Green Sanctuary Meeting

May 15, 2022

Attendees included George Banzinger, Jim Grecni & Debra Miller, Vic Elam, Rebecca Phillips, Cindy Taylor, Dave & Shari Ballantyne, Chris & Kelcey Jacobs. Co-chair Jim Grecni ran the meeting; substitute scribe Chris Jacobs took notes.

**Approval of minutes:** Kelcey, Debra

**Earth Day:**

Many greenies were there. Rebecca gave away 100 packets of seeds and 30 handouts on Homegrown National Parks. George sent the petition to ODNR to stop injection wells in Washington County, no response yet. MOVCA appreciates that we shared the booth with them.

**Helping Indigenous People**

There were 14 in-person participants and 5 on zoom for the first for discussion on *Braiding Sweetgrass*. A lot of good discussion, a lot of sharing of ideas. Some of the Quakers were also there and want to participate in future discussions and events. Anyone can join at any time, you don't need to read the previous chapters; they're not a consecutive read. Next discussion is June 12 at 12:15 and July 10 at 12:45.

The HIP Dinner is July 16 at 6:00 pm; the menu is still being planned. We need some volunteers to help prepare the items for the meal. $20 tickets will be on sale soon and posters will be put up soon.

The Powwow at the Hannibal Lock is Saturday July 2. FUUSM has a booth space at the Multicultural festival. We have a signup sheet and we need help to staff the booth (not just Greenies), since it needs to be staffed the entire time.

**FACTOhio**

We are in process of scheduling additional Brine Education presentations in churches and community venues in Ohio for the Summer/Fall. UUJO Zoom R/T fracking hazards with brine waste is tentatively scheduled for this Fall.

**Clear Into the Future grant projects:**

**Pollinator plot** - 5 volunteers planted numerous flats and cleared out poison ivy. Follow-up report has not been submitted, but Rebecca got contact information from DuPont and will do. There is a community advisory committee, one member is a soil scientist and FUUSM member Geoff Shenkel is the city council rep. The pollinator plat has become a community garden. Dylan Holdren volunteered to help with the Facebook page. We have permission to extend the pollinator plot down to the paved trail. Vic has a friend at EPA who works with pollinator plants and they are looking for projects to donate plants to; they can donate some pollinator plants for the next phase.

**Solar Bench, Lock 1** - Rebecca e-mailed Steve Wetz to see what's going on with the project. The bench will be installed as the project progresses - no specific timeframe yet. Vic has FLAP (Federal Lands Access Program) proposal submitted for consideration; he wrote a letter of support and mentioned the solar bench. The city grant-writers said there was no bench in the project. We need to check with the city to see what's going on. Vic said it takes 4-5 months to hear back about the FLAP.

**CCL**

CCL had flyers at Earth Day. Part of their focus now is Stand by Ukraine: rather than drill more oil and gas wells now. We should accelerate towards renewable energy technologies. CCL national conference is June 11-13. CCL is meeting with Rep. Johnson's staffer on Monday, May 24. People from all over the country are trying to influence West Virginia. George wrote a letter for Dean Banzinger to send to the Charleston *Gazette Mail*, thanking Joe Manchin for his support, and asking him to support more renewables. Most Biden negotiations with Manchin are now "quieter" after all the PR from the last time (the discussions were in the news during the last Manchin negotiations).

**MOVCA**

MOVCA is now a 501C3; all contributions are now tax deductible. The Climate Corner columns appear every Sunday in the Parkersburg *News & Sentinel.* There are about 12 writers that have been writing articles. Mike Bailey is putting the articles up on the MOVCA website. Both the Parkersburg *News & Sentinel* and the *Marietta Times* have the same editor. She has been reluctant to run the Climate Corner article in the *Times.* The *Times* published George's injection well op-ed. June 4 is the Pride in the Park at Parkersburg City Park. WV Center on Climate Change is having another seminar on May 16. It's a hybrid webinar about utility-scale solar. MOVCA is getting T-shirts made from renewable materials. The Climate Ambassador program going well (it gets youth involved in climate). The Marietta College intern helped develop the program. There are about 12 applicants to the program. They will be designing a project they will be implementing. MOVCA Got a $10,000 grant from Center for Environmental Law. The purpose of the grant was for PSAs, and they also want to let people know about hydrogen hub.

**Reimagine Appalachia:**

Governor Dewine announced $500 million project for 32 Appalachian counties in Ohio. The Washington County Commissioners hired a grant person, he's going to be involved with the Dewine money. In December, Commissioner Ritter said there is no support for Reimagine Appalachia. George sent a letter to the new County Commissioners President (Schilling) asking what their priority is. He hasn't gotten any response. The Commissioners did ask ODNR for the public injection well meeting. We don't want the meeting to be a dog and pony show. We also want to avoid the meeting where they just accept comments - we want to to have questions and answers.

George is going to send the op-ed to WTAP as a press release so we can get some media at the meeting. Megan from Fair Shakes has created a flyer about the meeting. George created a list of questions. We discussed who would be responsible for each question at the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.