

Green Party of Michigan State Membership Meeting * Saturday, September 26, 2009
City Park Grill * 432 East Lake Street, Petoskey

9:00 am registration

9:30 am officer reports

[10:03]

Lynn M introduces meeting

local meeting last night at bookstore with speaker from 350.org
climate action in TC 10/24 . . . she recommends this as our top issue for 2010

Fred V notes papers at front table: agenda – & package of reports

rept of co-chair Fred V (other co-chair is Rev Pinkney)

the problems we see now are all things we foresaw before Obama came in & started disappointing others
we need to prepare ourselves for growth & change – notably USSF and GPUS meetings both in Detroit next June
most of what he knows has been done was done in the Detroit area

(e.g., TV show . . . People's Water Board – a coalition with MWRO and Sierra Club! & E Mich Env Action Council)
a non-Green but Green-supported candidate: Elena Herrada, running for Detroit Charter Commission (cleared primary)

John P asks if she's a GPMI member; Fred V says she has been before

Lynn M asks if anything else should be on the agenda

JALP mentions BH elections (BANCO & MERA looking for election challengers for all precincts in November; we need a process)

Susan O asks about locals; Lynn M mentions UP local has submitted by-laws (Linda C is here)

SCC business report in packet . . .

Linda C raised point of open issue of possible quarterly breaks in NC business (should GPMI sponsor such a proposal? pending)

Tom M's proposal about scheduling of SMMs

Harley M (Locals Liaison) wants to stress the need to get Website updated – especially regarding our locals

should be updated again at first of new year . . . update officers & county contacts, too

Aimee S says Chuck L will be here later; we could discuss who can do what on updating

Priscilla D does Website maintenance work (elsewhere) – that's enough work in itself; the person shouldn't have to gather info too

JALP asks about updating officer aliases, too – he's still getting messages for LL, which would be OK except Harley *isn't*

Lou N says we have to submit alias changes – spring's changes were

he's suggested moving our site elsewhere . . . no formal proposal yet

maybe some capable people could discuss at lunch, then the larger meeting could spend some of the 1:00 hour on it

Harley M asks how difficult the platform itself is

Linda C asks about action item at the bridge Sept 4-5?

Lynn M suggests maybe that could be a topic for a lunch-table too

Lou N offers oral treasurer's report – current balances in the 2 accounts:

polit	about	\$7.200		
admin	about	\$1,024	total	\$8,257.56

Aimee S asks what we give GPUS and what we get from them

Lou N says we don't give much; we get some from the Green Card program (if people designate half for state)

many states have given it back (recognizing GPUS's financial straits) . . .

we may have just given back \$281 – the remaining half of 2008

Fred V notes we haven't done anything else – like loaning money . . .

John P says he recently got a solicitation from GPUS (signed by Matt among others) with 40% going back to states

Lou N thinks that may be the sustainer program

Aimee S asks about status of office space – is everything still okay?

Lou N says there was another occasion of service being cut off because of timing problems

but he now has the number he needs to get an online account

we're paying \$40-50/mo for a phone & get some office space in return

any other reports?

JALP . . . BH, convention next year, recruiting candidates, etc

John P . . . GPUS Accreditation Committee . . . somewhat at a standstill:

6-8 mbrs, only 1 co-chair (Nan Garrett) & she's been flooded in GA

pressure to de-accredit 4 states which have never participated on national committee in 6 months: WY, AK, ID, VT

4 states with no active parties at all: ND, SD, KY, NH

a few caucuses getting closer to becoming accredited: Rural Caucus (81 subscribers), Disability Caucus (95 subscribers)

need at least 100 in 15 states (Rural doesn't have quite enough states yet either)

only active committees so far: Women's, Black, Lavender (get votes on NC/committees & at conventions)

John P notes what the Accreditation Committee does is hear protests between contesting groups

conference call 9pm Sunday night 1x per month

Fred V suggests we list all the committees & caucuses on Website and e-mail its members

and how much representation is open to our members . . . so we can fill all our slots

suggests that anyone who's on a committee submit 1-2 sentences on what it does

Linda C will do that for the Eco-Action Committee

Aimee S notes the potential for the same problem as here: volunteering on higher levels but losing focus on the local

