

Quaker Earthcare Witness Continuing Counsel Committee
Electronic Meeting
2011 August 29

(Approved on 2011 September 28)

Present: Jack Bradin, David Ciscel, Louis Cox, Dick Grossman, Mary Jo Klingel, Barbara Letsch, David Millar, Shelley Tanenbaum, Roy Taylor, Roy Treadway, and Anne Mitchell (*ex officio*). Rod Zwirner could not be with us. Mary Gilbert and Eric Joy joined us as listeners.

Greeting and Opening Reading – Mary Jo Klingel

We started with silence. Mary Jo began with a reading from *Advices and Queries*, The Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain, George Fox, 1656.

Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone.

Approval of the Agenda – Dick Grossman

The agenda was approved as presented.

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

CCC Minute 2011.08.01 Continuing Counsel Committee approved the Minutes of our 2011 July 28 Electronic Continuing Counsel Committee Meeting.

Greeting of Listeners – Dick Grossman

We greeted listener Eric Joy.

General Secretary's Report – Anne Mitchell

Anne sent her report in advance. **The audit of finances is complete with no reason for us to be concerned. It should be signed by Anne and David Ciscel as soon as possible since it needs to be filed by mid September.** For the Fall Annual Gathering, Anne would like clarification on video and audio recording, remote electronic participation, and inviting people to listen to speakers. Looking farther ahead, Anne suggests we set up a committee to plan the 2012 June SC meeting in Cambridge, MA, prepare the pamphlet on food for the fall fund-raising appeal, and work on QEW's You-Tube presence.

We reaffirmed that in 2012 the Steering Committee will meet in Cambridge MA, June 27-30, and the Annual Gathering will be at the Cenacle in Chicago, October 4- 7.

Planning for the 2012 June Steering Committee Meeting – Dick Grossman and Shelley Tanenbaum

We discussed planning for 2012 June Steering Committee Meeting in Cambridge, MA, June 27 to 30, Wednesday to Saturday. **Since we will be doing a lot of our own work, such as food preparation, we need many volunteers, including non-QEW Friends from the Cambridge Meeting.** This format of extensive use of facilities and local Friends was experienced at the QEW meeting in Toronto. Mary Gilbert could coordinate local activities. David Millar could help set up before the meeting and might be on the planning committee. Roy Taylor

has offered to assist with food. Louis will help with advanced planning and behind the scenes. The Presiding Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Recording Clerk, and General Secretary are also on the Planning Committee. While the 25th celebration of the founding of Friends Committee on Unity with Nature will be at the Annual Gathering in October 2012, some preliminary activities might be held in Cambridge, MA.

CCC Minute 2011.08.02 Continuing Counsel Committee approved Shelley Tanenbaum, Dick Grossman, QEW's Recording Clerk, Anne Mitchell, Mary Gilbert, David Millar, Roy Taylor, and Louis Cox as members of the June 2012 Steering Committee Meeting Planning Committee, with a Clerk to be determined by the committee.

Approval of the Recording of the 2011 August 14 Statement on the Keystone XL Pipeline Protest in Washington, DC – Roy Treadway

In early 2011 August, Bob McGahey drafted a statement stating QEW's support for Friends involved in the protest in Washington, DC, from August 20 to September 3, 2011, against the proposed Keystone XL Pipeline, which would bring crude oil from the Alberta Tar Sands to refineries in the South of the United States and outlining the ecological destructiveness of the Alberta Tar Sands Project. After review and revision of the statement by Dick Grossman, Shelley Tanenbaum, and Roy Treadway, acting as the committee of clearness, the statement was sent for approval to the Steering Committee on August 10. **The Steering Committee approved the statement electronically on August 14. It has been disseminated widely; a copy of the statement is appended to these minutes as Attachment A.**

CCC Minute 2011.08.03 Continuing Counsel Committee approved recording the Steering Committee approval on 2011 August 14 by electronic means a statement strongly supporting the action of its members, whether they risk arrest in civil disobedience or not, who choose to be involved in the Keystone XL Pipeline protest from August 20 to September 3, 2011, at the White House.

