**Reports for Green Sanctuary Meeting of September 17, 2023**

1. Citizens Climate Lobby. Congress resumed its session on September 5. The Freedom Caucus is threatening to withhold its support for the next budget year unless several cuts are made (in the budget that the House Leader and the President agreed to in June). Many of these cuts would be to climate programs.

CCL has introduced a new feature called “click to call,” which will automatically connect and log a call to a congress person.

Our liaison team (Bob Chase, Rebecca Phillips, Alexis Smith of Mahoning Valley Chapter, and I) will meet with Congressman Johnson’s Legislative Director, Sam Hattrup, on September 25.

Our Marietta chapter is pursuing greater partnership with the Mahoning Valley chapter (we’re in the same congressional district). Many already attend our monthly meetings.

Our next chapter meeting is September 18 at 7 p.m. (not August 21) via Zoom.

1. Injection Wells. Inside Climate News carried a story last week about Ohio Department of Natural Resources ordering a shut down of four wells in Torch (eastern Athens County) due to imminent danger to drinking water.

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/13092023/ohio-injection-wells-suspended-over-imminent-danger-to-drinking-water/>

Bob Lane, the oil & gas producer who has sued several brine waste companies, reports that the appeal of his law suit, which was dismissed in a lower court, should be heard soon.

1. ReImagine Appalachia.

Webinars:

Restoring Dignity to Construction Work – September 29

Regional Broadband Check – September 20

Reimagining Shuttered Coal Plants – October 5, 3-5 p.m. (Jesse Roush of the Southeastern Ohio Port Authority is a participant in this session)

RA has a toolkit on the climate features of the Farm Bill.

RA announced that a new documentary film, “King Coal” is out; it will be shown in theaters in Cincinnati, Pittsburgh, and Charleston WV, as well as in other places throughout the US.

Booking information: <mia@fourthactfilm.com>

1. Fracking in State Parks and Public Lands. The Oil & Gas Land Management Commission is meeting on September 18 at 10 p.m. on Morse Road in Columbus. They will be discussing the “nominations,” i.e., requests from oil & gas companies (by some weird state regulation these companies do not have to identify themselves), to begin fracking on sites immediately adjacent to state parks and state lands. There is a tab for arranging car pooling on the site below.

More details at:

saveohioparks.org

The big news on this topic is that investigative reporters from the Cleveland Plain Dealer and cleveland.com have discovered that many of the endorsements in support of these nominations were fake—that is, those whose names were submitted had no knowledge that their names were being used for this purpose—many, in fact, are against fracking on public lands. The Ohio Attorney General is conducting an investigation into this situation. I have written to the Land Management Commissioners asking them to defer any decision on the nominations until the AG has completed his investigation. Instructions on writing to the commissioners about this issue are on the saveohioparks.org web site.

1. Organization of Clean Energy & Climate (OCEC). OCEC is a non-profit organization sponsored

by Singapore-based SAI Tech. They have constructed a facility in the Marietta area (just off Route 7 between Marietta & Belpre) that operates on the principle of capturing the large amount of heat generated by high-end computers at this site, heating water from this computer-generated heat, and transferring it to applications where heat is required. The first application they have determined is a large (5,000 ft2) greenhouse which is already constructed at the project site at a cost of $320,000. The greenhouse will be used for educational purposes of local high school and college students and for growing vegetables to be distributed by Harvest of Hope to those in situations of food insecurity. Dt. Tao Wu and I have prepared two grant applications (one to the Marietta Community Foundation and one to the Parkersburg Area Community Foundation) for funds to purchase gardening supplies. Both were submitted on September 15—announcement dates are in November.

Chris Jacobs knows about this project because Dr. Tao met with Chris and Ben Ebenhack of Marietta College regarding possible collaborations between OCEC and the colleges new program, Earth, Energy & the Environment.

George Banziger