

June 2021 Meeting Minutes

Welcome chat, introductions

Attending: Nancy Atwood, Barbara Menne, Chuck Jensen, Sue Lepore, Virginia Lohr, Pete Weymiller, Jason Berkowitz, and new members Cheryl Haefs and Justin Mead, both from Spanaway.

Action Team Reports

Chuck Jensen, Tabling- Ocean Fest went well in spite of inclement weather. The venue is a very special place, with the Foss Waterway Seaport and museum (his late wife was instrumental in establishing that). Made good contacts and had good conversations, and the kids' activities were a big hit. New members joined in and enjoyed it a lot. It's a great starter activity. Photos are on the website and Facebook.

Barbara Menne, Endorsements- We had three lobby meetings (Cantwell, Kilmer, Strickland) and they went well. CCL WA youth ran the meeting with Cantwell's aide and that was great! Besides asking for endorsements, these meetings are about showing appreciation and building relationships. Sometimes the goal is just getting them to move one more small step toward endorsement.

Nancy Atwood, Fircrest-There is a new councilmember and she plans to lobby them soon.

CCL video clips

First, it was encouraging to see a mainstream CNN host, Fareed Zakaria, endorse carbon fee and dividend in clear, dynamic language. "Tax what you want less of" and "unleash the market, give business the incentive." [Watch the clip](#)

Secondly we watched excerpts from Danny Richter's Legislative update.

On border adjustment mechanisms: the fact that the US still doesn't have carbon pricing isolates us and puts us at a great disadvantage in global economic competition. We are seen as lacking seriousness and durability (subject to administration changes). Other countries can "eat our lunch!"

On co-sponsors: although we want to pass a stand-alone bill as a bipartisan effort, realistically it will be a reconciliation bill with many other components. There's such a rapidly growing number of endorsements from businesses of all sizes that it may help sway Republicans.

On conducting successful lobby meetings—strive for a 50/50 balance in talking between the lobbyists and the legislator or their staff member. Listen first, then only communicate your discussion points that apply.

This is taken from the CCL National June Conference, which is recorded [here](#).

Guest Speaker

Rachel Clark, with John Gaines and Logan Barr, all from Tacoma Public Utilities, spoke to us about long term planning for energy needs and transitions, and answered our questions.

Some charts (they weren't very recent but it hasn't changed much) showed the sources of power in this area (hydroelectric projects being 87%) and that it is overwhelmingly "clean" energy. Other sources in the portfolio are: 6% nuclear and 7% wind and solar. The 2% coal and natural gas reflects extra need situations--is not typical.

Tacoma Power is an exporter of carbon-free electricity. They often have a surplus, which helps keep rates as low as possible. But as a water-based source, it is weather-dependent and there can be a problem with "critical water years" at times.

Mentioned the challenges of planning for future transitions—electrification, unpredictable weather changes, possible breaching of dams. TPU wants to ensure the power supply in extra need, high demand situations.

Rooftop solar in this area has not made much of an impact on supply/demand (vs. CA or AZ, for instance). But they will plan for future loads based on an increase in that sector.

Her statement about a federal price on carbon: "It's unclear how that would interact with existing and future state legislation" (CETA, Climate Commitment Act).

TPU is very excited about EV's in general and plans to manage that transition with the help of grants (Clean Fuel Standard Act) for charging stations in many locations. One issue would be "managed charging" throughout the day to help with peak-time demand problems.

TPU helped work on the Clean Homes and Buildings Act for banning natural gas in new construction; it didn't pass this session but will be a big priority next time.

The Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) models a variety of possible futures and weather conditions and "helps us make sure that we have enough resources available to meet demand over the next 20 years."

We took an online mini-survey on priorities for TPU. They like to get the public involved in many ways: from taking surveys to getting on the mailing list, going to the IRP website, or enrolling in public IRP workshops.

Breakout Rooms

One room engaged in a bit of new member orientation with Cheryl and Justin, who are ready to get involved and want to attend the next lobby meeting (with Senator Murray, if possible?)

The other breakout room continued to discuss the TPU data.