Approval of the Process for Taking Surveys – Roy Treadway and Dick Grossman

During our May 24 CCC Meeting, CCC approved a review of the taking of surveys of QEW members. Dick Grossman and Roy Treadway agreed to develop such a process using our sign-on process as a basis for doing so. A first version, following the sign-on process, was sent to CCC in August. **In review, two members of CCC suggested that the SC need not be involved in approving the survey, but rather an appropriate committee and working group could make the decision.** We were also concerned that if we use a committee or working group for review, we need to be sure we have an appropriate active committee or working group. If not, we thought asking three members from the SC to serve would be a satisfactory alternative. The proposed revised process of taking surveys was sent to the CCC and received no further comment.

- 1. Someone who proposes to conduct a survey of QEW members should write a summary of the proposed survey, outlining the purpose, proposed respondents, analysis process, recipients of the results, and time line of the survey, and send it to an appropriate working group, project, or committee, which serves as a clearness committee; if no working group, project, or committee is appropriate, the person proposing a survey may chose at least three members of the Steering Committee to act as the clearness committee. If the survey will be done by Internet, the website address of the draft survey should be included.**
- 2. The clearness committee conducts necessary research, then deliberates, and decides as soon as possible in a timely fashion on the appropriateness of the survey for QEW. The committee can appoint one or two persons; if it approves, it sends it to the clerk (or the alternative clerk) of the Steering Committee indicating it approves of the survey. If the committee deems the survey is not appropriate, it should**

- indicate why it has reached its conclusions, including suggestions for changes.
3. If the committee approves the survey, it may be conducted at any appropriate time.
 4. The General Secretary archives a copy of the summary of each approved survey. The approved survey is minuted in the Steering Committee minutes at the next Steering Committee meeting.

CCC Minute 2011.08.04 Continuing Counsel Committee approved the proposed process for approving taking surveys and sending it by email for review and revision by the SC before our October SC Meeting, when the SC would be asked to approve it formally.

Mary Gilbert joined us as a listener.

Status Report on the Simplified Bylaws and “In Practice” – Roy Taylor

The Simplified Bylaws and “In Practice” were sent to the SC in mid August, requesting feedback by September 6. So far, there has been no response. **After September 6, the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Bylaws will review the Simplified Bylaws and “In Practice” for wording and formatting and send final documents by September 19 for approval at the Annual Gathering in October. We encourage taking care of concerns now, not in Chicago.**

Planning for the 2011 Annual Gathering – Roy Taylor and Anne Mitchell

Recent revisions of the two-page color flyer for the 2011 Annual Gathering (which should be printed in high quality) and the agenda with biographies of three main speakers were sent out on August 29. The draft agenda gives the main layout of weekend; with less time than usual for “business,” we encourage getting work done before or at the Gathering as quickly as possible to enjoy fellowship. **The ILYM Environmental Concerns Committee will help with the logistics of guests from local area coming just to hear the three presenters; for local attendees, we agreed to waive the \$60 registration fee, but we will have an opportunity for contributions.** Although our meeting room in the Cenacle can handle 100 persons, Anne will check with the Cenacle about rooms if more than 100 persons attend. The Fall Gathering Planning Committee will consider a concern raised whether to have Worship-Sharing after Marcia’s talk, but have discussion instead. Problems with the on-line registration process will be addressed. Louis is working out concerns over making information about the Annual Gathering on the QEW Website easier to find.

Broadcasting and Recording the October Annual Gathering for those who Cannot Attend – David Millar

David feels he can not be responsible for recording or broadcasting at the annual gathering but needs volunteers. We can record sound, but getting good visuals of the speaker and materials on screen, such as Powerpoint, needs two cameras. Louis might be able to help and will work with David. Roy Taylor might be able to borrow a video camera. With enough volunteers, we might upload recorded materials to a website in a day after the meeting. **We can not make promises but need to make a decision on what we can offer for remote participation in about two weeks.**

We could also explore providing a Skype access to SC members not attending the SC meeting. To do this, we need to carry microphones around and introduce ourselves each time we speak. Some Friends may be uneasy about doing that. **This process works well with a small group but not well with a large group. We might try Skype for committees, working groups, and projects.**

CCC will consider forming an Information Technology Committee for QEW to work on details of providing electronic access to QEW Gatherings, SC Meetings, and meetings of committees, working groups,

and projects through out the year.