Fred V suggests presenting the info is still useful

Lynn M wonders if we should talk about Matt A's replacement now; Fred V was going to get to national reps

Aimee S . . . GPUS International Committee . . . there's an issue now about getting rules at the committee

a challenge to do things entirely by mail – process issues can take up a lot of time

Peace Action Committee mostly dead for the past year or so as the result of such battles

Int'l Cmte has proposed rules, but Steering Committee hasn't accepted them to present them to NC

Media Committee . . . Fred V may be more up-to-date on that; regularly churning out press releases

we don't always know what happens with them, but some get picked up –

e.g., the one on why Van Jones should come back to the Greens

Candace C asks if GreenPartyWatch.org/.com is associated with us; Lou N says it's an independent blog covering us

Linda C, Aimee S mention that Steering Committee may have conflict of interest on Int'l Cmte rules

as to who has the power to appoint official reps to broader [North] American Green Party gatherings/meetings

IC has to make sure NC knows what SC is (or isn't) doing

the controversial resolution on boycott and divestment from Israel called for 3 groups to act:

Peace Action Cmte, Campus Greens, & Int'l Cmte . . . now 2 of 3 are pretty much gone

11:00 am break; order lunches

[10:57]

10:30 am 2010 election planning; MI <Leg> & US House, Governor?: State Rep from BH area; other?

[11:17]

Fred V wants to talk about USSF first

Lynn M wants introductions around even "firster" – since some people came in late

Aimee S re-brings up national delegates' report

Lou N starts, says biggest thing was national mtg in Raleigh-Durham (UNC-Central, a traditionally black college)

one big topic there was officer elections

Linda C thinks the problem wasn't with online voting itself, but with the secrecy of votes during the voting cycle

due to fear of gaming the system (late voters under STV in this system/software could theoretically see how others had

made voting hard, even for computer-literate (not just because it was STV)

difficulty was in knowing your vote had registered properly

if Lou N read the report correctly, up to 1/3 of votes weren't counted (or certified or something)

but the results didn't change after the checks of these keys

Aimee S says no proof the vote wasn't rigged (not saying proof it was)

2 of our delegates didn't have keys, so we can't verify their votes

she's suspicious partly because of similar proposal for voting in International Committee

Ellis B doesn't think choice of process means bias – but he also doesn't see why ballots should be secret anyway

Priscilla D notes a strategy session worked on topics for GPUS to work on – results: energy, water, single-payer health care

Jo Anne B thinks the most important thing is some kind of Instant Runoff Voting; we need to be the model

Aimee S on a separate issue – finances: GPUS passed a very optimistic budget, and she's heard it's not going well – true?
Lou N notes one source of this was having to move the convention in Chicago; Durham meeting was a net gain, though
he has an abstruse report on GPUS finances
Aimee S wants to know if GPMI wants to do anything about the SC election – which she still thinks was unfair

as to replacing Matt A as national rep, Fred V suggests asking top alts
JALP says no voting, just appointed 3 who volunteered . . . Doug C., Richard K., Harley M.
Harley M here, says he'd rather stay an alternate unless the other 2 don't
so we'll ask them after the mtg
to replace the alternate: Fred V says he'd do it (he's still on the list)
_____ (Lou N? / Susan O?) so suggests . . . ***TWINKLE***

Fred V asks shall we go on to settle the old-SCC-business proposal on suggesting NC take quarterly breaks at equinoxes & solstices
originally 1 wk before & 1 wk after; Linda C now proposes it to start on dates & run for 2 wks after
Lynn M raises Richard K's blocking concern for discussion; Lou N reviews that & his response to it
Aimee S confirms that Linda C will draft the proposal in format
Jo Anne B asks why mention equinoxes/solstices, & not state the dates? Linda C says it's good/important to show the tie-in
TWINKLE

