-to-surface-water-and-sediment-from-the-transport-of-produced-water-on-the-ohio-river%252F&hmac=c77aeb91860d634e43ead90862090562) by Physicians for Safe Energy, a spill or worse, a barge accident on the rivers could have catastrophic consequences. The report cited estimates from the USACE that because of climate change, the Ohio River watershed could have to carry up to 50 percent more water in this century. The US Coast Guard’s database shows that barge accidents are already on the rise.  With the rivers already impaired by pollution, including “forever chemicals,” also found in frack waste, such a risk that barging frack waste with toxic, radioactive and unknown proprietary chemicals should not be allowed. At the very least, each barge load would have to be fully analyzed for a complete characterization of all chemicals for any possible chance of remediation if a spill occurred. Since a single barge can hold approximately one million gallons of frack waste, a barge accident resulting in a large release would be catastrophic, and practically impossible to completely clean up.    Recently, Fair Shake Environmental-Legal Services filed a, “[Plaintiff’s Motion for Partial Summary Judgment](https://webmail.suddenlink.net/do/redirect?url=https%253A%252F%252Ffwap.org%252Fwp-content%252Fuploads%252F2021%252F09%252F20210924-Plaintiffs-Motion-for-Partial-Summary-Judgment-with-Memo-in-Support.pdf&hmac=9c3abcd8ca7a41570b28a58b6577289d),” in federal court in ongoing efforts to stop the barge loading/unloading facility for Deep Rock disposal near Marietta, Ohio.  Houston-based Deep Rock, a business partner with Comtech Industries, owner of another terminal in Bellaire, Ohio, operates twelve deep disposal wells at five sites near the unloading terminals. The Deep Rock frack waste injection facility is near another injection well, [Redbird](https://webmail.suddenlink.net/do/redirect?url=https%253A%252F%252Fohiodnr.gov%252Fwps%252Fportal%252Fgov%252Fodnr%252Fdiscover-and-learn%252Fsafety-conservation%252Fabout-odnr%252Foil-gas%252Foil-gas-resources%252Fwashington-county-investigation&hmac=b1d6d176158d8266fdae5b00037153e7) #4, known to have leaked for miles into other producing wells in the region. The ongoing legal challenge is hoped to bring forward the fact that inadequate environmental studies were done before authorizing the barge dock use to unload frack waste, among other complaints.    Considering the implications of barge transportation and disposal on and near major rivers needed for drinking water and recreation, efforts will continue to press regulatory agencies to weigh the risks of their decisions and rescind any permission to allow barging of frack waste.  Open Attachment [10-12-21 Barging.pdf](https://webmail.suddenlink.net/do/mail/message/download?msgId=INBOXDELIM182236&part=2&l=en-US&v=suddenlink)  George Banziger  October 14, 2021 |

**Clear Into The Future Project Report - Rebecca Phillips**

**Riverbank Pollinator Habitat**

* The plants installed in May are thriving, and a team of volunteers added more than 200 others on October 2. The additions seem to be doing well.
* Five flats arrived after the October 2 planting and per the advice of the owner of Davis Nurseries, are being overwintered for planting in the spring.
* Al Tuttle and Chris Hoke donated a drip tape system for the site. Under the direction of Jim Grecni, George Banziger, Kat Hawbaker, Leroy McCarty, and I installed most of the system on Thursday. Jim and I will finish up on Tuesday afternoon. The system will be drained sometime after the first frost. The online advice I am finding suggests covering the drip tape with mulch, of which we have plenty.
* I gave a presentation to the Noon Rotary on October 7 and have a phone meeting scheduled on a possible joint project with People's Bank on Monday morning.
* Volunteers planted Phase One of the Maple Street butterfly garden, inspired by our project, on October 2.
* Needed for the habitat: materials for edging or a mowing strip. Because of the bermuda grass the city planted along Fort Street, the ideal edging would extend a foot or more into the soil to reduce invasive grass intrusion into the habitat.

**Solar Bench Project**

The bench is to arrive later this month. I have not yet spoken to Steve Wetz about whether it could be installed this season and moved when the Lock One Park project is completed. The last time I spoke with Nick Arnold of Pickering, they had been given no date for the project.

**FaCT Ohio Announcement - Ginnie McNeil**

**Trying to Get from Here to There: Transportation & Environmental Justice**  
**An Education & Action Event from the UUJO Environmental Justice Renewal Team**

**Sunday, Oct. 24 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern  
Register by clicking the link below:** [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tce2vqDosGdz9CFg3j0s9hxdHfLwEgciO](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/mRNLFKyANPYkYXuUTzk_S5RIzHhwhCb_fCJh6ZtzR75M6FDFntOv0QjSZ284mjzv0iknxGdT6BBNX04FvTnI7darZFTBa20Tsgr5XsKU3aH3nP8VijN9BaJb16611zYhDgSQywe6k6BYgc6kxp-R_-2nj8JwRxg4ydg7x1rOPDOtyA_OdAOwrhqaQGIUcN8YoxEyFscMKF1gblARCWNFvE_DL5Mno0WOB8vaj_ZHPQ1jWg8YUjMpmqpGiCGNrDYazyHjdrU7P8DpBOsS3HRzH1fXvDpZzBgbhaLGI4ng_YCpyUpee-GgS4JR9wesdt87/3g4/7AXFknK9Sh-_wfcfJfnKNw/h1/jxnUIV88aeC4Cc-v7-6Z97kkcVBoepDAh_nbDqMArrs#_blank)

Many Ohioans are kept from full participation in our communities because they lack a car. Citizens will share their stories of attempting to use the existing transit options and how the lack of efficient public transportation is impacting their lives.

Developing a modern public transit system is essential for Ohio’s future. From Ohio      Statewide Transit Needs study in 2015. “In 2013, Ohio had the 14th highest transit ridership in the country with 115 million trips per year. By 2025, demand is expected to increase to more than 250 million trips. Demographic shifts contribute to increased need: An older population, increased poverty, and many millennials’ preference for public transit over owning a car.”  Ohio ranks eighth lowest in the nation on spending for public transportation.

[https://www.policymattersohio.org/research-policy/sustainable-communities/transit/how-ohio-funds-public-transit](https://u1584542.ct.sendgrid.net/ss/c/atcYNHk4Eh2YdGnwBh-YDKSAyqjp_EepRfrRm4hhu-0ej3vraNhtlhMnwOMQctl6jYSY7CFre6UFHqMOu7q7wRsh87xGA9aUd81QJJhNkmpfv84Reg5WhuUofyhUsC7oUFZ5tUF5gZuL8vHo4UJBKEhrPCAAAyYu2FKVlTKiuLNmdEIWV4I9ORSRSl5aycX1LyYTYU-6mc0oM79VjKg54ZDjZEWw__XaiHUeXHX1rWZ8gbIhF0nqNLuaefSGAXibQPZJn718Jm2CTOL0DQMtD1B4aCv3AKGUqmNFxgNogiGi3hap0qrMq5XZ2FBdajRWzosG27iml50y4EMPbOwnuX8crNb9DIjouWLiChGJtAE/3g4/7AXFknK9Sh-_wfcfJfnKNw/h2/roqrxUxlqUj-17Mfb2qwJku8UTxYlqMvT-Qm4FnrrQg#_blank)

Join us as we discuss ways of encouraging our state and local government to plan and fund public transportation.