

**Quaker Earthcare Witness Continuing Counsel Committee**  
**Electronic Meeting**  
2010 July 15

(Approved Draft on 2010 August 17)

Present: Jack Bradin, Dick Grossman, Susan Swanstrom, Roy Taylor, Roy Treadway, Rod Zwirner, and Ruah Swennerfelt (*ex officio*). Mary Jo Klingel and David Ciscel joined us during the meeting. Hollister Knowlton was not able to join our meeting.

We spent some time signing onto Skype.

**Greeting – 2010 July – Dick read a quote from Bill Moyers**

*Noah, then, can be seen as the first great preservationist, preventing the first great extinction. He did exactly what wildlife biologists and climatologists are trying to do today: to act on their moral convictions to conserve diversity, to protect God's creation in the face of a flood of consumerism and indifference by a materialistic world.*

**Approval of the Agenda**

**The Continuing Counsel Committee approved the agenda which Dick developed earlier with the addition of a concern about travel funds to the 2010 Houston Annual Meeting.**

**Approval of the 2010 April Continuing Counsel Committee (CCC) Minutes**

**CCC Minute 2010.07.01 Continuing Counsel Committee approved the Minutes of our 2010 April 22 and 24 Continuing Counsel Committee Meeting at the Cenacle in Chicago, Illinois.**

**Process for Approving Endorsements and Statements**

At the 2010 April Steering Committee in Chicago, the Steering Committee approved a process for approving sign-ons in between Steering Committee Meetings:

**SC Minute 2010.04.10. Steering Committee approved a process for carefully considering signing on to statements of another group. To clarify the process of deciding on sign-ons, the person or persons requesting the sign-on should state succinctly the purpose, organization, time frame, and criteria of the sign-on, and send that information to the Clerk of QEW to process the request. In order to facilitate proper support of the statement or position of another group, two or three members of QEW suggested by the person(s) requesting the sign-on (acting as a Committee of Clearness) will consider any suggested sign-ons and post their recommendation within 48 hours using the earthcare list serv. The entire Steering Committee will be given 48 hours to consider and approve the requested sign-on, with silence considered as approval. QEW will re-evaluate this process for approving sign-ons at the Houston 2010 Annual Meeting.**

Since the April Meeting, QEW has been asked to endorse an organization or a particular statement about earthcare, and Continuing Counsel Committee has used the same procedure as we adopted for Sign-ons. CCC discussed whether the person who proposes the sign-on or endorsement, once approval has been granted, should be responsible for sending the official endorsement as appropriate (thus unburdening the General Secretary). CCC agreed that these sign-ons or statements should come from either the General Secretary or the Clerk, often sent on QEW letterhead, so that they are "official."

**CCC Minute 2010.07.02 Continuing Counsel Committee approved approving statements with the same process as sign-ons. All statements and sign-ons should ultimately be sent by the General Secretary or Clerk of QEW, to make it official. The proposer should make clear the person and address to whom these should be sent.**

CCC was not ready to make endorsements of other organizations with the same process. **We felt we needed to be very careful on making endorsements of another group unless we know it well and what it represents. This is especially true in the context of the United Nation;** such information cannot always be obtained in 48 hours. The UN Working Group can advise on issues affecting the UN. **CCC agreed to review the process for endorsements at our August Electronic Meeting.**

### **Support by the United States State Department endorsing of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

Mary Gilbert wrote an excellent letter on behalf of QEW requesting that the United States State Department endorse of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. **After the 48-hour comment period, no objections were presented, and the statement was approved by QEW.**

### **UN General Assembly Request for Written Input on the Subject of Harmony with Nature**

**Several QEW Friends have been working with Mary Gilbert to craft a statement for the UN General Assembly to support the concept of harmony with nature statement,** but it was still being drafted and needed to be approved within four days of the CCC electronic meeting. CCC considered using the Strawberry Meeting statement (with allocation to Strawberry Creek Meeting) but felt that in order for QEW to have it seasoned by a clearness committee and then go to the Steering Committee for the 48 hours that are needed for approval would not be possible. Dick proposed a short, alternative statement, but we wondered if QEW was in unity with this statement. Dick will consult with Mary Gilbert about the wording of the statement. **If Mary approves, we will send this to the SC for review before sending it to the UN. In addition, we will season the idea of preparing a general statement on harmony with nature for further consideration, so if there is an opportunity similar to this in the future, we will be prepared.**

### **General Secretary Search**

**Jack Bradin, Clerk of the Personnel Committee,** reported that of ten candidates who applied for the general secretary position, four candidates have been selected to be interviewed in late July and early August. We expect the new general secretary will take on the complete duties of the position since Ruah would prefer not to help with transition of bookkeeping for too long a time. We are moving forward with the search in a timely fashion. **By Labor Day we hope to make a decision on inviting between one to three candidates to the Houston meeting, depending on the number of outstanding candidates we have after the mid-summer interview process.**

### **Report on the QEW Center at the FGC Gathering**

According to Ruah, the QEW Center at the FGC Gathering at Bowling Green University in Bowling Green, OH, went very well and attracted many visitors, despite being in an out of the way location. **Using a new model for the QEW Center of relying on local Friends to prepare themes, develop displays, and invite speakers; the local Bowling Green Friends Meeting developed a program using Google Maps about the Maumee River watershed.** Speakers told about the history and development of the watershed. This demonstration will be taken to others in the area. **For the 2011 FGC Gathering at Grinnell College, Scattergood (Iowa), Olney (Ohio),**

**and The Meeting (New Hampshire) Schools – all farm schools – will develop the Center.** With help and ideas from local groups, in the future the General Secretary will have less work to do on the Center than now.