can we do the same for Tom M's proposal on SMMs?
at least 4 mtgs – at least 1 in-person SCC mtg, at least 2 general SMMs . . . & change references to “quarterly”
have an approximate calendar a year in advance
spring at-large mtg
summer convention (or retreat in non-election year)
fall at-large mtg
winter SCC in-person meeting
at least 1 per year in Lansing, at least 1 per year north of US-10/Midland
JALP concerned about specifying that convention will be in summer
Aimee S thinks specifying one meeting as SCC is giving that body more power (already has it in between SMMs)
SCC was supposed to be representative of locals
Lynn M finds it hard to schedule 4 mtgs as Mtg Mgr; has proposed:
Jan/Feb meeting in Flint (or could be Lansing)
Apr/May spring meeting (maybe in SE, Chelsea/Ann Arbor area? campus area can be economical)
we do have the convention to consider in 2010
and then the Labor Day idea up north – could be tricky, but could be good if we start planning it now
Linda C would love to save money with 3, but is concerned with weather . . . not sure about SCC-specific meeting
May (maybe late May) would be good for a convention
the bridge is a great place to meet people
Harley M thinks we eventually need to examine our structure and rewrite our by-laws to make us more democratic
maybe we need to expand SCC to let more people participate in decisions (right now, it seems fewer and fewer)
Tom M drafted his proposal as a response to the previous 2-meetings-a-year proposal
maybe we don't need to emphasize the SCC in-person meeting as the equivalent of an SMM
we have always met at least 3x a year, even if we haven't made 4
also suggests we have a local meeting the night before (even if there isn't an active local yet)
eight people last night – and one person who just happened to be there on the side had been a Green back in the 1980s
that meeting was the first Friday event listed in the *Petoskey News-Review*
news also got in the *Northern Express*
when he's asked how many Greens there are in his county, he thinks not of meeting attendance but votes
Luann K asks how many people it takes to make a local? 3 . . .
Fred V notes one thing making holding meetings hard is when there isn't a local – but Tom M's idea is good
we could either ask Tom M to rewrite his proposal based on what he's heard today
or adopt the proposal and then have him write it up
his summary: at least 3 mtgs a year, 1 north of US-10 . . . recommend that SCC meet in person once a year . . .
Aimee S asks if change to by-laws can be done here at SMM (HVG by-laws require a 60-day delay)

Harley M has a blocking concern: doesn't think we should specify 1 meeting N of US-10 . . . we've been doing it
he & Linda C discuss the history . . . and the particular borderline defining what's north
committee of Tom M, Harley M, and Lynn M to decide that
TWINKLE

12:00 noon lunch; bid on Silent Auction stuff!

[12:11]

after lunch, Fred V presents a changed-order afternoon agenda . . .
(he also wants to do quick interviews on state budget for YouTube part of news release)

[1:03]

report from Membership Secretary . . . Chuck L

he's processed 14 new memberships, 60 renewals in 2009 – not great
with them & 15 lifers or so, maybe 100 . . . optimistically, 150
we have about 5,000 contacts . . . we need to contact them, systematically
if we had 50 people working on it, each could contact 100 of them
Lynn M asks what's the procedure? . . . right now he doesn't have time to do a lot – he needs help
Ellis B thinks it'd be helpful to know who here is paid up & current – suspects he's not (Chuck L says he is)

1:30 pm membership recruitment; growth of locals (and reports from locals)

[1:20]

Priscilla D asks about phone-banking/etc – could we pick out people who have only recently dropped off?
yes – anyone with an expiration date was a member once, Chuck L points out
Candace C asks if our lists had ever been purged – she got a list when she first ran for office, tried to pass on bad-address/etc info
Ellis B asks for list of all past mbrs in NW Lower Michigan
Aimee S says one way people pay up is when they come to an SMM & find out their membership isn't current
also mbrshp is required to vote . . .
John P asks if getting a postcard for this SMM means we're paid up? not necessarily; Chuck L would have to check
we did try farming out this contact process to local people once – through the YahooGroup
but he didn't get info back from any other locals but HVG
review of active locals
John P suggests willing people could also specify which ZIP codes they'll contact people in (or area codes, Lynn M suggests)
Chuck L can divide up info any which way . . . if he has people to help
maybe he & Lynn M can start with SCC membership; he'll take responsibility for dividing up the lists
Aimee S says some here are volunteering but aren't on SCC list (her and Ellis B, for two)
Aimee S also wants to know if it's required that we let people know how much they gave each year for tax purposes
we don't think it's required, but Lou N will check (it's related to state income-tax credits)

