

**Josephine County Democrats Environmental Caucus  
January 21, 2021, 6:00 to 7:30 pm Zoom Meeting  
Minutes**

**Meeting called to order:** 6:09 pm by **Joe Stodola**.

**In attendance:** Joe Stodola, Rick Flora, Geri Ventura, Jean Mount, Lynda Spangler, Patty Downing, Bob Brosius, Jerry Allen, Joey DeShields, Elva Manquera, Jean Carroll, Kathy Svendsen

**Joe led us through short introductions by all attendees.** Each person stated their name and briefly described their background and environmental interests.

**Rick explained the use of Survey Monkey for election of EC officers, determination of length of term, and determination of schedule for days and times of meetings.**

Positions to be filled by secret ballot are Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. Applications and nominations for those positions due by Tuesday, January 26, 2021. Ballots to be sent as link to Survey Monkey on Wednesday, January 27, 2021. Voting must be completed by Tuesday, February 2, 2021. Newly elected officers will be installed on Friday, February 5, 2021. Length of term will be determined on the same ballot. Whomever receives the most votes for each position will be declared the winner. Likewise, the term length will be determined by whichever period receives the most votes. Rick encouraged members who intend to be active in the caucus to apply for any of the 3 positions that they are interested in.

An email was sent out this morning with a link to Survey Monkey asking everyone on the Environmental Caucus distribution list 8 questions. The first question pertained to whether the respondent intended to be an active participant with the Environmental Caucus. If the answer was yes, they were asked to respond to the other 7 questions. If the answer was either they did not intend to be an active participant but wanted to remain on the mailing list, or they wished to be removed from the Environmental Caucus and the mailing list, they were informed that there was no need to respond to the remaining 7 questions.

The next 6 questions asked which days and hours that they could make themselves available, that they preferred, and that they were definitely not available to take part in our EC Zoom meetings. The last question pertained to the frequency that we should have regularly scheduled meetings. Everyone was asked to respond to this survey.

**Next, Rick led a discussion of projects that we have been working on as well as those that we are interested in working on to try to get a handle on where we will direct our attention this year.** We limited the discussions to a brief overview of the project and its status to cover all the projects of interest.

**Rick discussed the Jordan Cove Terminal/LNG Pacific Connector Pipeline.** With the decision on January 19 by FERC to uphold Oregon's refusal to issue permits, the project is on hold again and could, possibly, die altogether. It was recommended that we curtail activity on this project until it rears its ugly head again. That may or may not happen.

**Lynda discussed the status of SB1530 and HB2020.** Republican legislators walked out of the SB1530, cap and trade, session. HB2020 is basically the same as SB1530. A 2021 proposal covers environmental justice, climate, water quality, etc. She also recommended the **DPO Environmental Caucus** as a source of information. She will bring the legislative

agenda to Geri Ventura, who will then send out to caucus members. Rick indicated that the Chair of the DPO Environmental Caucus has asked if any members of our group are interested in joining the DPO EC.

**Jerry Allen, farmer, shared information on the Green Bond Fund** which can be used to work with projects that positively affect the environment. Jerry suggested that we write Oregon State Treasurer, Tobias Reed, and ask him to involve the State of Oregon with the Green Bond Fund. Jerry will draft a letter to Reed that the JoCo Dems EC as well as the Central Committee can vote on sending to Mr. Reed.

Jerry informed the group that the **Democratic Party of Oregon Rural Caucus** is very active and doing a lot to advance progressive causes.

Jerry also mentioned that he practices **Regenerative Agriculture** to preserve and improve the soil through soil microbes. He will send information to Geri. **Patty** endorsed Regenerative Agriculture, saying it needs a goal of a positive vision of how things could be.

**Joe discussed the Past Environmental Calamities and Analogies to Global Warming Solutions project** he has been working on that makes the point that any calamity has solutions. He has created a video showing what a disaster the dustbowl of the 30's was until Congress enacted laws and farmers changed practices which corrected soil erosion and loss problems, how the hole in the ozone layer was addressed by banning the use of CFCs, how banning DDT stopped the killing of eagles, and how the use of unleaded gas and development the South Coast Air Quality Management District greatly reduced amount of smog in and around the Los Angeles basin. Joe believes that talking to people about global warming and showing them just how other seemingly unsolvable environmental disasters were resolved could do much to reduce their fear and skepticism.

**Rick discussed the Environmental Action Plan project that Vanessa Ogier** brought to the EC about two years ago. We had gathered hundreds of signatures on petitions and convinced the Cave Junction City Council to develop and Environmental Action Plan, but the project stalled during the pandemic and the elections. Vanessa is now a Grants Pass City Councilwoman. She has informed us that 5 of the 7 Grants Pass City Councilpersons have voted to addressing the climate crisis as one of their top five priorities this year.

**Logging and Mining Issues** were touched on with **Lynda and Jean Mount** reporting. Both practices are doing damage to the water supply. The clear-cut logging in Wilderville is especially lamentable and it does not help that the mining committee has miners as members. Lynda further remarked that loggers are not paying enough in severance taxes for taking Oregon's trees.

**Jerry told us that he is writing an environmental centric book for children** and discussed teaching children about environmental issues from an early age.

**Joe informed participants about a Citizen's Climate Lobby workshop** on the 30th from 2-4 pm.

**Rick** requested that we all think about the issues we discussed and be prepared to narrow them down to which projects we should focus on. Which we should actively work on. Which we should put on the backburner and just keep our eyes on.

**Rick adjourned the meeting** at 7:37 pm