

Quaker Earthcare Witness Steering Committee
Minutes of the Meeting at the Cenacle, Chicago, Illinois
2010 April 22-25

Present: Carol Barta, Jack Bradin, David Ciscel, Al Connor, Louis Cox, Elaine Emmi, Phil Emmi, Geoff Garver, Mary Gilbert, John Greenler, Dick Grossman, John Hackman, Liseli Haines, Nancy Halliday, Bill Holcombe, Alice Howenstine, Bill Howenstine, John Hudson, Toni Hudson, Donn Kesselheim, Mary Jo Klingel, Hollister Knowlton, Paul Krumm, Ken Lawrence, Barbara Letsch, James Lynch, Laura Melly, Sally Merrill, David Millar, Ann Mitchell, Joe Morris, John Payton, Tom Small, Susan Swanstrom, Ruah Swennerfelt, Roy Taylor, Roy Treadway, Barbara Williamson, Maia Wolff, and Rod Zwirner.

First Meeting for Worship for Business, Thursday, 2010 April 22, 7:30 p.m.

We opened with silence. Mary Gilbert settled us with two readings

Present Moment, Wonderful Moment: Mindfulness Verses for Daily Living, by Thich Nhat Hanh.

1. Waking Up

Waking up this morning, I smile.
Twenty-four brand-new hours are before me.
I vow to live fully each moment
and to look at all things with eyes of compassion.

2. Taking the First Step of the Day

Walking on the Earth
is a miracle!
Each mindful step
reveals the wondrous Dharmakaya.

3. Opening the Window

Opening the window,
I look out on the Dharmakaya.
How wondrous is life!
Attentive to each moment,
my mind is clear like a calm river.

Designing Gardens with the Flora of the American East, by Carolyn Summers

As a child, I was more interested in animals than gardens....As I educated myself I began to focus on a key issue: habitat destruction.

....My goal was simple: I would learn human-dominated landscapes accommodate the needs of wildlife.

...As I studied indigenous plants, a strange thing happened. The plants grew on me. I began to love the plants themselves for their own unique qualities, quite apart from their usefulness in providing food and shelter for wildlife. My definition of wildlife broadened to include the myriad species of wild flora: strangely beautiful orchids, delicate spring ephemerals like trout lily, robust yet vulnerable meadow lilies, and resilient oak trees. Similarly, my definition of wildlife habitat expanded to include special areas, such as bogs, that support specialized plant communities with only a limited number of animal species. Happily, as it turns out, if you support wild flora, you support all wildlife.

As suburbia moves inexorably outward, and more and more “vacant land” becomes subdivided, the fate of our remaining wild nature (both plant and animal) will depend on the mainstream use of indigenous plants in human-dominated landscapes..... We gardeners, you see, have more power than we know.

(From) Present Moment.....

22. Opening the Sutra

The Dharma is deep and lovely.
We now have a chance to see it,
study it, and practice it.
I vow to realize its true meaning.

Welcoming

Dick Grossman welcomed us to the Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) Steering Committee (SC) Meeting, reminding us that this was the 40th anniversary of Earth Day.

Sister Dorothy and Sister Helen welcomed us to the Cenacle. The Cenacle Sisters were founded in southern France in 1826, focusing on religious education and retreats for women and children. Cenacle means the room upstairs where the Last Supper was held. The Cenacle Sisters are open to what the Spirit wants us to do, what God is doing; they pray for us while we meet at the Cenacle. The Sisters gave us information to help us use the Cenacle.

Agenda

We approved the general agenda for our Steering Committee Meeting during the weekend.

Nominating Committee – Rod Zwirner

Clerks of Finance Committee and Ann Kriebel / San Luis Project are needed now, and the Clerk of the Personnel Committee will be needed in October. Committees are asked to consider persons who might be clerks in the future. New members of SC are encouraged to return their information form.

***Ad Hoc* Committee on Staff Transition – Jack Bradin**

The Committee has received several applications for the General Secretary of QEW, starting in 2011, and will interview candidates who are present at this SC Meeting. Roy Treadway has edited the General Secretary Job Description for clarity and completeness, and the revised description is available for interested persons. Applications are due 2010 June 10. Even though other Friends organizations are also currently searching for new executive leadership, the timing of the searches and nature of the positions makes a co-ordinated search unworkable.

Outreach Committee – Susan Swanstrom

Since the 2009 Fall Annual Meeting, the Outreach Committee has been considering forthcoming face-to-face meetings for QEW, including asking members of the SC their preferences. As a result, the Outreach Committee presented the following recommendation.

The Outreach Committee has been charged with seasoning the issue of QEW meetings. Based on talks with members, results of a survey, and discernment in committee, Outreach recommends that QEW hold one annual face to face meeting to be held in Chicago, starting in Spring 2011. We recommend that our annual meeting add an extra day, running Wednesday-Sunday or Thursday-Monday to accomplish a blend of business and inspired action, informal networking, and nature-based education. This would entail changing our fiscal year, and a commitment to strong committee communication between meetings (such as committee conference calls and other electronic communication).

A brief discussion followed. This proposal will be seasoned further and considered later this weekend.

Spiritual Nurturance Committee – Mary Jo Klingel

The process of developing the working group on “New Spirituality,” which would meet electronically to avoid conflicting with other working groups during meetings, is still being considered. Persons interested in this working group should let Mary Jo know.

On Friday, we will have a threshing session in small and large groups to consider the focus of QEW in the coming two or so years.

Announcements and Closing

Ruah gave announcements. We closed with silence, followed by singing.

Second Meeting for Worship for Business, Friday, 2010 April 23, 9:00 a.m.

With John Hackman playing on the dulcimer, we opened with worship. We introduced persons who joined us this morning. Cloth FCUN napkins and pictures are available by silent auction.

Threshing Session on “What Focus do you think Quaker Earthcare Witness should have in the next two years?”

Mary Jo introduced the Threshing Session with a Franciscan blessing sent by Dick Grossman, with Dick’s explanation:

“Here is a prayer that was read at the memorial service for one of my partners, who died last month from breast cancer. Although written by an Episcopal priest, it seems very Quakerly.”

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half truths, and superficial relationships, so that you may live deep within your heart;

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace;

May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, starvation, war and loss, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and turn their pain into joy;

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world, so that you can do what others claim cannot be done;

May God bless you with God’s comforting presence now and in your journeys through each day.

Reverend Ginny Brown

Mary Jo then introduced the Threshing Session with a statement and Advices from Intermountain Yearly Meeting *Faith and Practice* (2009):

Threshing sessions are important meetings where all aspects of an issue can be shared and explored; where the "wheat and chaff" can be separated without rancor. No decisions are made at a threshing session. Various formats may be used in these meetings for discussion and airing of opinions and feelings. It is not uncommon for there to be several threshing sessions when difficult or contentious issues arise. Threshing sessions can lay the foundation for seasoning an issue as a meeting seeks unity.

ADVICES

Come with an open heart, come as a beginner.
Listen with your whole mind and heart; listen more than you talk.
Listen deeply for the voice, the guidance of the Spirit.

Next, Mary Jo read *Queries* for the Threshing Session.

QUERIES

Please note that these queries are offered as a focus for your threshing, but are not intended to replace the guidance of the Spirit.

1. What is it that "called you forth" into your work with QEW? What excitement, joy, or love brought you to this work of caring for the planet, for the "humans and the four-legged ones"?
2. What do you see today? What is happening to our planet, our nation, our cities and countryside? How is the Religious Society of Friends called to respond to what we see? How are we led?
3. How do our joys and our leadings come together to form a vision for QEW? How might that vision be manifested in the next two years? How else might that vision be manifested in other time frames?

