

MARIN CONSERVATION LEAGUE

Climate Action Working Group: July 17, 2015

Tamalpais Conference Room, 175 N. Redwood Blvd., San Rafael

Present: Co-chairs Pam Reaves and Doug Wilson; also, Kate Powers, Oksana Scherba, Tom Flynn, Belle Cole (Organizing for Action Marin), Bob Spofford, Rick Fraitas, Judy Teichman, Taylor Watts, Ed Mainland, Susan Robinson, Pat Nelson. Also present as guest speakers: Michael Callahan-Dudley, MCE Regulatory Counsel; Cory Bytof, City of San Rafael Sustainability Coordinator; Allison Hang, MCE; Damon Connolly, Marin Supervisor.

Doug called the meeting to order and circulated a signup sheet at 9:03.

1. **Quick Intros:** Attendee introductions.
2. **Approval of the Agenda:** The agenda was approved with the addition of an informational item re MCL procedures. M/S, Susan/Rick.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Minutes from the June 26, 2015 meeting were approved with corrections.
4. **Discussion Items**
 - a. **MCL Procedures**

Doug stated that the proper procedure is to send items to be distributed to Pam and Doug. We will be reviewing letter-writing. Pam is compiling a history of our letters. This will be available on the website.

- b. **Allison Hang, MCE: Follow-up on discussion in June meeting re training to inform community members**

Allison reported on the progress in developing a training program for community advocates, as suggested by Main Street Moms. Allison and MCE have compiled a draft outline of training, with the assistance of the Moms. The training will educate advocates on technical issues and address issues of practice (starting conversations with community members). Participants will brainstorm on the role of CCA/MCE, resources grid and power procurement, general procurement principles and policies, understanding the electricity bill, and starting the conversation/elevator pitches. Allison presented a draft outline including the subtopics for each of these discussion items. She stated that there will be a meeting on July 31 at 1125 Tamalpais Ave., the new MCE office.

Allison also discussed the composition of the audience for newly trained community advocates. These include the new MCE communities and existing customers. Outreach is needed because only two percent of customers are deep green customers.

- c. **Michael Callahan-Dudley, Regulatory Counsel for MCE: Issues before the the California Public Utilities Commission which impact the climate and MCE**

Michael presented information about monitoring the CPUC, how the CPUC affects MCE, and how MCL might be able to help on climate issues. He also provided background information on CPUC procedures.

One way in which MCL might help is to allow MCE to incorporate community feedback in its CPUC advocacy. Key areas of advocacy include energy efficiency, compliance with Renewable Portfolio Standards, and rates.

Energy-Efficiency Programs: Legal Background and Agency Interfaces

Legislation

Public Utility Code 381.1 allocates energy-efficiency funding

- Collects funds directly from MCE ratepayers
- Draws from a pool of funds (public purpose statewide)

Agencies

California Energy Commission

- Prepares energy demand forecasts (10-year forecasts)
- Part of this process is to look an amount of energy-efficiency component

CPUC

- Creates goals from CEC forecast
- Allocates public-purpose fund

MCE

- One of three CCAs in California
- Only one doing energy-efficiency via CPUC (from public purpose funds)

Q. Has MCE been shortchanged on the amount of public-purpose funds it receives?

A. The budget pales in comparison with the amount received by investor-owned utilities (IOUs). IOUs can focus on easy to reach EE options. The restrictions on working around IOUs have been lifted. CCA can now go after any customer in its service territory with programs that serve those sectors. The most recent amount was \$1-2 mil/yr. Will ask for \$10 mil/yr.

MCE Plan

The business plan for 2016 and beyond is to go sector by sector. The goal is to get MCE EE plans before the CPUC before PG&E gets theirs before the CPUC. MCE is interested in integrating a whole suite of resources that the customer may be interested in.

- Opportunity for Public Comment on Implementation Plans
<http://www.mcecleanenergy.org/energy-savings/>

- Technical Committee Meeting Aug. 3, 5pm – 7pm@MCE
- Executive Commit Meeting Aug. 5, 10am – 12pm@MCE

LIFT (Low-Income Families and Tenants) pilot program

MCE Energy-Efficiency program that offers more incentives for income-qualified customers. The goal is to serve “hidden communities” not adequately served by existing EE programs. The program matches EE savings 2 to 1, puts savings in an account. The income-qualification threshold in 200% of the federal poverty level.

