**Reports for Green Sanctuary Committee Meeting – October 16, 2022**

**George Banziger**

Injection Wells

On October 13 a press call (teleconference) was held to publicly announce the petition to the U.S. E.P.A. to revoke the primacy of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for permitting and monitoring Class II injection wells in Ohio. This effort is being led by the Buckeye Environmental Network, the Sierra Club, and Earthjustice as well as 30 grassroots organizations. The press call announced the filing of a petition (i.e., legal document prepared by the attorneys at Earthjustice) to U.S. E.P.A. spelling out the rationale for this initiative. I submitted a four-page letter which will be appended to the petition and—with six other people—serving as a speaker, provided comments during the teleconference. I also sent my letter directly to the Administrator of U.S. E.P.A., Michael Regan, and copy to Region 5 office of the E.P.A. The Marietta Times and WTAP were invited to the press call. At this writing I do not know if either has carried the story.

I was told by one of the Earthjustice attorneys that it is not too likely that U.S.E.P.A. will revoke ODNR’s primacy on Class II injection wells, but they probably will give some direction to ODNR to respond to concerns and questions raised in the document.

Citizens Climate Lobby

CCL is focusing its efforts on getting out the vote for the 2022 mid-term election. To that end, the Great Lakes CCL chapters sponsored a postcard initiative. A template for printing postcards and mail lists were provided by the state CCL coordinator. Each chapter was to buy stamps, affix each mailing label, and write a prescribed message. Our Marietta CCL sent out 90 postcards by the October 4 deadline. Those on the mailing list were within our congressional district and were determined to be supportive of environmental causes. Adeline Bailey, Dawn Hewitt, Vic Elam, Rebecca Phillips and I were involved in this effort.

CCL chapters are urged to ask their members of Congress to support secondary (secondary to carbon fee and dividend legislation) asks including: RISEE (Reinvesting in America’s Shoreline Economies and Ecosystems), FOREST (Fostering Overseas Rule of Law & Environmentally Sound Trade), NCARA (National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy), and Growing Climate Solutions Act).

ReImagine Appalachia

I am still trying to get people in Washington County interested in applying for funds from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for the projects involving plugging abandoned oil & gas wells. The county commissioners have not responded to me about this issue. I have been in contact with a researcher at the Ohio River Valley Institute who is advising me about the best way to get someone in Washington County interested in this effort.

RA continues to promote manufacturing options (alternative to extractive industries of the past like oil, gas, and coal) such as making “eco bricks” from fly ash coal, eco-industrial parks and circular manufacturing. Land and reclamation jobs are also a focus of RA, including a revised update of FDR’s Civilian Conservation Corps. Other focus areas of RA are: expanding broadband access, restorative jobs, sustainable transportation, repurposing coal and steel facilities, alternative to single-use plastics, EV production, and repairing the damage from past extractive practices in the region.

RA is also interested in organizing coalitions of small government entities so that the matching requirements of state and federal grants can be achieved.

RA has just presented a REJOIN (Restorative Jobs & Opportunity in Natural Infrastructure) working paper:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TZcxSC-uoHaGAgykDiLBXJAM1hZ1HxyO/view>