We were reminded that we are looking for community discernment. Hollister Knowlton, Joe Morris, and John Payton will each lead a smaller group. We will not give group reports but are encouraged to keep notes. Before we went to our smaller group, we read from *Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy* on collaborative engagement in the pursuit of the good.

After participating in the three small groups, we joined together to share our experiences and reactions. Certainly the opportunities for QEW were considerable, including working with the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Global Change Project regional gatherings. We need to involve more youth and have more fun – relaxing and uplifting – times together, while being able to focus on getting our "business" done. The structural problems of our nation's economy and our use of money are crucial issues in affecting our care of the earth. QEW carries a healthy tension between listening to God's role for us and what we individually want to do.

Our consideration of the focus of QEW in the next two years cannot be separated from the transition to a new general secretary and the possible change in the nature and frequency of future face-to-face meetings. Certainly, we need to consider carefully whether we want to change both at the same time. Our time together in either small regional gatherings or a large gathering is crucial to building relationships for witnessing to the care of the earth; being together gives a sense of community to get our work done. At the same time, we must be a witness to reducing our carbon and ecological footprint in getting together, and use electronic communication with Friends from around the world as much as possible. As we consider our transition of staff and meeting arrangements, most important is to focus on the true work of QEW.

We closed with silence before committee, working group, and project meetings.

Third Meeting for Worship for Business, Friday, 2010 April 23, 4:00 p.m.

John Hackman opened our worship by sharing a favorite poem from Wendell Berry.

When despair grows in me
and I wake in the middle of the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting for their light. For a time
rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Announcements

Mary Jo Klingel and the Spiritual Nurturance Committee will be available to hear people having needs to be held in the Light. Carol Barta will handle cards for absent persons. Persons joining us were introduced.

Finance Committee – David Ciscel, Treasurer (Attachments A, B, and C)

David reviewed the financial statements for FY 2010, comparing our budget with actual expenses and income (A), a monthly comparison from FY 2006 to FY 2010 (B), and our financial balance on 2010 March 31 (C). QEW's finances are looking much better in FY 2010 than in FY 2009, since contributions are up and expenses are down.

Personnel Committee – Jack Bradin (Attachments D and E)

Because QEW's financial situation has improved, the Personnel and Finance Committees recommend that our budget for FY 2010 be changed to increase salaries and benefits for Ruah and Louis by a total of \$5,401 to compensate for expenses not paid recently and provide a five percent raise, as shown in the proposed budget (D) and report (E). We discussed the details of these proposed changes in our budget. These increases would come closer to the salary needed for the new general secretary and office costs. QEW is watching our funds very carefully and has never used restricted funds

SC Minute 2010.04.01. Steering Committee approved the recommendations of the Finance and Personnel Committees to increase the payments to Ruah Swennerfelt and Louis Cox by \$5,401 for FY 2010. Barbara Williamson stands aside from this decision.

Future Face-to-Face Meetings

After careful consideration and discussion with many on the Steering Committee, a Friend came forward with the suggestion that in 2011 QEW hold two meetings at the Cenacle in Chicago, with same number days as in 2010 – three full days in the spring and four full days in the fall – while continuing to consider going to one

meeting in 2012 and beyond. To facilitate the planning process, another Friend suggested that an *ad hoc* committee be named to continue to season our meetings, including how committees, projects, and worship groups can use electronic communications between face-to-face meetings. **During the year 2011, the new general secretary would become involved in the work of QEW and regional meetings could be considered, including evaluating the carbon footprint of regional meetings.** We could also explore meeting with Friends World Committee for Consultation and Friends General Conference. It would also give us time to consider a change in our fiscal year and bylaws. With these two meetings in Chicago in 2011 and possibly a meeting in spring 2012, we would be able to examine the significant nature opportunities, urban wilderness, bicycling and mass transit, and urban environmental challenges and problems in Chicago, possibly helping in a hands-on way with environmental needs in Chicago.

SC Minute 2010.04.02. Steering Committee approved meeting face-to-face in Chicago at the Cenacle in the spring for three full days and in the fall for four full days in 2011.

We discussed the best weekends for meeting at the Cenacle in 2011 and were reminded to be aware of Earth Day weekend. We prefer meeting in the East Conference Room, and the FGC Gathering Planning Committee is meeting at the Cenacle 2011 April 28 to May 1. **Given available dates at the Cenacle, the dates for the QEW national meetings in 2011 are: April 7-10 and October 20-24.**

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. The formal name of this committee will be decided by the Continuing Counsel Committee.

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.

Friends Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Section of America Meeting – Hollister Knowlton, David Millar, and Mary Gilbert

Hollister, Mary, and David attended the annual meeting of FWCC in 2010 March meeting outside Baltimore. FWCC Section of the Americas has been looking at creative ways to engage people and do away with their big annual meeting in 2011 and to have local events instead. One question that came from these meetings was “Where are Friends on Global Change?” David is on the Planning Committee. Julian Stargardt from Hong Kong started the discussion on defining Global Change, which includes issues, such as land use, immigration, and social justice. **FWCC plans to hold cluster meetings with diverse groups in 2010 and 2011, culminating a world gathering on Global Change at the end of 2011.** The compiled report of all the responses will be threshed at that meeting and revised for presentation to the World Gathering in Kenya in 2012. QEW could organize several cluster meetings. The cluster meetings will be recorded by print, audio, and video. The outcome of these cluster meetings will eventually end up at the FWCC World Conference in 2012 in Kenya. **The purpose of FWCC is to reach out to all Friends; our involvement might give QEW an opportunity to reach a wider group of Friends and get discussions about earthcare underway with all Friends. The Outreach Committee will talk about this further and a small sub-group of Sustainability: Faith and Action Working Group will also followup.**

Actions of the Continuing Counsel Committee (CCC)

Dick summarized the actions of the CCC. Several actions approved by the CCC require approval by the SC. Other actions by the CCC will be considered on Sunday.

Treasurer as a member of the Continuing Counsel Committee

Because currently the Finance Committee has no clerk, CCC recommended that the Treasurer be a member of CCC until a clerk of the Finance Committee was found. Later CCC recommended that the Treasurer be on the CCC acting as the Treasurer even if the Finance Committee has a clerk.

SC Minute 2010.04.05. Steering Committee approved the Treasurer serving on the Continuing Counsel Committee until a Clerk of the Finance Committee is nominated and approved.

SC Minute 2010.04.06. Steering Committee approved adding the Treasurer to the CCC.

Clerk of Personnel Committee on Continuing Counsel Committee

Because the Clerk of the Personnel Committee plays an important role with QEW, particularly during the time of defining the job of the general secretary and searching for a new general secretary, the CCC approved adding the Clerk of the Personnel Committee to CCC. This change needs to be approved by the SC of QEW.

SC Minute 2010.04.07. Steering Committee approved adding the Clerk of the Personnel Committee to the Continuing Counsel Committee.

Gratitude to Ruah for Her Work as General Secretary of QEW

Because of her long service to QEW, particularly in difficult times, the CCC recommends that the SC committee also recognize her work for QEW.

SC Minute 2010.04.08. Steering Committee approved noting our deep gratitude to Ruah for her extraordinary work for QEW over the years.

Clerks of Working Groups and Projects on the Continuing Counsel Committee

Because the clerks of the working groups and project also are as involved in the work of QEW as are the clerks of committees and need to be informed about QEW's activities, the CCC suggested that these clerks also be on the CCC. CCC approved the following minute:

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.

Dick asked the working group clerks if they wanted to be on the CCC, but received no response.

SC Minute 2010.04.09. Steering Committee approved that the involvement of working group and project clerks on the CCC be on an unofficial, informal basis until the Fall 2010 QEW Meeting.

