

Josephine County Democratic Central Committee

Minutes: March 12, 2019

Chair Brian Clark opened the meeting at 7 pm. Approximately 28 people attended. All members of the Executive Committee were present.

Action: Sarah Wofford became the Democrats' 60th PCP by unanimous vote.

PCP's present unanimously voted to endorse HR 2020, Oregon legislation aimed at reducing carbon monoxide emissions through a Cap, Trade, and Invest plan.

Reports: Brian reported we still have an open CD-2 delegate position and two CD-2 alternate delegate positions open and called for volunteers to take those positions. For Campaign Committee Chair Lynda Spangler, who was absent, Brian announced several elected positions in the community are open including school boards, fire districts, water and sanitary districts and the library district. An all-day candidates' forum will be held in Salem March 23 for anyone interested in running for an elected office.

- The Democratic Party of Oregon (DPO) is holding its quarterly meeting and election soon so Brian said anyone with inquiries about that should contact him, Dorothy Yetter or Kevin Marr.
- Treasurer Anita Savio reported a balance of \$3,728 with expenses of \$184 for the month. Income, in the form of contributions, came to \$65. She said she is working on income goals to discuss at the next Executive Board meeting.
- Vice Chair Dorothy Yetter, who manages technology for the Democrats, said she is inviting everyone to join Slack, a communication program that will help when we get into long email discussions about something. With this, conversations stay together instead of getting lost among your general email, and you can search categories. Send her your email (look on the website) and she will send an invitation to join.

Speaker: Scientists Alan Journet and Kathy Conway, coordinators for Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN) promoting climate change awareness, explained HR 2020, Oregon's first major legislation aimed at cutting carbon emissions through cap and trade. The legislation just completed the hearing phase and still has to make its way through various committees before a vote will be taken. Oregon's bill is actually a "three-legged stool" he said. The first leg is establishing limits for carbon emissions. The second leg is giving corporations the ability to buy emission offsets they can sell if they don't need them all. The third leg of the stool is an investment component, where the money the state gets from selling credits goes to further the goals of the legislation through research and investment in green energy, helping communities transition to cleaner energy, and supporting entrepreneurs, including women and minorities, developing climate-friendly businesses. There will be monetary punishments for corporations that don't comply, but this system gives corporations incentive to reduce emissions so they can make money selling their carbon allowances to those who don't. There will be exceptions: forestry and agriculture, and aviation and any business that emits less than 25,000 tons a year, so small businesses and farmers won't be impacted by this.

Alan called BS on information put out by opponents to HR 2020, saying predictions that it will tank the economy and drive energy prices up are not true. Studies cited by opponents are from old data while cap and trade programs in other states are showing the opposite – that fuel costs go down while thousands of new jobs are created. When asked why Oregon needs such legislation when its contribution to the country's overall greenhouse gasses is miniscule, he said we can't complain about climate change unless we do something at home, and we want our state to be a leader in the movement to cut emissions. Besides..."If I poop in the pool just a little bit it's still poop in the pool," said Journet. Questions from those present demonstrated people's confusion over the plan but once it was explained

all agreed it is good start for Oregon. For a summary and more information about HR 2020, Journet referred people to his website at socan.eco/cej. Questions can be answered at climatequestions@socan.info.

Kathy urged Democrats to become ambassadors for HR 2020 by identifying groups that might be interested in presentations about it, and by doing all we can to debunk myths flying around about it. They both urged that those writing letters to their legislators or to newspapers get everything right about the legislation to avoid being attacked by opponents. Alan said he'd be happy to proof letters if emailed to him at alan@socan.info.

Following up on the endorsement vote, Vice Chair Dorothy Yetter put on screen a series of actions we can take to help our community understand how important HR 2020 is to our state and community. Suggestions she put up were: doing opposition research to be ready to counter claims that it will be bad for the economy, create a timeline showing the progress of the bill through the legislature, mobilize information about it through our website, collect signatures to petition legislators or local officials to support this, hold an event to share information about it, hold a local debate on the bill, collect signatures and contributions for a full-page signature ad in the local paper, hold a rally or a march supporting the legislation, go to Salem to meet with our Republican representatives (who oppose the bill) and lobby them. Other ideas from those present included sending speakers out to other organizations, have an informational table near the Growers Market downtown, getting Indivisible involved (Anita volunteered to contact the Illinois Valley group), contact environmental groups and work with them, contact the high school and community college to see if debate teams might consider this a subject, sit in front of the post office and hand out informational cards while registering people to vote, and since this has a component for women and minorities, reaching out to women's business groups or tribes to educate them. Another important factor to this, many agreed, was to get more youth involved, since it's their future this legislation protects. Richard Flora, Sheri Morin and Lynda Demsher volunteered to form an ad-hoc committee to get an informational campaign started.