The IOUs also do energy-efficiency programs; PG&E partners with local governments, for example, in the Marin Energy Watch program. IOUs are sometimes aligned with MCE on goals for moving the CPUC.

Michael passed out a chart outlining procedures at the CPUC. The CPUC considers specific applications by utilities (for example, to build electric charging stations) and also conducts rulemaking proceedings. Parties to a proceeding have opportunities to protest and respond to CPUC actions and to submit comments, testimony and legal briefing. Proceedings have several phases designed to develop a record and basis for decisionmaking: policy, fact-finding, legal argument, proposed decision, final decision, and implementation.

Source of CPUC authority: The state constitution. CPUC is located in San Francisco to keep maintain separation from the legislature. CPUC has two offices and 900 employees. Sixty percent of its work concerns energy. Five commissioners vote on decisions, the vote sometimes entail an alternate decision. When a decision is adopted, it is essentially law.

Energy Efficiency at the CPUC

- Energy-Efficiency Proceeding
 - Phase II – Process
 - Phase III – Policy. Phase III offers an opportunity for MCL involvement. Policy questions addressed include statewide v. local, fuel-switching, dealing with data.
- Energy Savings Assistance Program and California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) Proceeding. These assist low-income customers.
- Integrated Demand-Side Proceeding. These break down silos, provide and integrated suite with incentives/policies.
- Distribution Resources Plan Proceeding. These concern the distribution system. The IOUs propose management plans, and energy efficiency is one way to free up capacity.

What Can MCL Do?

Strategic Interventions: Participate in workshops, public meetings; write letters of support (attached to MCE submissions or sent directly to decisionmakers); participate in ex parte meetings with decisionmakers (these interactions must be reported in writing to the commission and other parties); intervene as a party in a proceeding (examples of frequent

intervenors: NRDC, TURN); help to build the record (identify relevant reports, comment at workshops, compile reports); act as ambassadors for MCE in the community.

Comment on ex parte communication reporting requirement: Must report communication to the “service list” of parties to the proceeding; the only time one cannot communicate with decisionmakers is when the proceeding is in a “quiet phase” (rare). There is no ex parte reporting requirement for quasi-legislative proceedings.

d. MCE Draft Energy-Efficiency Program Implementation Plan

MCL will take action on this item:

MCL response to draft plan: Establish a subcommittee for the purpose of commenting. Time frame of next Wednesday for comment is unrealistic, but they are accepting verbal comment up August 3 at the next MCE board meeting.

Tom Flynn volunteered to work on this. Ed Mainland will serve as scribe. Doug is MCL honcho.

We don't have to start from scratch; we can draw on work already done.

Timeframe: Present comments at one of the upcoming MCE meetings. It might not be possible to get MCL board to approve by Wednesday. Maybe by Friday, or before the pertinent MCE meetings.

e. Report of Supervisor Damon Connolly and SR Sustainability Coordinator Cory Bytof on Stakeholders Working Together on Climate Change Mitigation Issues

Follow-up report on Sup. Connolly's initiative on best methods to get County, cities, staff and citizens to work together on climate change mitigation. Primary question is how to structure the endeavor.

Damon Connolly

This is a substantial initiative, a continuation of brainstorming. The County has a draft Climate Change Action Plan. An update may occur by Fall. One issue is who should be at the table for the update. Although the Plan technically applies only to the unincorporated areas of the County, the cities should be there, as well as county subcommittees, dedicated staff, community groups. The cities are at various stages, with San Rafael serving as a model. There is substantial precedent for County staff assisting/working with the cities.

The initiative would provide regular meetings, prioritization, and tracking of progress. First step: Form a working group to get started? There is currently a committee dedicated to sea level rise. This is separate. Damon and Kate Sears are spearheading. Work with the councils and mayors.

Issues teed up:

Scope of initiative: Should not be too broad – example, Green Building Initiative
Coordinate with existing groups
Interface with the public. MCL is a start
How can the County become a leader?

Cory Bytof

San Rafael will present a plan next Thursday. Focus is on implementation. Reliance on County staff is useful. Models include the Los Angeles Climate Collaborative under the auspices of UCLA. There will possibly be quarterly meetings with all stakeholders. Fit the culture of the county. This is an iterative process. It will not necessarily bring all parties together at the same time.