Announcements

Several announcements were made. David Millar is coordinating ambassadors to yearly meetings from QEW.

Closing

We closed with silence before supper.

Fourth Meeting for Worship for Business, Saturday, 2010 April 24, 1:30 p.m.

Review of the Focus of QEW

To lead us in a review of the Focus of QEW, John Payton summarized the reflections of one of the small groups from our Threshing Session on Friday. We were reminded that QEW is called to bear witness to environmentally sound policies at all levels – from the most local to the entire world – building loving connections among Friends and others, including youth. The information we provide from our publications and website, our involvement with FWCC's Global Change, our projects in Costa Rica and our mini-grants, and our outreach to a much broader group of people are all part of QEW's focus. QEW needs to acknowledge the discrepancy we feel between addressing the urgent issues of the earth and our ability as humans to address those issues, as well as the tension between our frustration over inadequate action and our desire to be active. A strong spiritual center will keep our focus of activity sharp, strategic, and realistic. We need to recognize that listening and cheering are also actions. In the next two years, loving support of our new general secretary and of the entire community will be crucial.

Plans for the QEW Annual Meeting in Houston, 2010 October 28 to November 1 – Joe Morris

Joe Morris started the conversation about activism in the plans for the 2010 Fall Annual Meeting in Houston. Unlike recent annual meetings, plenary sessions will be interspersed with general business, committee, and working group sessions. **The theme is “Activism for a Planet in Peril: The Case of Water.”** The keynote speaker will be Jim Blackburn, an environmental lawyer. **We will address the challenge of being activist while keeping our spiritual center, recognizing that prayer is a form of action and more spiritual support is needed.** With the planet in peril, as Quakers we need to become even more active working with existing Quaker groups, for if Quakers are not involved, what groups will be? We trust that with group discernment QEW can come to a new perspective – a shift in frame – to move our activism forward.

A Call for More Friends Under 35 to be Involved with QEW

Maia Wolff challenged QEW to involve more young Friends like her to become involved in QEW, by going back to yearly meetings and nominating youth to be representatives to QEW. While QEW has some funds for travel to meetings by representatives, yearly meetings need to provide travel support as well. We raised the question of whether we should increase the number of representatives from each yearly meeting to enhance the involvement of young Friends. QEW Publication and Outreach Committees are already exploring the use of social networks, such as Facebook and Twitter, to reach more youth.

Fifth Meeting for Worship for Business, Saturday, 2010 April 24, 7:15 p.m.

Sally Merrill started our worship with a reading from a *Buddhist Prayer for Healing*.

Just as the soft rains fill the streams, pour into the rivers, and join together in the oceans,
So may the power of every moment of your GOODNESS
Flow forth to awaken and heal all beings,
Those here now, those gone before, and those yet to come.

By the power of every moment of your goodness,
May your heart's wishes soon be fulfilled
As completely shining as the bright full moon,
As magically as by a wish-ful filling gem.

By the power of every moment of your goodness,
May all dangers be averted and all disease be gone.
May no obstacle come across your way.
May you enjoy fulfillment and long life.

For all in whose heart dwells respect
Who follow the wisdom of compassion of the Way,
May your life prosper in the four blessings
Of old age, health, happiness, and strength.

Announcements

Jack Bradin, David Millar, Alice Howenstine, Barbara Williamson, and Ruah made announcements. For the 2010 Fall SC Meeting in Houston, Amtrak runs daily from Chicago to Houston (with a change to bus at Longview, TX); those coming by airplane should go to Hobby Airport in Houston. If working group or project clerks want to be on the CCC, they should inform Dick Grossman.

Finance Committee Making Decisions about the Use of Money

Because the Finance Committee had to moved some funds from a certificate of deposit to our checking account in January for cash flow purposes, the CCC affirmed the Finance Committee making such decisions with following minute:

CCC Minute 2010.01.04 Continuing Counsel Committee approved letting Finance Committee make the decisions about the use of money. We suggest that the Finance Committee consider how QEW invests its money, including investigating how Friends Fiduciary is investing money.

The SC should continue to review changes in our budget although we agree that changing cash to illiquid funds is a decision the Finance Committee should make. The Finance Committee is considering making changes in reports to be easier to read and understand. We suggested that this minute should be clarified and the issue concerning Friends Fiduciary should be addressed separately. **The Steering Committee was uneasy with this minute as a general policy.** We agreed to consider the issue during our business meeting on Sunday.

Minute on the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

After discussing QEW's application for accreditation to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), *Continuing Counsel Committee approved having Dick Grossman contact the UN Support Working Group, requesting them to fill out the necessary forms for accreditation of QEW with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). After favorable review by CCC, the Steering Committee would need to approve this change in role of QEW at its meeting in 2010 April. Since members of the United Nations Support Working Group are working on filling out the application form at this time, SC needs to do nothing further.*

Process for Sign Ons by QEW

Because QEW has been asked to sign on or support earthcare policy and causes for political and religious reasons and QEW would like to be involved and give our organizational support to such issues, CCC discussed at some length a simple but carefully considered process to do so. QEW wants to be clear what we are being asked to do, by whom, and when and also give members of the SC a chance to approve or raise concerns about the proposed sign ons. **Among several issues, we discussed the appropriate length of time (96 hours versus 48**

hours) to consider a proposed sign on and agreed that this proposed process should be reconsidered at our annual meeting in 2010 October, after about six months of a trial period.

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.

Appreciation of Louis Cox for his Editing of *BeFriending Creation*

Louis has faithfully produced *BeFriending Creation* in a colorful, economical, informative, and spiritually-based way for many years.

SC Minute 2010.04.11. Steering Committee approved expressing our appreciation to Louis Cox for editing *BeFriending Creation*.

QEW List Servs

We explained the various list servs of QEW and invited new members of QEW committees to join QEW earthcare list serv.

General Secretary Search

Dick Grossman reported that Ad Hoc Committee on Staff Transition had talked with several applicants for the general secretary position, and the deadline for applicants is 2010 June 10.

Nominating Committee – Rod Zwirner

Clerks need to identify members of committees, working groups, and project. We need new members of Personnel and Finance Committees and clerks of Finance and Personnel Committees.

Personnel Committee – Jack Bradin

Jack Bradin outlined the responsibility of the Personnel Committee to help mentor the general secretary and solve problems of QEW with the general secretary.

Finance Committee – David Ciscel

David Ciscel, Treasurer, reported that the clerk of the Finance Committee makes up and oversees the QEW budget, works with financial numbers, and helps the general secretary on financial matters.

Sign On for Climate Change and Energy Legislation – Hollister Knowlton

Dick reported that in early April the CCC had signed on as an endorser to the CLEAR Act on Climate

Change and Energy. Hollister informed us that this act introduced by Senators Cantwell (D-WA) and Collins (R-ME) is strongly supported by FCNL. In contrast to other climate and energy bills in the Senate, it proposes:

1. a much preferable Cap and Dividend approach rather than Cap and Trade;
2. 100 percent auction of permits instead of the 100 percent giveaway of the other bills;
3. a return of 75 percent of that income to individual citizens (estimated to be about \$1,000 annually) to help offset rising energy prices;
4. control of the remaining 25 percent by Congress to be allocated for green technology;
5. no trading of carbon by Wall Street, avoiding the dangers of speculation; and
6. no purchase of carbon offsets, which eliminates the use of questionable offsets by industry to avoid actually reducing their offsets.

Outreach Committee FWCC Global Change – John Payton

The Outreach Committee proposes that QEW agree to participate with the FWCC Global Change Cluster groups. We discussed how QEW would work with yearly meeting representatives to FWCC. The Outreach Committee and other Friends will consider working on this proposal to make it faithful to the FWCC Global Change project and return on Sunday.

