

#### 4/19/10 Special Meeting of TOS Climate Protection Committee

Members present: Sharman Russel, Connie Downard, Allyson Siwik, Gary Edwards, Debraura James.  
Guests: Jamie Thomson, Marilyn McCracken, John Song.

Meeting called to order at 5 p.m.

Our Committee has been asked to review the CLEAR Act to consider making a Resolution for the Town of Silver City. CLEAR, or Carbon Limits and Energy for America's Renewal, Act has been presented by Senators Cantwell(Washington) and Collins (Maine). Jamie Thomson, Town Counselor, explained the difference between cap and trade and cap and dividend. If the environmental Regulation Cap is 50, but my company is at 60, another company can sell their margin to my company. Currently all the trading is amongst industries. Cap and Trade is designed to drive down carbon emissions. Cap and Dividend acts more like a "carbon-tax" and allows revenue to go back to the consumer, 75% to taxpayers to offset increased energy costs and 25% to new green technology. Under the CLEAR Act, the cap is not mandated, resulting in no offsets and not driving down energy emissions. The committee looked at the very difficult decision which our federal legislators will have to be making. These are two very different approaches to solving the same problem.

The group looked at three different commentaries on the CLEAR Act and the group agreed to read through each article. An article from *The Daily Grist* suggests that it doesn't meet the emission reduction goals that the cap and trade bills would, while other articles think the Cap and Dividend notion is the answer. There is some concern that this bill could be divisive and in the interest of getting a Climate Change bill PASSED, we should perhaps we should be cautious. It might be more prudent for the Climate Protection Committee to publicly support a climate legislation bill, recognizing that we don't know which one is best and expecting our legislators to research and compromise until they can propose a viable bill. Business as usual is not an option in which the committee seems to be interested.

The Climate Change committee has never presented a Resolution to date, as we have been occupied with creating our Action Plan and setting up the Dept. of Sustainability. The committee discussed strategy and timing in our possible new role of being authors of resolutions. We are slated to present our new Director of Sustainability on our progress report on our Action Plan in May. Our strategy may best be to make our May presentations and consider studying and researching a future a resolution concerning federal climate change legislation.

It was suggested that perhaps our new Sustainability Director will be a valuable resource who can direct us toward a future resolution. Gary made the motion to table the discussion as the national debate develops. Debraura seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Our next meeting will be on Wed., May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debraura James, secy