

Quaker Earthcare Witness Continuing Counsel Committee
Electronic Meeting
2011 May 24

(Approved on 2011 July 28)

Present: Jack Bradin, David Ciscel, Dick Grossman, Mary Jo Klingel, David Millar, Shelley Tanenbaum, Roy Taylor, Roy Treadway, Rod Zwirner, and Anne Mitchell (*ex officio*). Robert Howell from New Zealand Yearly Meeting joined us. Louis Cox could not be with us.

Greeting and Opening Reading – Dick Grossman and Mary Jo Klingel

We started with silence. While Dick Grossman had trouble joining us, Shelley clerked the meeting. Mary Jo Klingel read from *Integrity, Ecology and Community: the Motion of Love*, by Jennie M. Ratcliffe, *Pendle Hill Pamphlet 403*, p. 28.

It often seems that we are hopelessly trapped in our Promethean project of economic growth, the scientific and technological exploitation of "resources" and endless conflict. The idea that we could create a sustainable future for ourselves and the creatures we depend on seems naïve and frankly impossible to many. Yet the ecological crisis may well be a time of *kairos*, a time of transformation in which we will experience not only enormous changes in this beautiful planet we call our home, but also the "global revolution in the sphere of human consciousness" that Vaclav Havel calls for if we are to avoid a worldwide ecological or social catastrophe. Perhaps our only task is, simply, to respond to what Friends call "the promptings of love and truth in our hearts," to turn and keep turning in the direction of an integral life and to love as best we can, knowing that we are not alone, but sustained, however mysteriously and uncertainly, by the wholeness and integrity of the earth, of God and of all that is.

Dick joined us and resumed clerking the meeting.

Approval of the Agenda – Dick Grossman

The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of the 2011 April Continuing Counsel Committee (CCC) Minutes – Dick Grossman

CCC Minute 2011.05.01 Continuing Counsel Committee approved the Minutes of our 2011 April 7-10 Continuing Counsel Committee Meetings at the Cenacle in Chicago.

Introduction of Robert Howell from New Zealand – Dick Grossman

Robert joined us from Auckland, New Zealand. Robert introduced himself and his interest in QEW. He is the link person for the Futures Committee of Aotearoa New Zealand Yearly Meeting and QEW. Robert was involved with the Quaker Institute for the Future, in being one of the authors of *Right Relationships Building a Whole Earth Economy*. He was a CEO of a local authority in New Zealand. He led a Quaker project in Indonesia dealing with non-violent conflict resolution training with the Indonesian Police. He currently is the Chair of the Council for Socially Responsible Investment, and has a concern supported by his Meeting that Quaker investments internationally are not in the right order. He is the Asia West Pacific Section representative on the Quaker United Nations Organization (QUNO) in Geneva; he hopes to come to North America some time this year. He will continue to listen to our meeting.

Evaluations of 2011 April SC meeting – Anne Mitchell

Eleven evaluations were handed in. Those responding were generally favorable with the facilities, schedule, and meetings. One person responding was dissatisfied with the facilities and the meetings for worship for business.

Distribution of Minutes on Nuclear Fission In Light of the 2011 Disasters in Japan and on North Africa – Anne Mitchell

While the Minutes on Nuclear Fission In Light of the 2011 Disasters in Japan and on North Africa have been published in *BeFriending Creation* and the Nuclear Fission minute sent to anti-nuclear organizations and JoAnna Macy and used in Southeastern Yearly Meeting for further discussion, the minutes should be sent to various Friends journals, yearly meetings, other groups, and political leaders. A letter about the Growth Dilemma from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting shows how a statement on a concern can be widely distributed. Having minutes like these in electronic format is desirable for easy distribution. **A statement explaining each minute is also important. We need to develop a system to distribute these minutes, identifying how and who will distribute these.**

Proposed Distribution Procedure for Policy Statements and Minutes – Dick Grossman

As a suggestion how such policy minutes and statements, such as the Minute on Nuclear Fission or the Minute on North Africa, might be distributed, Joe Morris proposed (with some editing) the following procedure (in which “minutes” refer to “policy minutes” and not “general minutes,” such as, these CCC minutes or the Steering Committee minutes.