Comment: The San Rafael Plan is a high-level plan with hooks for implementation (specific actions). Bob Brown was a moving force.

Question: What is the best way to involve cities that are lagging?

Suggested Answers: Peer pressure. Example of the Marin Climate Energy Partnership (process/plan). Bring resources and offer support. Develop a working plan for Corte Madera; Sausalito is catching up. Invite the lagging cities in after progress is well under way. Progress is due to citizens coming before the dais; council members pay attention. Possibly a guest speaker, such as Stephanie Moulton Peters.

Question: What are the problems specific to unincorporated Marin?

Answer: The distinction is artificial, based on jurisdiction. As long as there is a specific program, cities and county can work together. There are more difficult jurisdictional issues if policies are involved. Inter-jurisdictional cooperation is required. The PACE program is an example of a non silo approach. Dana Armanino of County staff put together a packet that cities can adapt. This involved extensive work that the cities don't have to duplicate. MCE is also a partner of the County.

Question: What is MCL's first step to facilitate?

Answer: Factors:

- Don't wait until the plan is finalized.
- Define goal and implementation plan. AB 32 targets; push for interim targets. Targets at the top of every agenda.
- Form a working group?

Question: Should a subcommittee be formalized soon?

Answer: Yes.

Question: What about funding?

Answer: Will work this out. Are there climate-ready grants? No, these are specific to vulnerability assessments.

Further Comments: Work out the timeline for finalizing subcommittee staffing; at community meeting?

Dana Armanino has set up meetings re cap. These are not translating into specific implementation steps.

MCL homework: Who is on the work group? When would it start? How to get public support? Start submitting names.

Damon will work on the administrative plan. The best ideas come from public participation. There is buy-in if they are part of the process from the ground up.

5. Reports and Announcements

Report of Cory Bytof on MCE developments at the CPUC

CPUC made the decision to change the rate structure, taking away the A-6 Rate Tariff. The removal means a loss of demand-charge reductions. There is no incentive for solar; there is a huge disincentive. Customers will pay at least as much if they switch to solar. This decision is now in the implementation phase. Cory will send his letter of protest. An MCL letter is possible re implementation.

Question: Who is pushing this change.

Answer: The IOUs. Commissioner Picker. Picker's confirmation is in August; try to block it. Look up who is on the Senate Rules Committee and lobby them. It takes homework to make the case.

Report of Rick Fraites, Community Marin: Rick met with Supervisors Connolly and Arnold and plans to meet with the other Supes re sea-level rise and adaptation.

Report of Judy Teichman: The MCE Implementation Plan does not include any reference to our June 9th letter re funding for agricultural programs. They are inviting comment. Should we comment? Answer: There is no time to produce a new letter.

Report of Belle Cole, Organizing for Action – Marin: Organizing for Action and Sustainable San Rafael and other organizations are sponsoring a Forum at Dominican University on Amping Up Climate Leadership. Jared Huffman is working with them. They will be looking at the U.N. Conference in Paris in December. Gov. Brown will be attending the U.N. Conference, addressing the topic: Can the California Climate Model Inspire Global Action. Ken Alex and Kevin de Leon were figures in constructing the California model.

The Forum at Dominican will take place on November 5th. Topics and speakers include: How to Make Climate a Presidential Issue in 2016, Tom Steyer; What Is Possible in Congress, Jared Huffman; Can People Power Free Us from Fossil Fuels, Bill McKibben. Mary Marcy, President of Dominican, will preside. Ed suggested Diane Moss of 100% Renewables.

Announcements:

The Ag Land Committee will address carbon farming plans at their August 28 meeting. Cory: There will be a report on the 2012-1013 GHG plan on 8/3.

There will be an art exhibit re climate adaptation in the Jan. – Feb. ArtWorks event in downtown San Rafael.

There will be a Soil, Not Oil conference on 9/4 – 9/5 in Richmond.

The Urban Land Institute has issued a report entitled “Tackling Sea Level Rise: Best Practices in the Bay Area.”

Sustainable San Rafael will have a 10-year anniversary party at Whipper Snapper from 3:00 – 5:00 on 8/9.

There will be a meeting on the San Rafael Quarterly Climate Action Plan Implementation on 7/23 from 7:00 – 9:00 at SR City Hall, 2nd Floor.

Meeting Adjourned 11:22.

Notes: PN