

Minutes for the 11/15/07 Meeting of Beat the Heat. Present were: Evelyn Adams, Casey Bazewick, Betty Carteret, Eileen Deutsch, Phyllis Dolph, Ann Dursch, Susan Ferrel, Holly and Kevin Green, Martha Hall, Kristi Hein, Bob Helton, Von Kuehn, Mira Lutz, Kevin McKeown, Lane Parks, Howard Pellet, Kathleen Root, Patti Santangelo, Eric Shen, Laurie and Paul Sherman, Becky Stinson, and Vince Streano. (A hearty welcome back - though temporarily, alas - to Eileen, and welcome to potential new member Kevin McKeown)

Highlights on the global warming front in the past month included...

Al Gore and the IPCC shared the Nobel Peace Prize

The IPCC convened in Spain to create the final UN Climate Change Report: Scientists and government officials from 145 countries worked on distilling the 4000+ pages of the 3 previous reports into a 25-page summary for policymakers, and a 70-page technical document, that puts in a nutshell the evidence for climate change, its likely impacts and the options for tackling it. The analysis carries huge political weight as it will help guide action on climate change for years to come, starting with a crucial UN conference in Bali next month. But some, including from within the IPCC itself, fear this final report will be badly out of date before it is even printed as it fails to take into account a batch of dramatic recent evidence, including the shrinkage of the Arctic ice cap, glacier loss in Greenland, a surge in levels of atmospheric CO₂ (emissions were 35% higher in 2006 than in 1990, a much higher increase than expected) and an apparent slowing of Earth's ability to absorb greenhouse gases. Taken together, these phenomena suggest climate change is occurring faster than expected – and call into question the value of the report as a policy guide.

Wildfires in California: 16 wind-blown fires forced the largest mass evacuation in California history – this may or may not be the result of climate change, but studies have shown that the hot drought conditions that fed the flames are becoming more common. US Forest Service Chief says “Fires are burning hotter and bigger...each year the fire season comes earlier and lasts longer.”

Drought continues in Southeast: For the first time in more than 100 years, much of the Southeast has reached the most severe category of drought, creating an emergency so serious that some cities are just months away from running out of water.

Global Warming Bill in committee: Lawmakers are struggling to birth a global warming bill (America's Climate Security Act, sponsored by Lieberman and Warner, S. 2191) that would impose mandatory cuts in greenhouse gases. Although the bill is a strong start, many feel it's just not good enough and anything short of the best bill in the Senate now could spell disaster. The controversy surrounding this bill was reflected in a brief discussion in the group – do you support something that won't do the job in the hopes that it will pass and eventually get made stronger, or do you work to get the proper bill passed in the first place, something many say has no chance of happening? BtH members should educate themselves about this bill, decide for themselves, and contact their senators. It's vital for lawmakers to hear from us!

A first-ever national youth climate summit occurred November 2-5 in Washington, DC. More than 5500 students took part in Power Shift 2007 to learn, contribute, strategize, and return home as smarter and more effective activists for a clean energy revolution. Over 2,000 students gathered for a rally in front of the U.S. Capitol before spending the rest of the day lobbying their representatives.

Kristi noted that in **New Hampshire** they are trying to address the ridiculous ban on drying clothes outdoors.

OLD BUSINESS

Student Grant project underway: We raised \$1018 for 2 \$500 student grants. Mira reported that she has the applications and posters and notices have appeared in *American* and *Herald*. The notice and application are also on our website. There was some discussion as to the proposal deadline being too short at Nov. 30; if no proposals are received by that time we may publicize an extension. Also, Laurie mentioned students are “getting desperate” about coming up with senior projects and suggested Mira get in touch with the senior project coordinator to make sure the seniors are aware of the program.

Energy Forum: AAUW has agreed to co-sponsor the forum with us. Also, Madrona Center for the Arts. We will proceed with those co-sponsors but would love to have more. Laurie offered to take the info to the Soroptimists. The event’s facilitator, Kay Haaland, will get back to us soon with a January date.

Resource Conservation Mgr: Good news. Applications have been sent in from Anacortes, Burlington, LaConner, Skagit County, Port of Skagit, Port of Anacortes and according to SCOG director Kelley Moldstand, 2-3 more are expected. Mayor Maxwell expects a RCM will be hired after the first of the year.

Climate Steward Program: Betty reported that the NW Clean Air Agency will be funding a 12-hour training program next February to create “climate stewards.” The program is in conjunction with the WSU BeachWatchers and Padilla Bay.

Website: Warren is currently revising the website so that others beside himself can make changes to the main page. Questions remain about whether or not the Town Hall Forum is, or will be, a useful part of the site, or whether a blog format would be a better fit. Mira offered to talk to Wren Schultz about possibly managing a blog.

NEW BUSINESS

Lobby Day: Martha reported that environmental groups have a Lobby Day each year – this year it’s Jan. 23. She encourages as many people as possible to go to Olympia for a planned day of meetings with their state legislators. Buses will be organized for us. Each year four key issues are selected as the talking points with legislators; this year the first two relate to global warming. It would be great if we had a good number of Anacortes people attending. Martha reports last year’s day “was a lot of fun, plus I really liked the chance to talk with my legislators face to face.” She has registration forms, which need to be mailed in soon. \$10 for the bus; \$15 for the day (and “they feed you all day”) E-mail her at kingfish@fidalgo.net if you would like to go.