Tom M reports for Traverse Bay Watershed Greens

shows "Green Box" (passed around for dues), a recent agenda
every meeting they talk about what's going on, introductions around, and discussion of one of the Four Pillars
annual alternative-transportation picnic is a good entry point for not-yet-Greens
maybe the biggest shortfall is in finding people to run for office – folks are more interested in actions than the electoral side
they're also petitioning Bart Stupak and Dave Camp on HR 676
Susan O adds that on 11/5, local campus Greens are co-sponsoring forum with Human Rts Coalition on gender orientation

Aimee S reports for Huron Valley Greens

trying to organize in particular projects to show people what they could be doing
recently trying to get city voter approval for General Obligation bonds (to be issued by the state)
idea not originally from Greens, but in line with principles and a contact point with other parties & renegades
it's important because they now cut services but make sure pals get paid off, explains Chuck L
other issues: Palestine; one of activists charged for complaining about police brutality

Harley M reports for Flint Greens

lately, our meetings have devolved into disagreements between Candace C & him over what is & isn't possible
we usually have 2-3 local candidates – maybe not successful, but maybe that depends on how you define success
there's usually a topic of discussion – people bring in ideas,
Lloyd Clarke suggested a few meetings ago that
right now is a slow time – not much going on politically . . . people in his area were infatuated with Obama, he thinks
Chuck L says HVG runs candidates in odd years because there's no straight-party ar
Harley M also thinks the Flint local covers too wide an area – two Congressional districts
Candace C adds that single-payer is a big issue (even with some people whose main issue is peace)

Linda C reports on North Country Greens (centered in Marquette)

old Marquette Greens fizzled after 2000 . . . spoiler effect
most people in the peace group that resulted left for Obama – but after the 2008 election . . .
peace protest had been going on every Saturday 11am-12:30pm
ended after Obama was elected – but that freed up Greens to re-form
used September to focus on HR 676 (universal HC); in October, going back to the peace issue

Ellis B reports on functioning peace group in Charlevoix area

we beat Sovereign Deed insurance company
demonstrated against War in Gaza in January
had Bishop Gumbleton up from Detroit
some people went to Jean Klock Park (cf Luann Kozma)
Obama campaign scheduled a big meeting at the same time as the peace group was meeting
introduces Laurie Newton to talk about music-related activities she's been involved in
she's always been a pacifist – never politically aggressive
last year she & her sister started the RAGE Project (Revolution Against Garbage Everywhere)
collecting songs . . . 3 really great ones so far
talked about assorted music events locally, too

Fred V reports on Detroit Greens (after Lou N says he did a good job summarizing it this morning)

tried to get 2 candidates on City Council ballot, didn't get signatures but
TV programs are on YouTube (channel A2Ricky)
active in US Social Forum, People's Water Board
and in campaign of Elena Herrada for Detroit Charter Commssion

1:00 pm October 17 anti-war action – endorsement and plans in Michigan [x:XX]

1:15 pm Green Party of Ontario leadership convention, November 13-15 [x:XX]

Fred V goes into USSF first

back to:

11:15 am US Social Forum/GPUS Meeting, Detroit, June 2010 [1:50]

Fred V gives review/intro to USSF – World Social Forum started as a counter to the World Economic Forum in Davos
WSF also sometimes called the Movement of Movements – no political parties are involved in it formally
though important political parties have provided support to it all the time
had a big impact on the worldwide anti-war demonstrations 2/15/2003
initially, the organizational community didn't want to meet above the equator (they wanted to focus on the global South)
2007 in Atlanta was the first such meeting in the US – but that had a strong focus on the US South (after Katrina/etc)
next year, US branch of World Social Forum will be June 22-26, 2010 in Detroit . . . (well, nobody else has proposed to host it)
and GPUS meeting will be at the same time – a good way to tie things in
it's a big opportunity to bring attention to a lot of social issues
how does USSF feel about GPUS meeting same time? they invited us
Linda C asks how that'll affect cost for attendees? lodging being worked on . . .
and USSF is much bigger than GPUS – already reserved 2,100+ rooms; they expect 15-20k people in all
there's also an effort to connect the labor movement here with the USSF

the main lead organizations in Detroit are MWRO, Jobs w/ Justice, EMEAC, & Central Obrero

Aimee S asks what GPMI would be responsible for if GPUS does meet here then?