Mini-Grant Projects

The Outreach Committee showed the work of QEW Mini-grants in 2009 with a description and pictures. Offset funds from our travel to meetings is used to support these mini-grants.

Publications Committee – Roy Taylor

The Publications Committee wishes to explore the use of social networks to reach more Friends. Several members of the Publications Committee are working on this and have had a first meeting. A minute will be proposed on Sunday.

Climate Change Conferences in Copenhagen and Cochabamba – Mary Gilbert

Mary Gilbert reported on her trip to the UN Climate Change Conference (COP15) in Copenhagen last December. Very little progress toward an international agreement was made within proper UN procedures. Some heads of state needed to go home claiming success, so 28 nations were invited to strike an agreement outside of UN rules and procedures. The result is the three-page document, called the Copenhagen Accord, so vague as to be meaningless. This was presented at 3:00 a.m. to the plenary in hopes of endorsement in an extended final session. The fact of the Accord and the way it came to be infuriated most of the international community, and many nations called the Accord “illegal.” The plenary “took note of” the Accord but did not sign on. Since then the United States has adopted a policy of refusing aid to countries that have not signed onto the Accord; this is another move deemed illegal by many. In reaction to the Copenhagen Accord, President Evo Morales of Bolivia convened a “Peoples” World Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, held in Cochabamba, Bolivia in April. Two Bolivian Quakers, educated with the support of US Friends, agreed to attend this conference and will report back to QEW. The report will be made available and possibly be published in *BeFriending Creation*.

Closing

We closed for singing led by Joe Morris.

Sixth Meeting for Worship for Business, Sunday, 2010 April 25, 9:15 p.m.

We opened with silence. Mary Jo centered us with two readings

The first, by Bill Moyers, was sent by Dick Grossman, who discovered this message in the bathroom of a house where he stayed in Salt Lake City:

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.

From "Doing Ministry, *Developing Your Inner Self*, edited by Wendy Geiger, whose ministry is called "The Poems People, " author unknown.

People start out to do ministry.
Then they form a group to help do the ministry.
Then, when everything falls apart, they pray.

Jesus did it the other way around:
He prayed, then he gathered the community
And only finally did he begin his ministry.

FWCC Videos

Videos from FWCC about Global Change were presented. They can be seen on FWCC website. "What is on your heart about Global Change?"

Finance Committee Responsibility for Day-to-Day Decisions About Funds

Following up our discussion about the Finance Committee responsibilities from Saturday, we approved two minutes clarifying our use of funds and responsibility for our investments.

SC Minute 2010.04.12. Steering Committee approved reaffirming the Finance Committee's role in making day-to-day decisions about the use of funds in QEW while the SC continues to have over all oversight of budgets, income, and spending of QEW.

SC Minute 2010.04.13. Steering Committee approved asking the Finance Committee to assure QEW's involvements are consistent with our beliefs.

Finance Committee -- David Cisel

The Finance Committee has no further report.

Nominating Committee – Rod Zwirner (Attachment F)

The Nominating Committee continues to be concerned about a lack of members on the Finance Committee and the Personnel Committee, both which are important committees to get work done. We are encouraged to switch to help these committees; new members may join these committees.

Outreach Committee – Susan Swanstrom (Attachment G)

The Outreach Committee has proposed a revised minute for QEW to collaborate with FWCC's Global Change consultation. We discussed the wording of the minute. We need to commit to continued action beyond 2011 to 2012 with everything that we will need to do.

SC Minute 2010.04.14. Steering Committee approved that in recognition of the value of FWCC's Global Change Consultation in raising Friends' awareness of the interconnection of the causes and faith responses to worldwide environmental, climate, social, and economic changes, the QEW Steering Committee commits to collaborate with FWCC over the next year in convening cluster meetings among Friends. QEW will work with existing FWCC representatives for the purpose of responding to consultation queries in monthly and yearly meetings and related Quaker groups.

Personnel Committee – Jack Bradin

The financial support for the General Secretary and Publications Coordinator has been increased, but QEW could do more for them financially.

Publications Committee – Roy Taylor

The committee has proposed a minute about exploring using social networks and connecting with Friends who share our concerns with the world. We discussed to whom we are connecting; we should not limit that connection.

SC Minute 2010.04.15. Steering Committee approved encouraging the Publications Committee to work with the Outreach Committee to explore the use of social networks to introduce QEW to a wider audience.

The Publications Committee also notes the work of Louis in developing the QEW website, improving it to the next level; the committee supports the website's continuing development.

SC Minute 2010.04.16. Steering Committee approved recognizing the work of Louis Cox in the development of the QEW website and supporting its further development.

The Publication Committee discussed several themes for the fund-raising brochure. **The committee recommends that the brochure focus on the issues of Water. Mary Gilbert and Judy Lumb have agreed to write the brochure.**

SC expressed appreciation of the Publication Committee's statement on list serv etiquette.

Spiritual Nurturance Committee – Mary Jo Kingel (Attachment H)

Several persons are interested in the New Spirituality Working Group which would meet electronically. It is still being developed.

The Spiritual Nurturance Committee will monitor all QEW meetings in the Light for spiritual depth. It will also offer Queries on Water. It is still having concerns about use of conference calls and Skype for doing Quaker work. Mary Gilbert is putting together a list of ideas.

Another Spiritual Nurturance Committee song was presented about water, swimming, and the rhythm of the

heart.

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Support Working Group – Rod Zwirner (Attachment I)

QEW has three representatives to FCNL – John Payton, Al Connor, and Rod Zwirner – but others are part of the working group. **Everyone can receive email reports on energy and climate change legislation from Devin Helfrich, FCNL, Legislative Advocate for the Environment. All can come to FCNL's annual meeting.** Friends Testimonies on Economics are no longer part of QEW, but economic concerns are still being addressed in *Quaker Eco-Bulletin* and other publications as well as the Growth Dilemma Network.

Sustainability: Faith and Action Working Group – Donn Kesselheim

Currently the working group has four projects:

1. Following up on the successful greening of the FCG gathering by extending it to other meetings;
2. Moving forward on a proposal by George Owen to go beyond focusing on carbon footprinting to the underlying values and anthropomorphism;
3. Consolidating the population publications by the Population Subgroup, bringing them up to date, and putting some of them primarily on the QEW website; and
4. Seeking an appropriate group of men on which to focus for the Men 4 Men Project.

UN Support Working Group – Phil Emmi (Attachment J)

Ten Quakers were sent to Copenhagen through the QEW UN affiliation. QEW has accreditations with the UN Environment Program and others. A large amount of information is received and posted on QEW Net. **To gain accreditation with the UN ECOSOC, we need to do more paper work, but there are valuable reasons for doing so, in particular enhancing more participation of Quakers in UN meetings around the world and providing a resource for networking. QEW needs to expand its current role beyond that of observer and reporter.** We will develop a statement of what QEW *is* to be used by Quakers attending these UN meetings, so that more people can be going to these meetings from around the world without additional international travel.

Ann Kriebel / San Luis Project – Bill Howenstine (Attachment K)

Bill presented a history of the project, which has given QEW good experience at influencing and educating all Friends and others and providing QEW hands-on experience. The Project is considering having another work camp, maybe in Nicaragua, to reach young Friends. To recognize possible expansion of the scope of the work of the Project, especially since the name of Ann Kriebel is no longer well known, the Project proposes that its name be changed to Finca La Bella Project.

SC Minute 2010.04.17. Steering Committee approved changing the name of the Ann Kriebel / San Luis Project to the Finca La Bella Project.

