**Reports from George Banziger to Green Sanctuary Committee**

**For Meeting of June 16, 2024**

**George Banziger**

ReImagine Appalachia. Some upcoming events (register on their web site)

 -Unpacking the Far Bill: Climate Smart and Food system Solutions-Webinar; June 20, 6-7 p.m.

 -Instagram Live: Deviant Hollers: Queeriing Appalachian Ecologies for a Sustainable Future; June 27, 5 p.m.

 <https://reimagineappalachia.org/>

 I had a conversation with one of the co-directors of RA about Michael Kriphak’s energy idea regarding Fusion technology. RA seems to have a different idea about manufacturing that Kripchak does.

Citizens Climate Lobby (I serve as the group leader for the Marietta chapter)

 We have continued our enhanced collaboration with the Mahoning Valley CCL chapter (also in OH 06). Since Bill Johnson has left his seat in the House (January 2024) to assume the presidency of YSU, we have been focusing on our two US senators. CCL-Ohio is still looking for someone to serve as liaison with Senator Sherrod Brown’s office.

 No response yet from Senator Vance’s office on my idea to arrange an “Appalachian Forum” to discuss energy and environmental issues with a staff member from his office. I re-sent that request and did not get a response. I have given up on this matter for now.

 CCL-National encourages us to focus on lobbying sitting members of Congress and not to engage in partisan support for particular candidates running for office in our CCL capacity, nor should we protest issues like fracking in our capacity as CCL members. I told John Sabin, our temporary state coordinator of CCL, that we in eastern Ohio are very concerned about issues like fracking and injection wells and will support candidates with similar views to ours and will publicly protest issues like fracking under public lands while not identifying our membership in CCL. These activities may detract from the time we can devote to CCL actions. An example of this issue is the active support of many of us in CCL 06 for the Democratic candidate for Congress in this district in anticipation of the June 11 special election.

 Since the result of the June 11 special election is now known, we shall strategize on how to lobby newly elected Congressman Rulli at our meeting tomorrow.

 CCL National Conference and Lobby Day- June 8-11

 CCL participants on capitol steps:

 <https://www.linkedin.com/posts/citizens-climate-lobby_grassrootsclimate-ccl2024-activity-7206298741660676097-Gkx9>

 -430 meetings with congress members

 Next meeting of CCL OH 6: June 17, 7 p.m. via Zoom

Organization of Clean Energy & Climate (I serve on the advisory group of the OCEC non-profit)

 On June 3 Abby Campbell, ag teacher at Fort Frye High School, and Dr. Tao, Executive Director of OCEC met with CTE teachers from districts in Washington County and with representatives from Building Bridges to Careers. They discussed curriculum development in the area of computer technology (block-chain issues) and agricultural topics related to the use of captured heat from data centers for greenhouse heating and the growth of vegetable plants.

 Dr. Tao is arranging for the purchase of a drip system for irrigation in the greenhouse with an Ohio-based company.

 The press release that Dr. Tao and I worked on was published in the Marietta Times and the Parkersburg News & Sentinel. In addition there was a very supportive editorial in the June 3 edition of the Marietta Times about the project.

 Dr. Tao has also made arrangements with the Washington County Commissioners to provide heating (from data centers) for the county jail.

Devola Pollinator Project

 This project has stalled. Since the April 18 delivery of seeds I made to one family in Devola, I have not received any other requests for seeds. In checking with Rebecca Phillips, I confirmed that during the heat of the summer, as we are currently experiencing (even though it’s not officially summer yet) native plant seeds should not be planted. In a recent posting on Next Door, I have asked people in Devola who are still interested to designate a plot (to shrink their lawn), prepare the soil in the area, but wait until early fall to plant seeds.

Injection Wells (for brine waste)

 I have checked with Bob Lane, oil & gas producer who is suing several disposal well companies for damages to his production wells from injection wells, about the status of his law suit in the court of appeals. There is no news on this legal case at this time. Bob did tell me that the price of natural gas is down to $.65/MCF (at one point it was up to $10-$12/MCF. He and others like him are just trying to drill for oil at this time.

 Bob and his partner in this law suit, Bob Wilson, do not expect much assistance from the Ohio Legislature on injection wells since our newly appointed state senator is a chief executive officer od Deep Rock Disposal LLC nor from Kevin Ritter who is likely to be the new state representative from the 94th District (many of us are helping Wenda Sheard, Ritter’s opponent in her campaign for this seat).

Save Ohio Parks

 There are still “nominations” coming in to the Oil & Gas Land Management Commission for fracking near public lands. Please send comments.

 SOP has recently achieved nonprofit status. Please send donations (I sent mine last week).

 To this date, there has been no fracking around Salt Fork State Park—even though nominations have been approved. We are not sure why.

 Anne Sparks who, is on the SOP Sterring Committee, may offer more details on SOP.