**ReImagine Appalachia Report for Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting -January 17, 2022**

I attended a (Zoom) meeting of this group on January 4. They are having a summit meeting on January11 & 12 from 11 am-1:15 pm. Several informative sessions about how to re-envision Appalachia (the Ohio River basin part of Appalachia specifically) will be presented. The link to registration is below:

<https://reimagineappalachia.org/january-strategy-summit/>

There was also discussion about the issue of siting of solar panels. There has been some push-back from opponents/skeptics of renewable energy about the siting of solar panels on productive agricultural lands. Some alternatives to this type of siting are: abandoned mountain-top coal mines, dual use of farm land, parking lots, EPA-designated brown fields, highway medians, railway stations.

The president of the Washington County Commissioners, Kevin Ritter, has told me that there is not a majority support of the commissioners for the ReImagine Appalachia Resolution. When I had spoken to Mr. Ritter about the Resolution, he did acknowledge that much of the profit and jobs from extractive (oil & gas) industries in the county go to interests outside the county. I want to use that as a wedge and am preparing a document that summarizes the research about the unfulfilled promise of the economic benefits of the oil & gas industry in the region. I have reviewed several documents from the Ohio Valley Research Institute and ReImagine Appalachia which support this notion of the lack of economic benefit from the oil & gas industry and the potential for new jobs in renewable energy. The summary document I am preparing will be sent in the form of a letter to the commissioners asking for them to offer an alternative vision to the ReImagine Appalachia Resolution.

The president of the Marietta City Council has not responded to my several message to her about what will happen to the ReImagine Appalachia Resolution that Rebecca Phillips and I presented to Council in October.

On January 11-12 I attended the summit meeting of ReImagine Appalachia. .Much of the presentations and discussion were centered around how to access federal funds like the American Rescue Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act to create an innovative economy and job growth for a new Appalachia.. Included were ideas for clean energy, energy-efficient industries, cleaning up orphaned oil/gas wells, building manufacturing for battery technology, replacing lead pipes, acquiring grant writers for local governments to seek federal funds, coalition building.

George Banziger