Announcements and Closing.

Ruah made some ending announcements before we closed with silence, followed by a Meeting for Worship.

Roy C. Treadway
Recording Clerk

Attachment A: FY 2010 Financial Statement Quaker Earthcare Witness 2010 April 22-25

Quaker Earthcare Witness FY 2010 Financial Statement

	<u>Nov 20'09 - Mar 2010</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Difference from Budget</u>	<u>Percent of Budget</u>
Income				
Administrative Fees	100.00	240.00	-140.00	41.67
Chico Bag Fund Raiser				
Chico Bag Sales	75.00			
Total Chico Bag Fund Raiser	75.00			
Contributions	38,732.05	84,396.00	-45,663.95	45.89
Finca la Bella money to gen fund	100.00	5, 240.00	-5,140.00	1.91
Interest	133.16	1, 500.00	-1,366.84	8.88
Meetings				
Meeting Carbon Offsets	30.00			
Meeting Registrations	8,590.00			
Total Meetings	8,620.00			
Mini-grant funds to general fun	0.00	250.00	-250.00	0.00
Obadiah Brown Grant to gen fund	312.30			
Publications Sales	154.00	1, 500.00	-1,346.00	10.27
Total Income	48,226.51	93,126.00	-44,899.49	51.79
Expense				
All Salaries and Benefits				
Gen. Sec. Benefits-Dental	165.20	390.00	-224.80	42.36
Gen. Sec. Benefits-Health	2,662.92	5, 431.00	-2,768.08	49.03
Gen. Sec. Payroll Taxes	835.01	1, 974.00	-1,138.99	42.30
Gen. Sec. Retirement Fund	360.00	774.00	-414.00	46.51
Gen. Sec. Salary	10,915.30	25,800.00	-14,884.70	42.31
Pub. Coord. Benefits-Dental	258.92	260.00	-1.08	99.59
Pub. Coord. Benefits-Health	575.28	2, 112.00	-1,536.72	27.24
Pub. Coord. Payroll Taxes	458.81	1, 085.00	-626.19	42.29
Pub. Coord. Retirement Fund	204.00	425.00	-221.00	48.00
Pub. Coord. Salary	5,997.09	14,175.00	-8,177.91	42.31
Total All Salaries and Benefits	22,432.53	52,426.00	-29,993.47	42.79
General & Administrative				
Credit card fees	374.98	850.00	-475.02	44.12
Equipment & Maintenance	104.17	600.00	-495.83	17.36
General Secretary Travel & Exp.	88.59	3, 500.00	-3,411.41	2.53
Office Supplies	999.76	1, 000.00	-0.24	99.98
Permits and Fees	27.03	130.00	-102.97	20.79
Photocopying	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.00
Postage	557.11	1, 200.00	-642.89	46.43
Rent	500.00	1, 200.00	-700.00	41.67
Standing committees				
Continuing Counsel Committee	30.05			
Finance/Development Committee	94.74	400.00	-305.26	23.69
Total Standing committees	124.79	400.00	-275.21	31.20

Quaker Earthcare Witness FY 2010 Financial Statement

	Nov 2009 - Mar 2010	Budget	Difference from Budget	Percent of Budget
Steering Comm. Trav. & Exp				
SC Travel donations	-340.00			
SC Travel grants	225.00	1, 000.00	-775.00	22.50
Total Steering Comm. Trav. & Exp	-115.00	1, 000.00	-1,115.00	-11.50
Telephone, internet & fax	1,148.04	2, 200.00	-1,051.96	52.18
Total General & Administrative	3,809.47	12,180.00	-8,370.53	31.28
Program & Outreach				
AK/SL Project	100.00	5, 240.00	-5,140.00	1.91
FCNL attendance	0.00	1, 650.00	-1,650.00	0.00
FGC expenses	133.45	250.00	-116.55	53.38
Mini-Grants	500.00	1, 250.00	-750.00	40.00
Visitation Travel	75.00	4, 000.00	-3,925.00	1.88
Total Program & Outreach	808.45	12,390.00	-11,581.55	6.52
Publications and Merchandise				
BFC Postage	1,297.07	2, 800.00	-1,502.93	46.32
BFC Printing	3,331.98	6, 500.00	-3,168.02	51.26
Bulk mail permit	185.00	180.00	5.00	102.78
Flyers Printing	154.00	1, 500.00	-1,346.00	10.27
Mailing supplies	182.21	50.00	132.21	364.42
Other Publications Expenses	24.00	50.00	-26.00	48.00
Pub. coord. travel	88.59	3, 500.00	-3,411.41	2.53
QUIP membership & attendance	50.00	50.00	0.00	100.00
Web site maintenance	454.25	1, 500.00	-1,045.75	30.28
Total Publications and Merchandise	5,767.10	16,130.00	-10,362.90	35.75
Total Expense	32,817.55	93,126.00	-60,308.45	35.24
Net Income	15,408.96	0.00	15,408.96	100.00

**Attachment B: Monthly Comparison FY2006-FY2010
Quaker Earthcare Witness 2010 April 22-25**

Quaker Earthcare Witness Monthly Comparison 2006-2010

	2006 Cumulative		2007 Cumulative		2008 Cumulative		2009 Cumulative		2010 Cumulative	
November	3,597.00	3,597.00	6,705.33	6,705.33	5,732.00	5,732.00	4,897.50	4,897.50	6,523.00	6,523.00
December	16,633.30	20,230.30	15,582.05	22,287.38	13,174.00	18,906.00	13,007.43	17,904.93	17,312.05	23,835.05
January	4,947.55	25,177.85	6,982.00	29,269.38	6,384.75	25,290.75	7,162.50	25,067.43	5,243.00	29,078.05
February	4,997.00	30,174.85	4,572.00	33,841.38	5,202.00	30,492.75	3,933.00	29,000.43	4,473.00	33,551.05
March	2,747.00	32,921.85	5,523.00	39,364.38	4,982.00	35,474.75	4,023.00	33,023.43	5,181.00	38,732.05
April	3,887.00	36,808.85	3,542.00	42,906.38	8,958.79	44,433.54	4,622.98	37,646.41		
May	7,720.48	44,529.33	6,002.00	48,908.38	5,322.00	49,755.54	6,477.50	44,123.91		
June	4,110.00	48,639.33	4,387.00	53,295.38	7,569.80	57,325.34	6,876.52	51,000.43		
July	5,371.70	54,011.03	8,197.00	61,492.38	4,958.00	62,283.34	6,056.53	57,056.96		
August	5,096.00	59,107.03	5,187.00	66,679.38	6,999.00	69,282.34	10,013.58	67,070.54		
September	5,700.00	64,807.03	5,277.00	71,956.38	5,099.00	74,381.34	6,718.50	73,789.04		
October	3,887.77	68,694.80	6,821.45	78,777.83	9,768.82	84,150.16	6,387.19	80,176.23		
Total	68,694.80	78,777.83	84,150.16	84,150.16	80,176.23	80,176.23	38,732.05	38,732.05		