City Efforts/ Trip Reduction Program: Mayor Maxwell joined Betty’s class and reported on city efforts to follow the ICLEI recommendations. Bio-diesel is being used at the wastewater treatment plant and the city is investigating the use of electric cars at Wa Park. CFLs can now be disposed of at the city’s operations facility at 2201 37th St, 8-5, Mon-Fri. The city also received a \$25,000 matching grant from PSE to re-ballast city hall.

Also, \$2000 has been set aside in the 2008 budget for a trip-reduction program. According to Erica Pickett, who instigated this program, city ITs are developing the online log form now and should have a draft ready for review around November 26. Groups compete to reduce drive miles and the “prize” for saving the most miles is being able to decide how the \$2000 will be spent on City facilities. Rules for the program haven’t yet been finalized.

Guemes Ferry: Holly reported that there is a movement afoot to use 20% bio-diesel in the Guemes Ferry.

SVH article: A reporter with the SVH contacted Evelyn. The *Herald* is working on a series of articles about how global warming will affect our local area. She's been assigned an article that talks about what locals can do in their lives to combat climate change. "It's a broad topic, I know, but I found out that you're one of the only local groups actively involved in the issue. I thought if I could chat with some of the folks from Beat the Heat!, you could provide some valuable resources and information specifically for residents in the area looking to reduce their carbon footprint and address climate change in their own lives. I thought talking to local folks that have made changes in their lifestyle could also provide some encouragement for other locals." Evelyn invited her to the general meeting but unfortunately she had a conflict. Evelyn has set 3PM Saturday at the library to talk with her and invited others in our group to attend. Betty and Eric will come.

Coming Up! Our final lecture in the series is John Rawlins talk on Nov 15: "Facing the Challenges Ahead: Living in an Age of Peak Oil and Climate Change." Evelyn asked if anyone could videotape the event and both Casey and Kristi put in a special plea for attendance at this important talk. Howard mentioned that Rawlins will also be giving his talk Jan. 10 at the Lincoln Lane. Lane discussed the Madrona Center's "Eat Local" potlucks at the Guemes Community Center. Next one is Dec. 9, 6-9, at the Community Center. He also mentioned a large event being planned by Madrona for the summer that will promote sustainability through art, performance and music – he will continue to keep us updated.

Evelyn mentioned that she and Betty will speak at the Guemes "soup supper" on Dec 4 – we've been asked to talk about global warming and our group's efforts.

December 8th is the third **International Day of Climate Action**. This takes place during the Dec. 3-14 UN Climate Conference in Bali. There will be actions on the 8th in more than 75 countries.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Susan reported that she had a good talk with Carol Havens of the Slow Food movement and still hopes to have someone join her in her effort to promote **labeling foods** as to how far they've traveled.

Public Awareness: Betty reported on her global warming class which just finished up at the Senior College and noted that she and Eric will be doing another one for the winter quarter beginning Jan. 15. 22 people signed up for the inaugural class, and Evelyn can attest it was a dynamite presentation and a vital offering! See our website www.skagitbeattheheat.org for more info on the next class. 60 people showed up for the second lecture in our series, Dr. Paul Johnson's talk, but only 18 showed for Bob Aegerter's "Cool Cities" (attendance was likely influenced by the fact that talk had to be held at Padilla Bay). Betty also mentioned that Craig Collar from the Snohomish PUD will do a BeachWatcher talk on Feb. 15 on tidal power. Kristi reported that there were 21 folks at the "Who Killed the Electric Car?" matinee and she is looking for the next series of films. "King Corn" has been offered for January, and Howard suggested "Crude Awakening" for another date. Betty talked to the Kiwanis about donating a TV to the library.

Transportation: Vince encouraged people to show up at the WSDOT presentation 11/15 at the Middle School, 4-7PM, to weigh in on Sharpe Corner revision plans. He pointed out there is no accommodation in any of the plans for pedestrians or bike riders to cross the highway. Paul

mentioned the need to get bio-diesel available here in Anacortes. Eileen shared how her electric bike has made a huge difference in her lifestyle.

Energy: Eric reported that the committee will host a home energy audit workshop Jan 26, 10-2, at the library. There will be short presentations throughout the workshop and people will also be able to visit a number of booths devoted to various energy-reducing items and methods.

Political Action: Howard reported on the committee's drive to get community leaders to sign a letter (drafted by Evelyn and read by Kevin to the group) asking them to sign on to a statement that will be presented to the county commissioners in January. This statement will urge the commissioners 1) to adopt a resolution acknowledging the challenges of both peak oil and climate change in our county and 2) to create a task force that will develop a plan to meet these challenges. The committee is currently drawing up their list of leaders and invites names, addresses and phone #s from others in the group. These can be mailed to Howard at cpellett@cablerocket.com.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned to work sessions. NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 12, 6PM, Village Pizza

Respectfully submitted, Evelyn Adams