**Reports for Green Sanctuary Committee meeting – November 20, 2022**

Citizens Climate Lobby

Get out the Vote : In addition to the initiative sponsored by the Great Lakes chapters of CCL which I reported on at last month’s meeting, I contacted by text message all of the members of our chapter, for whom mobile phone numbers were listed (29 total) urging them to vote. I did this the week before the election.

CCL National Conference is December 3-4. It is an in-person event, but there is a virtual option (cclusa.org/fallconference).

Lobbying priorities for CCL in the lame-duck session of Congress is focused on the RISEE Act (Reinvesting in America’s Shoreline Economies and Ecosystems) and the NCARS Act (National Climate Adaptation & Resilience Strategy).

Injection Wells

There is no news yet on the petition that was filed last month with the US EPA regarding the revoking of the primacy of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for permitting Class II injection wells in the state. The EPA is required to respond in a “reasonable period of time.”

I learned that there is a new lawsuit presented to a court in Monroe County (Ohio) involving a salt-mining company which alleges that brine waste has migrated into its mines. This suit against a disposal company was dismissed, then a higher court reversed that decision.

ReImagine Appalachia

I have learned that a few companies in Washington County are taking advantage of the opportunity to apply for funds to plug orphaned oil& gas wells. But the need is still great in this county and throughout the region. There needs to be more involvement in this effort. ODNR has more funds for this purpose than they can allocate.

Marietta College

In making inquiries about plugging orphan oil & gas wells, I contacted the previous (Bob Chase) and the current (Ben Ebenhack) chairmen of the Petroleum Engineering and Geology Department at Marietta College. They each told me about a new idea to expand this department into an entity called Earth, Energy, and the Environment. This new expansion will include renewable energy and projects to plug orphan oil & gas wells among other activities. The college is seeking $25 million for this expanded department. Some funds, equipment, and supplies have already been obtained including a mobile unit, but the fund-raising campaign is not yet public. More information will be available when the idea goes public.

George Banziger