USSF's Detroit local organizing cmte is actually handling much of the admin work; leaves GPUS free to plan workshops/etc

Fred V sees this as a golden opportunity to link up with others who share a lot of our ideals

Ellis B has another annual meeting in DC he goes to (of people interested in social justice and music)

after this year's gathering of that group, he tried to touch base with people about moving that to Detroit too)

how many people? 75 or so . . . Priscilla D says many progressive orgs have been invited to meet there then, too

Detroit Organizing Cmte meets every [other] Tuesday . . . Oct? Lou N says yes, there's a meeting 10/6

Aimee S suggests Ellis B needs to know whom to contact – Dianne F is on the Logistics Cmte

Priscilla D has one more thing to say about the non-political nature of the USSF . . .

Green Party organizations can do things – table, hold workshops, etc.

Fred V asks if there's any interest among GPMI locals in getting involved in these things

Susan O suggests maybe holding contests: songs of today's movements, kids building things out of recycled materials, etc

Priscilla D says there's practically a separate youth forum area

Aimee S wonders if there were any way to hold a GPUS meeting (or part of one) at a Green camping area to cut cost to participate

Susan O wrote a column recently on accessible places to camp out in MI

in researching that, she heard about a new state park in Detroit that does this

lot of housing options: on campus, "solidarity housing" (Candace C says Lloyd C had tried for a "tent city" but was rejected)

Fred V notes we're ahead of schedule compared to previous USSFs

Aimee S asks whos the contact with the Ann Mtg Committee; Fred V

look around camp space – around USSF for Greens attending the USSF – accessible if possible

cf Tri-Centennial State Park & Harbor (the new one in Detroit that Susan O heard about)

Fred V sees this as the biggest political event of 2010 – bigger than the 2010 election

planning to occupy abandoned/[foreclosed] housing, etc, etc

Linda C sees it as a way for Greens to raise US consciousness of what globalization is doing elsewhere

back to:

1:00 pm October 17 anti-war action – endorsement and plans in Michigan and

1:15 pm Green Party of Ontario leadership convention, November 13-15 [2:19]

MECAWI in Detroit will have an event – GPMI hasn't heard about

Linda C notes North Country Greens

GPON will be meeting in London – Lou N will be going; if you want to carpool with him, call him

JALP suggests we need to talk about next meeting . . . Lynn M suggests somewhere mid-state for Jan/Feb

Flint area . . . ***TWINKLE***

back to:

10:30 am 2010 election planning; MI <Leg> & US House, Governor?; State Rep from BH area; other? [2:23]

JALP points out importance of Secretary of State race – ballot position, impact on

Fred V wants to start gathering topics

Candace C talks about education boards – and the voting-machine tests of ballots and machines

when she went to see it, GPMI was the prototype on that because of our one-candidate-for-two-seats strategy

John P has a question and a concern . . . how many last-minute candidates have come back to GPMI thereafter

as far as the state budget crisis, he thinks it's there because we cost a Bay City area D or two the election

Aimee S thinks we have a problem of thinking big and not putting enough into local offices

MI ballot-status retention rules are fortunately easy . . . so we need to pay more attention to local races

otherwise, it cements our image of not worth taking seriously

Harley M notes some candidates have stayed active (Lloyd C for one) – and reminds us that Ds don't automatically deserve our votes

when he was in TC running for Senate, he was impressed by how Clyde S spoke before the group –we need candidates like that

he'll run for something – but . . .