### Nomination Committee

Rod Zwirner, Clerk, reported that **the committee is seeking on Assistant Clerk and a Finance Committee Clerk.** Since ILYM approved Roy Treadway as its representative to SC through 2013, Roy can remain as Recording Clerk until 2011. The Nominating Committee still needs suggestions for at large SC nominations.

### Finance Committee

Ruah Swennerfelt said the first draft of the FY 2011 budget is being circulated and considered by the Finance Committee. **QEW's FY 2010 budget, increased at the 2010 April Meeting, is being met so far according to June budget report, recently finished.** In fact, QEW's total income for FY 2010 until now is \$600 more than ever through eight months. **We still need more income in the rest of the fiscal year to meet our budget.**

### Outreach Committee

According to Susan Swanstrom, Clerk, the Outreach Committee will meet electronically in August. **The Committee approved paying \$10 per month for QEW.net,** possibly out of the budget line of Web Maintenance. All threads within QEW.net will be part of the fee.

### Spiritual Nurturance Committee

Mary Jo Klingel, Clerk, reported that the Spiritual Nurturance Committee has not met since the 2010 April SC meeting.

### Publications Committee

Roy Taylor, Clerk, discussed two issues being considered by the Publications Committee.

**Facebook and Twitter.** Carol Barta, Ken Lawrence, and Roy Taylor have looked into privacy issues of these sites. So that QEW can reach a wider audience for QEW, Roy Taylor is getting help from local Friends to set up Facebook and Twitter. While a blog within Facebook is possible, QEW needs someone to take this on in order to keep the content fresh. Twitter is put up once.

**Water Tri-fold.** Judy Lumb and Mary Gilbert have drafted a tri-fold, *Water is Life*, for the fall annual appeal mailing. In general, it is in good shape with some minor changes suggested. The Publications Committee is reviewing it now with the expectation that a revision will be drafted in August.

### United Nations Support Working Group

Phil Emmi, Clerk, is involved with making an application for the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Since the UN Support WG might be able to advise QEW about endorsements when they concern the UN, **Dick will send an email to Phil asking for advice on how the UN Support Working Group would like to have input on how endorsements affecting the UN are handled,** especially with the convoluted United Nations system. This would allow QEW to have some people who are knowledgeable in the field examine the proposed endorsement before we actually approve an endorsement.

### **Friends Committee on National Legislation Working Group**

Rod Zwirner, Clerk, reported that Devon Helfrich has left the FCNL Green Team for graduate studies, but Marge Cleveland has taken over the responsibilities. Rod will put that information on QEW Discussions list.

### **New Spirituality Working Group**

According to Mary Jo Klingel, Clerk of the Spiritual Nurturance Committee, during three phone calls several issues have been discussed. **Interested persons are seasoning the working group's relationship to the internet and possibly will put a thread on QEW.net about the New Spirituality Working Group.**

### **Honorarium to Honor Ruah's Long and Faithful Service**

Jack Bradin, Clerk of Personnel Committee, informed us **that \$7850 has been raised so far after three weeks for Ruah's honorarium.** QEW clearly needs to raise more money for Ruah's sabbatical year. Ruah is developing plans for what she will be doing during her sabbatical year in line with QEW's purposes.

### **Ad Hoc Committee on Meetings**

During the QEW SC Meeting in 2010 April, the SC approved the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee on Meetings:

SC Minute 2010.04.03. Steering Committee approved forming an *ad hoc* committee to oversee aspects of QEW's meeting schedule in 2011, help the new general secretary with the meetings, investigate alternatives to meeting face to face twice in 2012 and beyond, and determine needed changes in the QEW Bylaws and fiscal year.

SC Minute 2010.04.04. Steering Committee approved Jack Bradin, Sally Merrill, Alice Howenstine, Hollister Knowlton, and Susan Swanstrom (*ex officio*) as members of this *ad hoc* committee.

The Committee has not met yet and needs to name a convener. **Dick will set up the first call to get the committee organized, select a convener, and develop an agenda.**

### **Planning Committee for the 2010 Houston Annual Meeting**

Plans are moving forward for the 2010 Houston Annual Meeting. George Lakey has supported the theme of Activism. The on-line registration is ready. Due to two anonymous donors, scholarships of \$150 off of fees are available for young adult Friends.

### **Support for Travel to the 2010 Houston Annual Meeting**

While \$500 is now available for travel support to the 2010 Houston Meeting, some additional funds might be added from contributions and from the QEW visitation fund, if any money is available. We encourage persons to travel by bus or train to conserve costs. **Perhaps by September we will know the amount of the requests for travel assistance and the funds are available.**

CCC Minute 2010.07.03 Continuing Counsel Committee approved that funds be available to all applicants on an equal basis.

### **FWCC Global Change Cluster Involvement**

Ruah reviewed the possibility of QEW being involved with the FWCC Global Change Clusters at the 2010 Houston Annual Meeting. **During the formal time of the meeting from Thursday through Sunday, we would likely not have time for a Cluster meeting, given all our business and speakers.** We could have a Cluster Meeting on Monday morning as one of the other options being planned. We could certainly continue to publicize the FWCC Global Change Clusters among QEW supporters. **CCC could also consider at a later date whether to hold a FWCC Global Change Cluster meeting in conjunction with 2011 Spring Chicago Steering Committee meeting.**

### **A Representative from QEW to the FWCC Meeting in Kenya in 2012**

CCC agreed to carry over to our August meeting, when Hollister will be present, the question whether QEW should send a representative from QEW to the FWCC meeting in Kenya in 2012.

### **Items for the Clerk's Report for the 2010 Houston Meeting**

Dick will write a Clerk's Report for Houston Meeting.

### **Closing**

We closed with a brief silence after two hours meeting together.

Roy C. Treadway  
Recording Clerk