1. All QEW minutes would be routinely distributed to yearly meetings within a month of their final revision and approval. The Outreach Committee would be responsible for furnishing such a list of yearly meeting contacts that is kept current.
2. All minutes would appear in the next available issue of *Befriending Creation*.
3. At the time of approval, discussion at the Steering Committee meeting would yield additional appropriate recipients for a particular minute, such as interfaith groups, yearly meetings worldwide, environmental organizations, and associations directly connected to the theme of the minute (for instance, anti-nuclear organizations).
4. The list of these additional recipients would follow the minute as a postscript and be included in the proceedings. The recipients listed also would be sent copies of the minute within a month.
5. The General Secretary, or designee, would be in charge of distribution.

Anne will review Joe’s suggestions, invite ideas from others, and present a specific plan for distributing policy minutes to the Continuing Counsel Committee during its next meeting.

Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering – Anne Mitchell

Plans for the QEW Earthcare Center at the FCG Gathering are coming along well. Persons from Scattergood School and several QEW Friends will help with the center. A panel discussion is planned each day with another Quaker organization on how that organization and QEW could work together, network, and help each

other. Since Anne is fully committed elsewhere, Shelley is willing to coordinate the Earthcare Center with the help of many other QEW Friends. Dick and Jack have already approved this arrangement.

CCC Minute 2011.05.02 Continuing Counsel Committee approved Shelley Tanenbaum managing the QEW Earthcare Center at the Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering and working with Anne and others to set up the schedule for the Center.

October 2011 Annual Meeting - Ad Hoc Planning Committee – Roy Taylor

A tentative agenda is being developed, and other plans are moving forward. Roy Taylor has talked with Marcia Cleveland. We wondered if we would need a larger room for Marcia's talk since we hope to attract local Friends (although Saturday of the Annual Meeting conflicts with Continuing Meeting of ILYM). Anne will check with the Cenacle staff, and perhaps local Friends can advise.

Steering Committee Meetings in 2012 – Anne Mitchell

Spring Meeting, 2012 June in Cambridge, MA

The Spring SC Meeting is scheduled for the end of 2012 June, in Cambridge, MA before the FGC Gathering in Kingston, RI (June 30 to July 7), kindness of Mary Gilbert and the Friends Meeting at Cambridge. Plans are moving forward for housing in Cambridge. Having a Steering Committee at the FCG Gathering is also being explored with FGC for 2012. Shelley will meet Mary Gilbert to start planning. Some people are willing to cook at Cambridge to make the meeting more self-sufficient and less costly than recent SC meetings.

Fall Annual Meeting, 2012 October 4-7, at the Cenacle, Chicago

The Cenacle has been reserved for 2012 October 4-7, Thursday to Sunday, since no other site had been suggested. We need to make a deposit and commitment by 2011 June 4. Although some persons had expressed a concern about the Cenacle, preferring to explore using a possible site in Chicago north of the Cenacle, CCC felt we needed to make a decision on the Cenacle now. We did not know whether the alternative site would be suitable for us. To find out more about the alternative site, an *Ad Hoc* Committee will be appointed from SC members at the Fall 2011 Annual Meeting to investigate this alternative site and other sites for the 2013 QEW Annual Meeting and report to the SC meeting in 2011 October.

CCC Minute 2011.05.03 Continuing Counsel Committee approved holding QEW's Annual Meeting at the Cenacle 2012 October 4-7, with a deposit being paid by 2011 June 4.

CCC Minute 2011.05.04 Continuing Counsel Committee approved appointing a small *Ad Hoc* Committee, open to all members of Steering Committee, during in the 2011 Fall Annual Meeting in Chicago to investigate alternative locations in Chicago and elsewhere for QEW Steering Committee Meetings.

Finance and Development Committee – David Ciscel

In 2011 April about \$7,400 was contributed to QEW, making the total contributed to QEW this fiscal year \$42,800 so far, but we have also expended more than we have received. We had a small loss on the Chicago April SC meeting. For cash flow purposes, we may need to withdraw \$5,000 in cash with New England Yearly Meeting Pooled Funds Investment for the Cenacle deposit. The Outreach Committee may need \$1,200 to \$1,800 for expenses for Ambassadors to yearly meetings. We need to look carefully at these requests

and our expenses.

