

Quaker Earthcare Witness Continuing Counsel Committee
Minutes of Electronic Meeting
2010 March 23

(Approved on 2010 April 22)

Present: Jack Bradin, Dick Grossman, Mary Jo Klingel, Hollister Knowlton, Susan Swanstrom, Roy Treadway, Rod Zwirner, and Ruah Swennerfelt (*ex officio*). David Ciscel and Roy Taylor were unable to join us.

Beginning of the Electronic Meeting

We started with trying to get all people on our Skype call, and finally were able to do so. We are still learning to use Skype by both computer and phone.

Mary Jo helped center us with a reading from Mary Lord's *Walton Lecture* at Southeastern Yearly Meeting in 2004.

God calls us to peace-making. God calls us to be a people of peace, calls us back to the center that was before wars and strife were. The transformation of society is so huge, how can we stand before it? We cannot, but God can. It is not us, but our little piece of the task that each of us must find, not knowing what ripples we may start.

In this time of testing and trouble, and we Quakers may find that we are in a time of testing and trouble, may we take some courage from the epistle from France Yearly Meeting, written in 1943, in time of war and Nazi occupation.

To Friends, everywhere, we do not ask that you pray that we be safe. We ask that you pray that we be faithful.

Approval of the Agenda

The Continuing Counsel Committee approved the agenda which Dick sent out in advance.

Approval of 2010 February Continuing Counsel Committee (CCC) Minutes

CCC Minute 2010.03.01 Continuing Counsel Committee approved the Minutes of our 2010 February 23 Continuing Counsel Committee Electronic Meeting.

Adding the Treasurer in addition to the Clerk of the Finance Committee to the Continuing Counsel Committee

In following up from the 2010 February CCC electronic meeting, we considered adding the Treasurer to the Continuing Counsel Committee in addition to the Clerk of the Finance Committee. Input from the Treasurer would certainly be valuable for the CCC. Since in previous years, CCC has been concerned about having too many people on CCC, the Treasurer might be an alternate to the Finance Committee Clerk. **Nevertheless, the Treasurer deals with the up-to-date details of finances, while the Clerk of Finance Committee sees the overview of finances. If this is approved, our Bylaws would have to be changed at our Annual Meeting in Houston.**

CCC Minute 2010.03.02 Continuing Counsel Committee approved proposing to the Steering Committee (SC) during its April meeting adding the Treasurer to the CCC.

Adding the Clerks of Working Groups and Project to the Continuing Counsel Committee

Also, CCC should also consider having all clerks of working groups and project on the CCC to give a broad view of what QEW is doing. Using Skype to hold our electronic meetings seems to have made having a larger number of person in the meeting easier than with a telephone conference call. Before moving forward with adding all clerks to the CCC, we should get feedback from the clerks of working groups and project. **If these clerks became members of the CCC, they would participate in both electronic meetings and face-to-face meetings.**

CCC Minute 2010.03.03 Continuing Counsel Committee approved considering adding clerks of the working groups and project to CCC, after consulting with these clerks about their role on the CCC.

Staff Transition *Ad Hoc* Committee: Revised Job Description for the General Secretary and Office Manager Positions

Jack Bradin, Clerk of the Staff Transition *Ad Hoc* Committee, reviewed the current job description of the General Secretary and Office Manager positions along with proposed revisions in these positions to address new responsibilities, particularly with the use of electronic communications. Several Friends made suggestions for changes and additions to the proposed job descriptions.

CCC Minute 2010.03.04 Continuing Counsel Committee approved having further suggestions for the revised job descriptions of the General Secretary and Office Manager positions be sent to Jack Bradin for consideration by the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Staff Transition; the revisions to the job descriptions proposed by the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Staff Transition will be considered for approval by CCC before the April SC meeting and then by the SC during its April meeting.

Staff Transition *Ad Hoc* Committee: Ad for the General Secretary Position

The *Ad Hoc* Committee on Staff Transition has developed an ad for the General Secretary position. The CCC suggested modifications in the wording of the ad to clarify some aspects of the description of the position. Additional suggestions should be sent to Jack for clarification of QEW's work.

CCC Minute 2010.03.05 Continuing Counsel Committee approved the general wording of the ad for the General Secretary position with further changes to be made by the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Staff Transition and the revised ad to be placed first in the 2010 May-June issue of *BeFriending Creation* and on the QEW e-news, with the possibility of using other Quaker sources later, as needed.

Schedules for Future Meetings of QEW

Susan Swanstrom, Clerk of the Outreach Committee, reported that the survey on face-to face QEW meetings suggested that of those in QEW responding, most prefer holding just one face-to-face meeting a year, with a spring meeting slightly favored over a fall meeting, in Chicago more than any other site, starting in 2011. The Outreach Committee will hold an electronic meeting in a week to further discuss this issue and develop a proposal on future face-to-face meetings for consideration by the SC in April. CCC suggested that the Outreach Committee report the results of the survey to the Earthcare and QEW Discussion list serves.