Linda C agrees with Aimee S about building locals through campaigns & candidates

it's a matter partly of learning what's available in an area
and it's good to have someone Green whom everyone in the state can vote for
JALP [on process problems – we've never done the vetting we envisioned; some candidates, new to GPMI or not, just burn out
but we know some people only decide to run at the last moment
Lynn M wants to speak at the end of this discussion
John P agrees almost totally with JALP – is it possible to set a deadline for would-be candidates to ask for nomination?
or tougher nomination requirements, JALP suggests
Jo Anne B reminds us that, under the current system, the more successful Greens are, the more we'll be spoilers
until the parties in power want to let others play,
she thinks we need Greens running for every seat on the ballot
Harley M suggests running in races with Libertarians – to cancel out the spoiler effect
Susan O is interested in the Wayne State board, but respects Margaret . . .
Tom M would spend most of his time on MI House
because it's about the most important first seat for a Green to have with the smallest area/population
then in 2012 focus on a US House district on the same basis . . . we could even help with a good campaign in another state
but both would mean focusing party efforts on one person, not equally for all

Lynn M wants to know who'll be here tonight & available to stay for business tomorrow (can go to Ellis B's or to

Fred V wants to try to focus on 2-3 particular candidates now

Ann Arbor: school board (Aimee S, Chuck L don't have a firm candidate yet; it's spring 2010)

Tom M again suggests MI House:

Lou N says Clyde S & Derek G will be running for MI House again

Benton Harbor/Berrien County; JALP & Luann K will contact people about that

Wayne State U Bd of Govs

governor?: JALP reviews public-financing requirements . . . it's an open seat (SOS reasons reviewed earlier)

Fred V suggests having all of the above report back to lists

Aimee S challenges every local to find at least 1 office up for election in 2010 and put somebody up for it
needn't absolutely be a partisan race, but candidate should be running as a Green

Jo Anne B says a Green can be effective if there's a strong issue in the community (can win on the issue if not in the campaign)

Lou N suggests that's a way to recruit candidates from people who've been active but not in the political forum (a win-win)

Ellis ran for U of M Regent last year – willing to do it next year, but would also like to know if Ed Morin wants to run again

JALP wants us to decide if we're going to hold the convention Apr/May (or not)

Lou N and/or Tom M suggest it be handled in the half-hour after the speaker(/public meeting) time

Aimee S wants to be sure people who are active/organizing in an area where there is a local co-ordinate with that local

2:00 pm items to discuss [x:xx]

<proposal to have 3 SMMs per year – handled in the morning> [x:xx]

<replace Matt Abel on National Committee – handled in the morning> [x:xx]

next SMMs: Jan/Feb in Flint? <handled> . . . Apr/May in [___]?; Sept 4-5 in St. Ignace? [x:xx]

propose budget to purchase GP merchandise: T-shirts, hats, other? [x:xx]

2:45 pm break [2:57]

Kevin Numerick, Repower America . . . speaks out against coal, for clean energy and climate legislation

Tom M introduces him – his group has turned in 35k+ signatures to officeholders
 part of Clean Energy Works Coalition . . . started by Al Gore & funded by *An Inconvenient Truth*, but non-partisan
 goal is to get legislation through Congress by end of year (to take to Copenhagen then)
 had action in House (HR 2454, not perfect but an improvement) on making US 100% clean-energy in 10 yrs[?]
 working for a nationwide push for efficiency & clean sources – innovative solutions with zero emissions
 some people are looking at cap-and-trade to control CO2 emissions; Chicago's doing it and (he says) it works
 a more efficient power grid is important – so renewable energy can be raised where that's best to do, then transported where needed
 could prevent more big power outages like August 2003 . . . New England to Michigan
 “clean coal” isn't unless maybe you ignore everything required to get the coal to the cleaner plant
 some say there's no point to limiting carbon emissions; China isn't doing it . . .
 well, China's already ahead of us in investing in clean energy – and in clean-energy technology
 that's an opportunity 2-3x over in Michigan: we could build them, sell them, and/or use them ourselves
 gives some examples of things already being built in Michigan
 cf “Climate Denier's Crock of the Week” videos . . . dissects & refutes naysayers' sources . . . on YouTube or DVD
 climate change is getting less media attention than health care . . . but it is a health-care issue

Tom M interjects that one thing Repower America's collecting is handwritten letters about climate change to take to

Lou N notes that they're holding an event Oct 24, is that nationwide? it's worldwide

Luann K asks if [natural] gas is involved; he says no . . . may tolerate biomass, but not really (not really renewable/sustainable)

Lynn M says movie “Agents of Stupid” suggests writing Stabenow first, because of her relevant committee memberships