Report of the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Young Adult Friends Financial Support – Dick Grossman

The *Ad Hoc* Committee has accomplished its goals by setting up a continuing Young Adult Friends (YAF) Scholarship Fund (with \$1,100 currently), developing an invitation to YAFs to come to the Annual Gathering, and working out an application form for the scholarship. Anne will handle the application and awarding the scholarships.

CCC Minute 2011.08.05 Continuing Counsel Committee approved laying down the *Ad Hoc* Committee on Young Adult Friends Financial Support.

Priorities – Anne Mitchell

The QEW Priorities have been approved by the SC and reformatted by the CCC. They will be sent separately from other documents to the SC before the Annual gathering as a report, asking for concerns and suggestions for moving forward.

Finance and Development Committee – David Ciscel

QEW is doing much better fiscally, particularly in July and August, than earlier in the year. **We now have \$38,000 in cash, up by \$6,000 to \$8,000 over the end of July. While we still have more expenses than income for FY 2011, we have spent about 75 percent of our budgeted expenses in nine months.** The issue of *BeFriending Creation* with its lack of color helped increase contributions. The Finance and Development Committee is working on QEW's FY 2012 budget with both increases and decreases in expenses and will propose the FY 2012 budget to the SC at the 2011 Fall SC meeting.

Nominating Committee – Barbara Letsch

The Nominating Committee joyously reports that John Payton has agreed to be nominated as **Recording Clerk for face-to face meetings.** The committee is still seeking either a recording clerk for Continuing Counsel Committee electronic meetings or a rotation of recoding clerks. **Any change in the number of or roles of recording clerks will require approval by the SC.** The NC asks guidance from CCC on this matter. The NC has not received lists of the current members of standing committees, working groups, and project. It asks all clerks to send this information to Barbara so that the committee has accurate, up to date (from October 31, 2010) information for both the NC and SC.

Outreach Committee – David Millar

Much of the work of the Outreach Committee has been placed on on QEWNet. The committee's next conference call will be in September.

Personnel Committee – Jack Bradin

The Personnel Committee has no formal report. By the next CCC electronic meeting, it requests positive as well as negative feedback about the work of staff this year for the SC, CCC, committees, working groups, and project. This request will also be sent to the SC.

Publications Committee – Roy Taylor

Louis Cox reported that the fall fund-raising tri-fold, *Healthy Food – Healthy Planet*, is undergoing revision. Louis is synthesizing various suggestions received earlier, trying to integrate personal suggestions on personal choices in face of having many food choices stripped away from us by large organizations. A draft will be sent out shortly. Louis is still working on having publications on the web; Bill Cahalan is revising his pamphlet. The Publications Committee was asked to consider synergy with publications of Quaker Institute for the Future in the future. The committee was requested to remind QEW Friends of the distinctions among various QEW list servs and QEWSNet.

Spiritual Nurturance Committee – Mary Jo

The committee had no report on specific actions. It is still exploring the spiritual aspects of using technology in our meetings.

Ad Hoc Committee on Unity with Nature – Roy Taylor

The committee will resume meetings in the Fall after the travels of members are completed.

Sustainability: Faith and Action Working Group – Dick Grossman

The Sustainability: Faith and Action Working Group currently has no clerk, but might consider breaking into smaller working groups, such as on Population or Energy. **The Men for Men Fund awarded a grant for a vasectomy to a non-Quaker friend of Donn Kesselheim.**

UN Support Working Group – Mary Gilbert

Mary Gilbert presented a brief report on the activities of the UN Support WG. Lindsey Cook, a US Quaker who lives in Bonn, Germany, will attend the 64th annual UN Department of Public Information / Non-Governmental Organizations Conference, Sustainable Societies – Responsive Citizens in Bonn, September 1-5, 2011. Mary Gilbert will attend the meeting of Quaker UN Group (QUNG) in Geneva, November 16-17, 2011. Judy Lumb and Moses Musonga, a Kenyan Quaker, will go to the meeting of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the 17th Council of Parties meeting on climate change in Durban, South Africa, November 28-December 9. Mary Gilbert is considering going to the Commission on Sustainable Development summit meeting, June 4-6, 2012, in Rio de Janeiro; Mary wants to be there if something happens, but will not go if nothing of value will take place.