**Attachment C: Balance on 2010 March 31
Quaker Earthcare Witness 2010 April 22-25**

Quaker Earthcare Witness Financial Balance	
	<u>Mar 31, 2010</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
Cash	
Certificates of Deposit	
CD-Chittenden	5,000.00
Total Certificates of Deposit	5,000.00
Chittenden Bank Checking	4,324.09
Chittenden Money Market	23,262.24
NEYM Pooled Funds Investment	20,000.00
Total Cash	52,586.33
Total Checking/Savings	52,586.33
Other Current Assets	
Prepaid Expenses	12,313.36
Total Other Current Assets	12,313.36
Total Current Assets	64,899.69
TOTAL ASSETS	64,899.69
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll tax liabilities	
Federal withholding & SS taxes	485.24
Payroll taxes	235.24
State withholding taxes	236.75
Total Payroll tax liabilities	957.23
Retirement Payable	235.00
Total Other Current Liabilities	1,192.23
Total Current Liabilities	1,192.23
Long Term Liabilities	
Loans payable-no-interest	20,000.00
Total Long Term Liabilities	20,000.00
Total Liabilities	21,192.23
Equity	
Net Assets-Temp. Restricted	
Finca la Bella Project	10,872.22
Men for Men Fund	725.00
Mini-Grant Contributory Fund	607.00
Total Net Assets-Temp. Restricted	12,204.22
Net Assets-Unrestricted	
Board Designated Reserve Fund	14,000.00
Net Assets-Unrestricted - Other	2,094.28
Total Net Assets-Unrestricted	16,094.28
Net Income	15,408.96
Total Equity	43,707.46
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	64,899.69

**Attachment D: Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2010
Quaker Earthcare Witness 2010 April 22-25**

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2010 (November 1, 2009 to October 31, 2010)					
DESCRIPTIONS	Fiscal 2008 Actual	Fiscal 2009 Actual	Fiscal 2010 Budget	Proposed adjustments April, 2010	New Budget 2010
REVENUE & OTHER SUPPORT					
Administrative fees	240.00	240.00	240.00		240.00
Chico Bag Fund Raiser		22.26			
Contributions	84,150.16	80,176.23	84,396.00	5,401.00	89,797.00
Finca la Bella funds to general fund	2,240.00	240.00	5,240.00		5,240.00
Interest	1,467.49	1,265.89	1,500.00		1,500.00
Meetings (net of expenses)	-238.32	-2,346.63			
Men for Men money to general fund		350.00			
Mini-grant funds to general fund		1,856.00	250.00		250.00
Obadiah Brown Grant to gen. fund		1,687.70			
Publications sales	2,986.45	1,574.85	1,500.00		1,500.00
TOTAL REV. & OTHER SUPP.	90,845.78	85,066.30	93,126.00		98,527.00
EXPENSES					
All Salaries and Benefits					
General Secretary Benefits-Dental	339.90	345.52	390.00		390.00
General Secretary Benefits-Health	4,913.03	5,762.98	5,431.00	850.00	6,281.00
General Secretary Payroll Tx's	1,114.62	1,966.42	1,974.00	98.00	2,072.00
Gen. Sec. Retirement	470.80	748.16	774.00		774.00
General Secretary Salary	14,569.88	25,799.80	25,800.00	1,290.00	27,090.00
Pub. Coord. Benefits-Dental	226.54	245.30	260.00		260.00
Pub. Coord. Benefits-Health	2,138.44	1,915.36	2,112.00		2,112.00
Pub. Coord. Payroll Taxes	1,032.72	1,080.48	1,085.00	54.00	1,139.00
Pub. Coord. Retirement	401.50	441.50	425.00		425.00
Pub. Coord. Salary	13,499.98	14,174.94	14,175.00	709.00	14,884.00
Office Assistant Salary	10,000.89				
Office Assistant Payroll Tx's	764.92				
Webmaster		5,000.00	0.00		
Total all salaries and benefits	49,473.22	57,480.46	52,426.00	3,001.00	55,427.00
General and Administrative					
Credit card fees	923.83	894.57	850.00		850.00
Equipment and maintenance	1,898.15	1,566.21	600.00		600.00
Gen. Sec. Travel & expenses	2,142.21	3,471.19	3,500.00		3,500.00
Fundraising training workshop	1,000.00		0.00		
Liability and property insurance	1,105.00	1,105.00	0.00		
Office supplies	993.93	980.90	1,000.00		1,000.00
Permits and fees	60.00	146.52	130.00		130.00
Photocopying	47.36	83.20	100.00		100.00
Postage	1,076.43	1,114.64	1,200.00		1,200.00
Rent	3,600.00	3,600.00	1,200.00	2,400.00	3,600.00
Continuing Counsel Committee	262.40	0.00			
Finance/Development Committee	400.75	418.42	400.00		400.00
Steering .Committee. travel and exp.	791.00	619.00	1,000.00		1,000.00
Telephone, internet, and fax	2,710.54	2,156.58	2,200.00		2,200.00
Total Gen. & Admin.	17,011.60	16,156.23	12,180.00	2,400.00	14,580.00
Program and Outreach					
AK/SL Project	2,240.00	240.00	5,240.00		5,240.00
FGC expenses (copying, displays, etc)	290.21	281.24	250.00		250.00
Men for Men project		350.00			
Mini-grants	1,000.00	2,500.00	1,250.00		1,250.00
FCNL attendance	449.10	1,295.00	1,650.00		1,650.00
UN working group		50.00			

Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2010 (November 1, 2009 to October 31, 2010)					
	Fiscal 2008 Actual	Fiscal 2009 Actual	Fiscal 2010 Budget	Proposed adjustments April, 2010	New Budget 2010
Visitation travel	5,618.51	3,351.76	4,000.00		4,000.00
Total Program and Outreach	9,597.82	8,068.00	12,390.00	0.00	12,390.00
Publications and merchandise					
<i>BeFriending Creation</i> Postage	2,736.15	2,630.15	2,800.00		2,800.00
<i>BeFriending Creation</i> Printing	5,480.25	6,086.06	6,500.00		6,500.00
Book printing		253.20			
Bulk mail permit	175.00	180.00	180.00		180.00
Flyers printing	1,547.44	1,687.70	1,500.00		1,500.00
Mailing supplies	87.94	76.11	50.00		50.00
Other publications expenses	117.05	24.00	50.00		50.00
Publications coordinator travel	2,048.68	3,248.27	3,500.00		3,500.00
Publications committee	60.00	0.00			
<i>Quaker Eco-Bulletin</i> Printing	980.00				
QUIP membership & meeting	50.00	50.00	50.00		50.00
Web site maintenance	292.98	267.49	1,500.00		1,500.00
Booklet printing-general funds	977.49				
Total Publications	14,552.98	14,502.98	16,130.00	0.00	16,130.00
TOTAL ALL EXPENDITURES	90,635.62	96,207.67	93,126.00	5,401.00	98,527.00
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	210.16	-11,141.37	0.00	-5,401.00	0.00

**Attachment E: Report of Personnel Committee
Quaker Earthcare Witness 2010 April 22-25
Jack Bradin, Clerk, and Al Connor**

Personnel Committee recommendations to restore financial items to Ruah and Louis.

Due to tight budget constraints, Ruah searched for ways to reduce the fiscal 2010 budget. She eliminated the prescription and vision riders on her health insurance and raised the deductibles to reduce the premiums. Since Louis is on Medicare and supplemental insurance, there were no cuts. The explanations are first and then the proposed budget increases are at the end of this report.