Sign-ons by QEW

Roy Treadway said that the first use of our approved procedure (CCC Minute 2010.02.03) on Sign-ons was the National Council of Churches Climate and Energy Campaign. Dick acted as the person requesting the sign-on and the CCC as the “Committee of Clearness.” A letter drafted by Dick and revised by members of the CCC was approved by CCC. While, because of time considerations, SC was not consulted, the process worked well. **The CCC Minute 2010.02.03 on Sign-ons should be considered by the SC for approval during SC’s meeting in April.**

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Section of the Americas Annual Meeting (2010 March): Consultation on Global Change

Along with David Millar and Mary Gilbert, Hollister attended the annual meeting of the FWCC Section of Americas near Baltimore, MD in mid March. According to Hollister, the bilingual (English and Spanish) nature of the meeting slows the pace and helps keep the meeting centered. Because of a concern over funds, the section will not hold an annual meeting in 2011. In place of the annual meeting, FWCC approved a proposal to encourage local events (not their normal regional meetings) that will focus on the theme of the 2012 World Conference: “Being Salt and Light: Friends living the kingdom in a broken world.” These local events will have a large enough fee to also raise needed funds for FWCC. Nancy Irving from the FWCC London office gave some background on a concurrent effort, **FWCC’s Consultation on Global Change, whose goal is to discern a “Quaker voice” on the issues of global climate change, resources, immigration, economic disparity, and other worldwide concerns.** This will be a listening effort (not advocacy nor education), using cluster meetings happening all over the world. Six queries will give focus to the meetings. The process will start soon and be finished in 18 months with a World Conference in Kenya in 2012.

QEW might play an important role in this effort with some SC members being led to host one or more of these cluster meetings. We could also be involved in reviewing results of the clusters. We were encouraged to partner with FWCC to get our concerns to wider Quaker contacts. CCC was not sure what committee or group in QEW should be responsible for this. Alternatively, QEW might encourage individual members of QEW to be involved and participate. **After a report at the April SC meeting, QEW’s possible involvement in the process should be brought to the April SC meeting to assess the interest of QEW, with a decision if and how we might be involved.**

Report on National Council of Churches Letter Writing Campaign to US Senators

Under the Sign-on process, a letter concerning the National Council of Churches Climate and Energy Campaign was approved by the CCC and sent electronically to all 100 Senators on QEW stationery through the auspices of the National Council of Churches. We might send a copy of this letter by email as part of the advanced documents to persons coming to the SC meeting.

Review of the agenda for the April Steering Committee Meeting

Dick reviewed the basic outline of the agenda for 2010 SC meeting in April in Chicago. **The small group part of the Threshing Session should be at least one hour and the large group portion a shorter period of time.** The review of Threshing Session small groups will be on Saturday afternoon, not Saturday night. Dick will adjust the meeting times. Additional suggestions for topics of the Threshing sessions will be considered by email or telephone. **The framework of a Threshing Session will be handed out in Chicago and hopefully sent by email before the April SC meeting.**

During the Saturday afternoon free time, no group trip is planned, but Roy Treadway will develop a list of nearby nature settings which Friends might want, to visit to be sent with the advanced documents. Jack reminded us that one of the original reasons for QEW meeting in Chicago was to explore areas of environmental degradation. We might consider this for a future QEW annual meeting in Chicago.

Finance and Development

According to Ruah, QEW's recent financial contributions have been satisfactory, allowing us to put \$5,000 into a Certificate of Deposit.

Nominating Committee

Rod Zwirner, Clerk, reported that the Committee is still searching for clerks of the Finance Committee and the Ann Krieble / San Luis Project.

Outreach Committee

According to Susan Swanstrom, Clerk, the Outreach Committee will have a conference call later in the week.

Personnel Committee

Jack Bradin, Clerk, reported that since Ruah and Louis have taken cuts in salary for this fiscal year to help QEW financially, the compensation for Ruah after retirement was also reduced. **A formal recommendation by the Personnel Committee with specific amounts for restoring these cuts, retroactive to beginning of budget year, will be made to the Finance Committee at the SC meeting in April, keeping in mind proceeding with respect for wise use of QEW's funds. Any recommendation made by the Finance Committee to change the FY 2010 budget will need to be approved by the SC in April.**

Publications Committee

In the absence of clerk Roy Taylor, Ruah said that **QEW had received positive feedback on the new QEW website.** The bugs in the website for making contributions have been worked out. Ruah and Louis are working on an inventory of leaflets. **Most of the tri-folds are now available in .pdf format, so that Ruah has developed a .pdf package for traveling and use by Friends Meetings.** Certainly QEW is using electronic sources of publications much more than in the past. Ruah will find out if a count of .pdf downloads is possible.

Spiritual Nurturance Committee

According to Mary Jo Kingel, Clerk, one conference call was held recently despite problems in getting it made. **The committee is seasoning two minutes.** One on Eric Joy's call to ministry will likely be laid over until the 2010 Fall SC meetings while the minute on "That of God in all Creation" is still being considered.

Status of seeking accreditation with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

Since the UN Support Working Group has not met, **no further discussion on seeking accreditation with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has taken place.** The working group plans further discussion in April.

Advance Materials for the April SC Meeting

Ruah will put together advanced materials of the April SC meeting two weeks before the meeting. We should send out information to everyone on SC, committee members, and all persons coming to SC. We need to emphasize that people should read as much of *Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy* as possible to unite us and give us a common thread. Roy Treadway will send information on possible nature activities near the Cenacle and along Lake Michigan while Jack Bradin will send information from Geoff Carver about *Right Relationship*. **All members of CCC should send Dick major items, including advanced reports, to be considered and acted on at the April SC meeting. Hollister and Roy Treadway will pull together all the major items that need to be considered by the SC for an overview of all our business to be considered by SC in 2010 April.**

Next CCC Electronic Meeting.

We decided not to have another electronic meeting before the April SC meetings, but to communicate by telephone and email.

Closing

We closed with a moment of silence after two hours together.

Roy C. Treadway
Recording Clerk