CCC Minute 2011.05.05 Continuing Counsel Committee approved withdrawing \$5,000 from the New England Yearly Meeting Pooled Funds Investment for current expenses if needed, leaving a balance of \$15,000.

Nominating Committee – Rod Zwirner

QEW still needs a Recording Clerk for three years starting after the 2011 Annual Meeting in October. There is ongoing discussion about having two individuals sharing the position. Suggestions are welcome.

Outreach Committee – David Millar

The Outreach Committee recently sent an email to members of the Steering Committee, requesting by the committee's June 2 electronic meeting information about what their yearly and monthly meetings are doing. The committee has undertaken contact with youth in Philadelphia. **Five or six QEW Ambassadors have been invited to attend yearly meetings not currently affiliated with QEW;** each person who goes is requested to send a report. Several yearly meetings are not covered by Ambassadors.

Personnel Committee – Jack Bradin

Louis Cox seems to be content with his work as the Publications Coordinator. Anne is settling in as General Secretary, hoping that more work is done by members of the Steering Committee, so that she can give more focus on QEW priorities.

Publications Committee – Roy Taylor

For the fund-raising tri-fold usually used in the fall fund-raising letter, the QEW pamphlet *Healthy Food- Healthy Planet* could be brought up to date. The topic on food is consistent with the topic of our fall Annual Meeting. Anne suggested that a panel on the tri-fold might be included to request contributions. The Publications Committee will continue to update this pamphlet. Robert Howell suggested that the new Director of QUNO Geneva, Jonathan Woolley, might be able to help on the tri-fold. Jonathan is a British national who has put down roots in Mexico, lived in Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Kenya, Nigeria, and Sri Lanka, and worked in many other countries during a long career in participatory agricultural research.

Spiritual Nurturance Committee – Mary Jo Klingel

The Committee has had no meeting since the April SC Meeting and has no report.

Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws – Roy Taylor

After some discussion, CCC would prefer to see a complete proposed draft of the Simplified Bylaws and the new Practices at one time, rather than parts of each. Although according to the current Bylaws require that changes to the bylaws be sent to the SC 30 days in advance of a Steering Committee Meeting, Friends strongly urged that drafts be sent long before 30 days. The *Ad Hoc* Committee will work out a process to complete the Simplified Bylaws and the Practices well in advance of the 2011 Fall Annual Meeting.

Ad hoc Committee on Unity with Nature – Roy Taylor

The *Ad Hoc* Committee on Unity with Nature has not met since the Chicago meetings in April. The co-clerks are Roy Taylor and Barbara Letsch. The committee expects to meet electronically monthly.

Sustainability: Faith and Action Working Group – Dick

The working group had no report.

UN Support Working Group – Phil Emmi

Phil Emmi reported by email that the UNSWG continues with its customary activities. These include a broad exchange of emails designed **to keep us abreast of new developments regarding environmental issues typically at the global scale and often under the purview of the UN organizations to which we have accreditation.** These also include keeping track of scheduled UN organization meetings and arranging for attendance by Quakers living nearby. This latter is mostly at Mary Gilbert's initiative.

The working group has held no formal meetings or conference calls since the 2011 April SC meeting in Chicago.

FCNL Support Working Group -- Rod Zwirner

Perhaps every report should start with the reminder that seeking peace, justice, and social settings that promote human potential cannot succeed without putting in place the values generally associated with an "earth restored." QEW is not an organization seeking their share of FCNL action, but we firmly believe that imperfect legislative action must contain earth values to have any chance of success in the long run

Three recent areas of activity are.

1. The recent Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's working group letter to the FCNL Policy Committee was part of a necessary process to get recognition of the Growth Dilemma as the context of most problems. As QEW witnessed last Fall when sustainable agriculture was dropped at the very last minute, everything filters through the Policy Committee. The distribution of this letter is an invitation for QEW to join in this grass root networking to influence the Policy Committee. **Our challenge is to thresh the Growth Dilemma and act as led.**

2. The recent FCNL flyer on Climate Change and the subsequent QEW discussion are very much related to peace work. The FCNL representatives welcome thoughts on strategy on this and all issues.