Since November 2009 Ruah has spent out-of-pocket about \$850 for vision care and prescriptions. Since those services cannot be restored this year, the loss of \$850 is permanent. Another area of reduction was rent, which reimburses Ruah and Louis for the maintenance of the QEW offices in their home. Rent was reduced from \$300 per month to \$100 beginning in November 2009, or for seven months November through April a total of \$1,400 loss to Ruah and Louis. **The Personnel Committee is in unity to reimburse Ruah and Louis \$2,250 (for vision and prescription costs and lost rent) immediately and to budget \$300 per month for the rest of the fiscal year for rent, for an additional \$1,000 (5 x \$200).**

Since Louis and Ruah also did not receive raises this year, the raises will be given retroactively, with the money spread out over the rest of the fiscal year. For Ruah, say a five percent raise will have increased her salary by \$1,290 (\$25,800 x .05) for the year. This amount can be paid out as an addition to salary over the five months May through October. For Louis, a five percent raise will have increased his salary by \$709 (\$14,175 x .05) for the year. This could be handled in the same way as with Ruah. **The Personnel Committee is in unity with providing five percent salary increases for fiscal year 2010, for a total of \$1,999 for both Ruah and Louis, and a resulting increase of payroll taxes for Ruah of \$98 and for Louis of \$54, for a total of \$152.**

The budget will be adjusted as follows (including the one-time payment of \$2,250 and salary and rent increases):
Rent will increase from \$1,200 to \$3,600 which equals a **\$2,400 increase**.
Health Insurance for Ruah will increase from \$5,431 to \$6,281 which equals a **\$850 increase**.

Salary for Ruah will increase from \$25,800 to \$27,090 which equals a **\$1,290 increase**, while payroll taxes will increase from \$1974 to \$2,072 which equals a **\$98 increase**.

Salary for Louis will increase from \$14,175 to \$14,884 which equals a **\$709 increase**, while payroll taxes for Louis will increase from \$1,085 to \$1,139 which equals a **\$54 increase**.

The total increase to the budget for fiscal 2010 will be **\$5,401**

Attachment F: Report of the Nominating Committee

Quaker Earthcare Witness 2010 April 22-25

Rod Zwirner, Clerk

We still have not been able to find clerks for Finance and Personnel Committees and the Finca la Bella Project. Several committees, including the Publications Committee, discussed clerking needs in the future.

Committee members were added and dropped on several committees, working groups, and project. Clerks should forward these changes to Louis for posting on our website. Carol Barta accepted the nomination for the 2010-12 slate for At-Large Steering Committee members; this will be approved in October.

All committees should keep their coming transitions in mind so that in their deliberations they are aware of the need for a future clerk. It also might help if those individuals for whom the logistics of convening calls is easy would step up to take this chore away from the clerk. As more is asked of committees, sharing some of the clerk's responsibilities will be of help in finding replacements. If we move to fewer face-to-face meetings, the Nominating Committee will depend more on suggestions from others.

Attachment G: Report of the Outreach Committee

Quaker Earthcare Witness 2010 April 22-25

Susan Swanstrom, Clerk

John Greenler, Liseli Haines, Bill Holcomb, John Hudson, Toni Hudson, Hollister Knowlton, Paul Krumm, David Millar, Laura Melly, John Payton, Allen Stockbridge (via Skype), and Susan Swanstrom (Clerk) participated in the meetings.

The clerk called Friends' attention to the revised *Talking Points*, which had been previously distributed electronically. They now reflect improved spacing for easier reading. They include QEW's vision and witness statement, a QEW Yearly meeting representative job description, and an Outreach Committee job description. These *Talking Points* are intended to help yearly meeting representatives plan and carry out their visits to their yearly meetings on behalf of QEW.

Friends united with the usefulness of providing new yearly meeting representatives to QEW with a "welcoming packet," which could be sent to new representatives via email. It might include a copy of the representative job description, *Talking Points*, QEW Bylaws, a list of QEW committee members, QEW budget, contact information for QEW steering committee members, and a list of frequently asked questions. It was suggested that new representatives also be assigned a buddy from among current yearly meeting representatives to help them get acclimated to their role. A buddy would make phone contact with a new representative shortly after the new representative received his/her welcoming packet.

One aspect of the yearly meeting representatives's job is to identify monthly meeting QEW contacts. There was acknowledgment that identifying such contacts in small meetings and worship groups may be difficult. It might be worthwhile to coordinate communication between QEW and such groups with the Advancement and

Outreach Committee of one's yearly meeting.

Friends raised the question of why QEW staff no longer sends welcome packets to new yearly meeting representatives. Is this because staff is too busy with other tasks? This will be clarified with Ruah to determine how best to reinstate this function.

In considering a focus for its Outreach work next year, Friends raised the possibility of joining forces with FWCC 's Global Change Consultation initiative.

Expansion of QEW E-List

Friends were reminded that Outreach Committee has taken on the task of expanding QEW's e-list. Concern was expressed about how few names and how few young Friends appear on this list, also called *QEW News*? How should we expand this list? As an announcement listserv, *QEW News* announces things like the mini-grant application deadline, an invitation to post Friends' earthcare stories, and upcoming meetings and gatherings. It might also be used to send out resources such as the carbon footprint quiz. While QEW no longer offers three free issues of *BeFriending Creation* to those new to QEW, it does encourage newcomers to add their names to this e-list, which entitles them to receive *BeFriending Creation* and *QEW News* every other month.

Friends acknowledged the importance of getting the email addresses of QEW monthly meeting contacts to add to the *QEW News* list. Ruah actually has a contact list of those who agreed to be a monthly meeting contact, but it is out of date and not all on the list gave an email address. It was suggested we contact these people to determine their interest in being added to the *QEW News* list. However, emails work best as a follow-up to a personal contact by phone. We could use our new Facebook page to reach potential recipients of *QEW News*. We could ask current members of QEW to solicit subscribers to *QEW News* from their Facebook pages. Are there young Friends in your meeting who would like to reach out electronically to build the list?

Our purpose in building this list is to better connect Friends who carry a concern for the earth and to listen to their concerns and interests, e.g., their stories of the joy of living lightly on the earth.

In reaching out to young Friends, we need to use the communication tools they use, such as Facebook and Twitter, which is becoming a very savvy communications tool. One suggestion was to use QEW's Facebook page to ask young Friends to invite their friends to virtual meeting where they could express their earthcare concerns. It was also suggested that we might convene a listening session for young Friends at this summer's FGC Gathering.

John Greenler agreed to serve as the Outreach representative to the Gathering planning committee, and connect with young Friends.

Should we subscribe to an automated email list updating service (such as Aweber or Constant Contact)?

QEW could provide suggested articles for yearly meeting representatives to include in their yearly meeting newsletters. These might also include links to resources on the QEW website.

Mini-grants report

It was suggested that we might expand our mini-grants programs to youth who have participated in an event such as a Model U.N. program. Their posters based on such participation could be submitted to QEW with the winners receiving grants toward expenses to attend a QEW SC meeting. This might also serve to interest young people in QEW in preparation for eventually serving on the SC. Ideally youth would be involved in the

conceptualization of such a program to assure that it best meets their needs. This suggestion might be folded into the youth listening project mentioned above.

Is QEW primarily a networking organization that lifts up what others are doing or do we generate our own programs? Clarity on this question will better help Outreach Committee do our job and QEW function as an organization.

FWCC Global Change Consultation (www.fwccglobalechange.org)

When FWCC was asked to sponsor a consultation on earth care, it decided to expand this call into a consultation on global change. The focus of this initiative is conducting cluster meetings in which Friends of all persuasions would respond queries to and report back to FCCW their responses.

There is good alignment between QEW's vision and witness statement and FWCC's design of the consultation. The deadline for input from cluster meetings is next summer, after which the input will be compiled for a consultation to be held later that year. If QEW volunteers to participate in convening clusters, this would be very helpful to FWCC and would help QEW build bridges to more evangelical and conservative Friends. QEW Friends could hold clusters in monthly meetings, yearly meetings, and other groups via virtual communications. We would need permission to videotape a cluster meeting. **Should the consultation be a focus of Outreach work this year?**

Proposed minute for QEW:

In recognition of the value of FWCC's Global Change Consultation in raising Friends' awareness of the interconnection of the causes and faith responses to worldwide environmental, climate, social, and economic changes, the QEW Steering Committee commits to collaborate with FWCC over the next year in convening cluster meetings among Friends. QEW will work with existing FWCC representatives for the purpose of responding to consultation queries in monthly and yearly meetings and related Quaker groups.