FCNL Support Working Group – Rod Zwirner

The working group had no report.

Finca la Bella Project – Dick Grossman

Os Cresson sent a detailed report. **The Finca La Bella Parcellos did not own land when this project started, but now want to change to permit ownership of land.** In general, the Project encourages this change.

Visit to Finca la Bella at Christmastime – Dick Grossman

Planning is taking place for a trip at Christmas for persons from QEW to Finca la Bella. Details will need to be worked out by the October Annual Gathering.

Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Founding of FCUN, 2012 October – Shelley Tanenbaum

QEW will start planning for the celebration in October 2012 of its 25th anniversary of the founding of Friends Committee on Unity with Nature. Some activities might start in June 2012.

Planning for the Spring 2013 Steering Committee Meeting – Anne Mitchell

The Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering will be held in Greeley, CO, in June 2013. **During our September CCC meeting, CCC should consider if we want to meet there.** We would need to be at same site as the FGC Gathering, unless we could meet at Friends Meetings in Boulder or Denver, Colorado. **Concern was expressed by some Friends about meeting with FGC (one branch of Friends) all the time at an inconvenient time for some persons (near July 4) at a place which would be difficult to reach by public transportation.**

Dissemination of QEW Public Statements – Anne Mitchell

Anne is still working out a process for dissemination of QEW's public statements. The Japan, North Africa, and Keystone statements were sent to QEW lists, some yearly meeting lists, *Friends Journal*, *Quaker Life*, and *BeFriending Creation*. We suggested including *Western Friend* in our distribution.

Comments by Listeners – Dick Grossman

eric joy reminded us that in looking at new technology for use in our meetings, spiritual dimensions need to be considered. By knowing every one on the CCC meeting, Mary Gilbert could appreciate the discussion; she was glad for the opportunity to listen.

Next CCC Meeting – Anne Mitchell

By Doodle, Anne will set next the next CCC meeting for late September or early October.

Final Reading and Closing – Mary Jo Klingel

Mary Jo read a short reflection from *Some Fruits of Solitude*, William Penn.

Love is the hardest lesson; therefore it should be most our concern to learn it.

We closed in silence.

Attachment A

Quaker Earthcare Witness Statement on the Keystone XL Pipeline

From August 20 -September 3, 2011, Tarsandsaction.org, together with 350.org and other environmental groups, has organized a protest at the White House gates to persuade President Obama **not** to permit the construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline across Canada and the United States. Quaker Earthcare Witness strongly supports the action of its members who choose to be involved in this protest, whether they risk arrest in civil disobedience or not, to awaken the conscience of the nation and its leader to the enormous scale of risk in this effort to distribute an unconventional, highly questionable source of petroleum and to continue the devastation of the earth.

The Keystone XL Pipeline would permit the Alberta Tarsands mining project, an enormous environmental disaster, to continue. The Tarsands project extracts dispersed globules of bituminous petroleum laden with heavy metals. Every step of the process is energy-intensive. Refining the bitumen after an arduous and expensive extraction process requires gargantuan amounts of water and emits high toxin levels. To heat it sufficiently to flow in pipelines, the mining company must burn methane.

The pipeline would further wreck native lands in Canada, which are already heavily impacted by the mining project. It would flow through prime ranchland and near critical bodies of water in the US. A rupture in the proposed pipeline would create a spill of an estimated seven million gallons of oil. Building the pipeline for what is essentially a land-locked source of low quality oil would cause a huge increase in CO₂ emissions. The Keystone XL Pipeline would augment the collateral damage involved in the complex mining process. The production process for tars and oil creates three times the emissions of conventional crude, on average.

The President, with advice from the State Department, will make a decision by the end of this year about whether to allow the Keystone XL pipeline to be built from Alberta to Texas. James Hansen, a leading US climate scientist, states that burning the Alberta oil pool could push atmospheric CO₂ levels over 600 ppm. The effect on planetary climate resulting from such an extreme rise in CO₂ would be unprecedented in recorded history, threatening human societies and causing the extinction of many species of plants and animals.

Approved by the Steering Committee of Quaker Earthcare Witness, August 14, 2011