3. There was a recent meeting with Marcia Cleveland on lobbying for selective components of the 2012 Farm Bill. Since this is not in the FCNL Priorities, she can only advise us as to efficient action. Al Connor's recent summary shows that **many areas of concern are food related – thus very apt for our 2011 Annual Meeting.** This concern will be seasoned by the working group and brought forth as led.

Finca la Bella Project – Dick Grossman

Os Cresson reports on visits to *parceleros* in Finca La Bella. Os has also had discussions with the *parceleros*, the Monteverde Institute, and their neighbors in San Luis.

No Name Working Group – Mary Jo Klingel

Mia Wolfe might be a new member. The working group expects to meet by phone in June.

General Secretary Report - Anne Mitchell

Anne has submitted a written report outlining the work she has done since the 2011 SC Meeting in Chicago.

Review of Taking Surveys -- Dick Grossman

Following a concern raised at the 2011 April SC meetings, **CCC agreed that any survey taken by a QEW member or group should be reviewed by a QEW committee or working group, which would help in developing clearness for the survey.** The process would be similar to QEW's sign-on procedure. Dick Grossman and Roy Treadway will propose suitable wording for SC's approval.

CCC Minute 2011.05.06 Continuing Counsel Committee approved surveys being reviewed by QEW in a similar process to that of sign-ons before being conducted.

QEW Bylaws on Representative Members from All Over the World -- Elaine Emmi and Anne Mitchell

The QEW Bylaws permit yearly meetings or similar regional association from North America, Central America, and the Carribean to appoint representatives to the QEW Steering Committee although qualifying members-at-large could be appointed by the SC from anywhere. Currently all member-at-large positions are filled. **The broader issue raised is how can we meaningfully include yearly meetings and Quakers in the work of QEW from all over the world.** Robert Howell was encouraged to suggest ideas.

In a written email, Elaine Emmi suggests allowing international memberships if QEW needs a special category. This has been very successful for the Interfaith Power and Light movement.

QEW Priorities Next Steps – Dick Grossman

At the 2011 SC Meeting in Chicago, the SC did not unite on a one-page set of priorities drafted by Anne Mitchell and the CCC. Rather, the SC approved continuing to process these priorities.

SC Minute 2011.04.04. Steering Committee approved processing these priorities until the October meeting, reflecting on wording, and suggesting alternative priorities. We will move forward with these as we consider them further.

Anne Mitchell will work out ways to help youths to get to the 2011 Annual Meeting in Chicago. **Anne Mitchell, Roy Treadway, Dick Grossman, and Shelley Tanenbaum will follow up on these priorities.**

Issue if QEW pays for the work of some of its officers? – Dick Grossman

We will consider this question during a subsequent CCC electronic mmeeting.

Consideration of Endorsement of Four Years. Go (www.fouryearsgo.org) – Dick Grossman

The organization Four years.Go. has the endorsement of a number of green groups. It has as full partners 350.org, which merged with One-Sky, which QEW endorsed several years ago. Several persons wanted to know

what it means to belong to this group. If we belonged to them, we might send them some of our written materials. **To pursue endorsing Four years.Go, we will treat this as a general endorsement (or sign-on), write up a proposal, suggest Outreach Committee review this proposal, clarifying how it would affect QEW, and return it to SC (not CCC) by the use of the Earthcare listserv.** David Millar will initiate this endorsement.

CCC Minute 2011.05.07 Continuing Counsel Committee approved considering endorsing Four Years. Go by using QEW's sign on process.

Scheduling of Next Electronic Meeting – Anne Mitchell

We will schedule our next electronic meeting by Doodle. We wondered if we needed to meet in June before the FGC Gathering (and, if so, find an alternative recording clerk). Since several persons will be traveling in late June and early July, we might try to find a time to meet in mid or late July.

Closing – Mary Jo Klingel

Mary Jo read from a saying of Black Elk in *Honoring the Earth: A Journal of New Earth Prayers*, Edited by Elizabeth Roberts and Elias Amidon.

It may be that some little root of the sacred tree still lives.
Nourish it then, that it may leaf and bloom and fill with singing birds.

After some silence, we gradually said goodbye.

Roy C. Treadway

Recording Clerk