Outreach Committee has developed the following priorities to focus its work over the next year: (a) building our e-list and other e-communication capacities; (b) convening and reporting back to FWCC on cluster meetings held as part of FWCC's Global Change Consultation; (c) expand the age-range of QEW participants. Friends state their vision for this work over the next year as follows:

In faithfulness to our calling to reach out to and connect with other Friends desirous of living in right relationship with all Creation, the QEW Outreach Committee will over the next year focus its energy on expanding its e-communication capacity, reaching out to listen to the earthcare concerns of young Friends, and participating in FWCC's Global Change Consultation initiative.

Attachment H: Report of Spiritual Nurturance Committee Quaker Earthcare Witness 2010 April 22-25 Mary Jo Klingel, Clerk

I have been aware all this weekend of the tension between the need for getting tasks done and the joy of inviting the more spacious moments of waiting for Spirit. In the Spiritual Nurturance Committee we co-created meetings where we spent time in relationship with one another and also got a great deal done.

Here is a summary of our decisions:

We were in unity that spiritual nurturance will monitor all meeting times, plenaries, and presentations to hold our Gathering in the Light and encourage Quaker process.

We found that an agenda item bubbled forth after a rich discussion of water. We created some queries about water and will offer them to the planning committee for the meeting in Houston.

We considered the effectiveness of conference calls, with suggestions for better process and for disciplines that the clerk can use to have wise use of time. Mary Gilbert offered the information that she intends to write an article on phone conferencing. Friends may also refer to the Spiritual Nurturance committee minutes for a fuller discussion of our ideas

Also flowing from our discussion of water was another Spiritual Nurturance song, called “Swimming,” taught to us by Mary Gilbert. The lyrics are:

We kick.....and then we glide.
We kick, kick.....and then we glide.
It’s all in the rhythm, it’s all in the rhythm,
It’s all in the rhythm of the heart.
Keep breathing, that’s the most important part.
Keep breathing, that’s the most important part.

**Attachment I: Report of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Support Working Group
Quaker Earthcare Witness 2010 April 22-25
Rod Zwirner, Clerk**

Impact on FCNL

We need to remember that our influence depends on the collective actions of the three QEW representatives to FCNL, the Steering Committee, and the FCNL Green Team. All QEW participants can join the Green Team, as can all monthly meeting members, by sending an email to Devin@FCNL.org. Then you will receive the Energy /Environment up dates of Devin Helfrich., FCNL’s Legislative Associate.

Legislative Priorities and the Carbon Limits and Energy for America's Renewal (CLEAR) Act

While we had no new legislative priorities from March, we did sent our support of the CLEAR Cap and Dividend Act sponsored by Senators Cantwell and Collins.

QEW-FCNL Internet Links

We will pursue getting both web sites to link to one another.

Growth Dilemma Network (GDN) and General Progress Indicator (GPI)

We should continue to frame economic policy by using Growth Dilemma Network (GDN) and General Progress Indicator(GPI) concepts. This will help us be more proactive, not just opposing present policies.

Attachment J: Report of the UN Support Working Group
Quaker Earthcare Witness 2010 April 22-25
Phil Emmi, Clerk

1. Mary Gilbert reported on a group of ten Friends who benefitted from QEW accreditations to the UN Framework Convention of Climate Change (UNFCCC) conference on climate change in Copenhagen last December. Despite everything, these Friends remain in contact with one another and have prepared reports to their respective circles.

2. We have secured accreditations to several UN organizations including the UN Environmental Program (UNEP), the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), the UN Department of Public Information (DPI), and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). These organization hold meetings on topics of interest at locations around the world.

3. Having secured these several accreditations exposes us to a flow of information akin to drinking from a fire hose. We badly need a way to filter information to discern what is relevant. David Millar will experiment with approaches to organizing information flows into threads for posting on qewnet <<http://qewnet.ning.com/>>. He will apply filtering criteria referenced below.

4. We have an opportunity to seek accreditation from the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). David Millar and Jack Bradin will prepare and submit the necessary application materials. Acceptance is not assured.

5. Accreditations permit our designees to attend organizational meetings. We see our accreditations as being helpful in building a network of Friends who might attend such meetings and report back anything of relevance to QEW. We have initiated two such contacts and will be seeking to make more.

6. Friends attending UN organization meetings are sometimes in need of simple guidelines on how best to relate to the Support Group and to help serve its interests in reporting out to the body of QEW. Sally Merrill will prepare a one-page guide to serve this purpose.

7. The Working Group is beginning to develop a perspective on how it might mediate between UN organizations and the larger Quaker community. Many Friends are relatively unaware of international development issues, the institutions involved in addressing these issues, and the frames they use to shape perception of these issues particularly as they pertain to matters of community, ecology and sustainability. The UN Support Working Group's perspective relies increasingly on the recognition of a minority voice that seems frequently congruent with Quaker Testimonies. This voice is heard among poorer countries subject to difficult terms of trade and dependent upon natural resource exploitation as a basis for participation in international affairs. It is a voice well represented by the Third World Network, and it offers a perspective that the UN Support Working Group is likely to reflect in much of its own work.

8. Relative to this last point, we eagerly anticipate reports from sponsored Bolivian Friends in attendance at the People's World conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth in Cochabamba, Bolivia, April 19 - 22, 2010.

Attachment K: Report of the Ann Kriebel/San Luis Project
Quaker Earthcare Witness 2010 April 22-25
Bill Howenstine, Clerk

Bill Holcomb, Alice Howenstine, Bill Howenstine, Hollister Knowlton, Jim Lynch, and Barbara Williamson attended the meetings of the Ann Kriebel/San Luis (AK/SL) Project. Since some of those present were relatively new to the committee's work, Bill Howenstine reviewed the history of the project, with the aid of old posters, photographs, and written documents. Both the many successes and the unmet challenges were covered. Past activities sponsored by QEW (FCUN), including the Costa Rican tour with the Stuckeys, the visit of *parceleros* to farms in the United States and Canada, and the multi-generational work camp held at Finca La Bella were remembered warmly.

The role of Susannah McCandless, the AK/SL Project Coordinator, in achieving these successes was recalled with appreciation, as we held her in the Light because of her current illness.

The most recent communication from Monteverde/San Luis indicated that the long process of completing the trust agreement (*fidecomiso*) for protection of the Finca La Bella land finally may be near completion.

We reviewed the possibilities for holding another work camp, sponsoring another tour, or exchange of F(f)riends between Finca La Bella/United States and Canada. As we did this, we realized a number of ingredients existed for planning a multi-cultural camp program centered at Finca La Bella. These ingredients include: housing potential in *parcelero* homes, contacts with Monteverde Friends and institutions, the Monteverde Friends School and its alumni, many bilingual F(f)riends in our three countries, experienced camp personnel on our committee and in Baltimore Yearly Meeting, the proximity of the Biological Reserve, and more! We agreed to start planning for such a program, hopefully for 2011.

It was strengthening for us to have both Bill Holcomb and Jim Lynch say they would like to join the project, and to have Barbara Williamson agree to produce a revised update of the project tri-fold.

We approved recommending to the Steering Committee that the name of the project be changed to: The Finca La Bella Project. (In our publicity, where appropriate, we can add phrasing such as, "in honor of Ann Kriebel"). We feel this more simplified title will facilitate better understanding of what the project is.

We were in agreement that the project has become such an outstanding Quaker resource, demonstrating community development, while protecting the natural environment and building peace that it deserves the continued support of QEW.