Tom M asks for the group's position on hydrogen; he doesn't know . . . Jo Anne B says it takes a lot of power to produce/gather & store

Harley M asks why support cap-and-trade, not cap-and-reduce? it can be passed this year (he admits “it's not our first choice”)

Aimee S refers to USSF, global footprints . . . what about encouraging local use of local products?

doesn't have an exact answer, but he knows some corps (including, surprisingly, Wal-Mart) are working on a “Green Index”
 measuring such things as how far product has been shipped, etc

Fred V used to work at the biggest power plant (until it blew up) – at the Rouge plant

bottom ash & fly ash from coal plants are defined by/in the legislation as non-hazardous . . . municipal waste, too
 (guess who influenced the legislation to be that way?)

also, he thinks global warming is a democratic problem/issue – the solution will be lots of people working, not some solitary genius

Candace C asks if Traverse City just recently tore down its coal plant? yes . . . they've also set a very high renewables target for 2020

Chuck L asks for a review of recently-passed MI legislation . . . he says DTE & Consumers have to have 10% renewables by – 2012?

MI is ahead of some other states, not up to others, but at least we have strong goals now

Senate is working on a bill now (comparable to HR 2454); the idea of these letters is to get Senators to put good stuff in their bill

handwritten letters are asked for because the politicians' offices say they're not getting enough of them

the coal & oil companies are fighting it with private meetings and campaign contributions and a lot more

at neighborhood gas stations in TC, they're handing out flyers to oppose this legislation

he thinks this is going to get just as bad as the health-care debate

cap-and-trade . . . we've seen how things can work out if Wall Street is put in charge of something

but this can make people compete, reward efficiency, and so on . . . and the total volume goes down every year

Copenhagen is the next round from Kyoto . . .

Tom M suggests going to a Senator's local office

they prefer that to getting info in DC (where they're still screening mail; can take up to 8 wks for mail to get to someone to read)

Ellis B went to Stabenow's office 3 yrs ago or so . . . took him a while to find the office, and then they wouldn't let him in

Aimee S thinks maybe they were expecting him to try to take over the office

he suggests having an appointment can help avoid that

Jo Anne B talks about a “Care Fair” in Charlevoix – and a woman there passed out a 2-page flyer

accusing people who believe in climate change of being on Satan's side – mixed with “strange Christianity”

Luann K mentions Aubrey McClendon – rich guy who lives next door to Jean Klock Park

gave big money to Sierra Club . . . but is married to Whirlpool money, & is involved in Harbor Shores development

has anyone calculated the carbon footprint of war? no . . .

Tom M thanks speaker – and the City Park Grill for free use of space (suggests extra tip to the server)

Fred V suggests that GPMI send a thank-you, too

Jo Anne Beemon, Grassroots Action! . . . stopping an injection well (former GPMI Drain Commissioner) [3:47]

introduces other members here of the Power Coalition – subcommittee of Friends of the Jordan Watershed

of Bay Harbor . . . a luxury resort built over cement kiln[?] dust – another coal-plant byproduct also defined by statute as non-hazardous

very high in mercury, and very alkaline/basic (pH 13+!)

because it was seen as inert

the leachate oozing out of the kiln dust

but everyone knew what happened when water hit it

instantly killed minnows in a 10% solution

Engler changed the rules for brownfield development – fast devmt, no accountability

goes over the history of this particular brownfield . . .

3 golf courses at this resort were built on the kiln dust – and they water the golf courses a whole lot

millions of gallons of red-brown leachate per week[?] oozing out into the bay

and the developers were sending around one pick-up truck with a 55-gallon drum they claimed to be sucking it all up into

nobody did anything about it until the Odawa Tribe said it was a sovereign nation, and its fishing rights were being violated

Ellis B was Jo Anne's hero on the occasion of a big meeting because he asked the big question:

is there anything on which all you panelists **don't** agree with other?

after a long pregnant pause, one of them said it was a terribly hard problem and they were all working together to solve it . . .

of DEQ's covenant not to sue . . . and EPA's fundless-so-toothless request/demand that property owner CMS do something

the Preliminary Assessment & Site Investigation (required for Superfund funding) still hasn't been done yet

some stuff was trucked to Traverse City & dumped there – but they eventually refused to take it

the leachate isn't chemically the same as the kiln dust – but they were getting

started putting it into the "Johannisberg well" – just short of 4,000' depth for definition of deep-injection well

called it an emergency removal, so no hearing

and they decided to put in a well near the little town of Alba . . . near the source of all sorts of N lower Michigan rivers

claimed it would be below a barrier layer, but the Devonian layer vented into Lake Michigan

Friends of the Jordan were heroes – made everyone do things in the open (or tried to)

said Alba well wasn't removal, but a long-term remedial action

Friends appealed under MI EPA – and got an injunction on that well . . .

company claimed the leachate was water, never admitted it could be called anything else

and you can dump enough sulfuric acid to lower the pH to 7 or nearly

but a lot of other stuff is left in it – arsenic, for example . . . and mercury

mercury can't be 1.3 parts per trillion; this was 300+ . . . it's a bio-accumulator

the wells for Petoskey are within a few hundred feet of the cement kiln dust

Friends et al raised a big grassroots protest at park's grand opening . . . big professional environmental groups never supported them

ultimately, lots of things came down at once

CMS contacted the court which had issued the injunction and withdrew its request for a stay . . .

maybe afraid a precedent would be set

or maybe the key was when (new DNR head?) Steven _____ asked CMS at a big meeting:

why are you talking about solutions when you haven't defined the problem yet?

_____ taped a call-in program in GR for Friends and their allies

later talked with public-access people in GR first, then Traverse City

this let them present a rationale to counter what CMS and Bay Harbor were saying

and review it for themselves, too

one complication was that the leading environmental group in the area (Tip o' the Mitt) never said anything about the company

Friends hadn't expected them to say anything against DNR (who funds them a lot)

back to the "local solutions" CMS said it was working on/looking for . . .

at the grand opening, there was a little sign

saying "if you go in the water, rinse your body off – it might cause problems if the water gets into your mucous membranes"

the only way it's not going to be a problem is if they contain, isolate, or remove the CKD

rich people aren't happy if/when they have bulldozers on their golf courses

Jo Anne B followed Ellis B's advice and protested carrying a sign saying "Stop Watering the Golf Course!"
a cop stopped her and asked what she had against golf courses . . . but she was trying to help it!
they couldn't water the golf course's grass with their own water!

there's a plan to get the mercury down to 30ppt – expensive enough as it is . . . but diminishing returns after that
city offered to help, but CMS wants to do it themselves (and to not be watched doing it)
ties in to computerized water withdrawal – Nestle/etc – it's **not** sound science

4:30 pm wrap up unfinished business: announcements, complete Silent Auction [4:33]
wrapping up the last bits

Aimee D introduces Forrest Dunn – the newest member (has a onesie that says "Green Baby")
teaches PT at NMU – Native American Studies

state convention Apr/May? in [___]? [x:xx]

Fred V suggests maybe
JALP says the important thing is to settle the time
Tom M wonders if we should wait to see who's filed
TWINKLE

propose budget to purchase GP merchandise: T-shirts, hats, other? [x:xx]

Fred V proposes \$100 for our two new locals; Lou N suggests \$150
Lynn M wanted something for these meetings, too
Lou N suggests \$500 total, \$150 each for two new locals and \$200 for GPMI for upcoming SMMs
Lynn M wants the locals to tell her something about what they want
Chuck L thinks all the locals need supplies – Fred V asks about an amendment
amdt to authorize up to \$150 for each local if they want it (and \$200 for the SMMs)

Aimee S moves that GPMI ask SC to redo the Steering Int'l Cmte election with open ballots using the existing software
and that open ballots be used in future elections too (Linda C amdt accepted)
Fred V would like to buck this to the SCC to ask other national reps who've been following it
Harley M thinks SC has enough to be talking about; they'll just be talking for another 6 months
Priscilla D, Linda C say it's important to be promoting internal democracy for the future
Lou N says a late change from a few states caused the problem, isn't sure we can do anything in these last few minutes
Tom M's just concerned we're rushed for time . . . Aimee S thinks SCC would just spend more time on it
apparently no blocking concerns – so . . .
TWINKLE

5:00 pm meeting over; clear out of the building [4:50]