



GPMC Tentative Agenda—July 30th General Membership meeting

1:00pm: Arrival & introductions

1:10pm: Guest speaker on biodiesel fuel (Introduction by Trevor & Regina)

1:40pm: Question/answer session

1:50pm: Role assignment & review of the facilitation process—Facilitator, note taker, timekeeper, vibes watcher & stacker (Richard)

1:55pm: Review/approval of the agenda & set/adjust times

2:00pm: Herstory/history of GPMC & the Arizona Green Party (AZGP)—orientation for new members (Angel)

2:10pm: Review/approval of minutes from previous GPMC meeting (June 4th); action items (Jose)

2:15pm: Fundraising: GPMC "\$1/month" campaign, Green Party-US campaign for "card-carrying" Greens, sale of t-shirts, buttons, Green Pages newsletter, etc. (Angel)

2:25pm: Break

2:35pm: Roundtable discussion: What issues should GPMC "champion"? Examples: instant run-off voting/IRV, immigration policy reform, renewable energy, etc. (Regina & Trevor)

3:00pm: GPMC Organizational "Flow" Chart; GPMC 2005-06 goals; campaigns & tactics for goals (Joan & Angel)

3:30pm: Committee breakout sessions—"Fiesta Monsoon", fundraising, Youth caucus, website, etc

4:00pm: Parking lot/events & announcements/next meetings

4:05pm: Meeting review

4:10pm: Evaluations (positives, negatives & concerns)

4:15pm: Adjourn

4:15pm to 5:00pm: GPMC Steering Committee meeting

Green Party of Maricopa County (GPMC) General Membership meeting minutes—July 30th, 2005
Paradise Valley Community College—Phoenix, AZ

In attendance: Alex Damman, Michelle DeHerrera, Paul Grossman, Desiree Hernandez, Charles Imboden, Rob Jackson, Robert Neal, Regina Ochocki, Trevor Ochocki, Jose Rivas, Michael Sarin & spouse, Adela Solis, Angel Torres & Mary Ellen Wierschem

Guest speaker on Biodiesel—Michael Sarin, consultant and mechanical engineer

49% of the vehicles in France run on Biodiesel; in Europe, gasoline costs \$6/gallon.

The difference between SI (spark plug ignition) and CI (compression ignition): SI uses a spark plug and a distributor; CI uses compression; engines have 50% to 300% longer life. 94% of the freight in the U.S. handled by diesel engines.

The Volkswagon Jetta TDI uses Biodiesel; the city PM (personal mileage) is 31.0 mpg (miles per gallon); the highway PM is 53.0 mpg.

The Toyota Prius is a hybrid (electric/gas) vehicle; the city PM is 32.9 mpg; the highway PM is 56.2 mpg.

The current price of B100 (biodiesel fuel) is \$3.20/gallon. The advantages of biodiesel: it has fewer emissions, it is renewable, it has better lubricity (the engines last longer) & it is safer than gasoline.

Question (by Paul Grossman): Why aren't the big trucking companies jumping on board with Biodiesel?

Answer: There is slightly less fuel economy with biodiesel, and the freight companies are very price sensitive when it comes to the price of fuel.

M. King Hubbert (geophysicist): The U.S. peak oil find was in the 1930s; the U.S. peak oil production was in the 1970s. The world peak oil find was in the 1980s; the world peak oil production will be in 2020, if not sooner (perhaps 2006)!

The Alaska National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) would provide less than 1 million barrels/day.

Country singer Willie Nelson helping to market "Bio-Willie" (biodiesel fuel). Peter Bethune will circle the globe in Earth Race (world voyage in ship using 100% biodiesel).

Most school buses run on diesel fuel (which has carcinogens); many school districts are converting their buses to run on biodiesel (safer for children/students).

Question: What is the viscosity of biodiesel? Answer: It doesn't work as well in cold climates (not usually a problem in Arizona).

A research study by the Department of Agriculture (USDA) found that for every unit of energy put in to producing biodiesel, you would get 3.2 units of energy.

Break

Introductions

Role assignment: Facilitator—Robert Neal; note taker—Mary Ellen; timekeeper—Paul; vibes watcher—Charles

Review/approval of meeting agenda

Angel Torres gave a brief GPMC/AZGP history for new members and a list of local Green Party achievements.

The minutes from the previous GPMC meeting (June 4th, 2005) were read and approved.

Fundraising: Folks were encouraged to join the GPMC \$1/month campaign, and/or become a "card-carrying Green" through the GP-US website. Items available for donations included Green Party t-shirts, bumper stickers, buttons and the Green Pages newsletter. In regards to on-line donations, the pros vs. cons of Pay pal vs. our own GPMC merchant account were discussed. Robert Neal and Rob Jackson agreed to work on this project. Phone banking to registered Greens was also discussed as a way to raise funds.

Roundtable discussion: What issues should GPMC "champion"?

During our introductions and the roundtable, some of the issues included: instant run-off voting (IRV), proportional representation (PR), energy issues (solar-hydrogen/renewable), positions on policy (immigration & the environment), petitioning, train service to Phoenix, phone banking to registered Greens (fundraising, meeting notices, etc), petition drive for Green Party ballot status, candidates for school boards, Move-On.org petition drive to oppose the John Roberts nomination to the Supreme Court, Green Party kiosks in the malls (sell fair trade cookies), City of Phoenix tax issues/sewer system debacle, the need for a regularly published GPMC newsletter, lack of candidates, increase the number of folks attending GPMC meetings. GPMC should be a "watchdog" of the Arizona State legislature.

Angel reviewed the GPMC Organizational “Flow Chart” with the folks present. The “Flow Chart” lists the GPMC officers and Steering Committee members, along with the different committees that GPMC members may join (a copy of the “Flow Chart” will soon be added to the website).

Angel reviewed the current GPMC 2005-06 goals (now available on the GPMC website, www.maricopagreens.org).

Jose Rivas gave a report on “Fiesta Monsoon”, a GPMC Youth Caucus sponsored event to be held on Friday, September 2nd, 2005 at the Paper Heart Gallery in downtown Phoenix.

Future meetings: GPMC General Membership meeting—Saturday, August 27th, 2005 at South Mountain Community College in Phoenix. The next Arizona Green Party (AZGP) State meeting will be held on Saturday, September 10th, 2005 in Tucson (location TBA).

Evaluations (positives, negatives & concerns):

(+): “I’m glad to see activity”, “great guest speaker”, “a lot of material covered”, “I’m glad I came”, “good turnout”, “the guest speaker, Michael Sarin”, “care was given to the agenda”, “good meeting”, “different opinions”, “I like the interactions”, “the respectful way the meeting is handled”, “very productive meeting”, “kiosk idea at mall”, “Green Party as a watchdog”, “extensions to the meeting agenda when folks needed more time to speak”, “new faces in attendance”, “Mary Ellen’s cookies”

(-): “What’s next?”, “early birds that left after the guest speaker’s presentation”, “no break during the meeting”, “I want to do something”, “we need to do something concrete”, “the lack of a computer in the room/no overhead monitor”, “not enough handouts/copies”

(>): “We need to be gearing towards 2006”, “we seem to be going in circles”, “we need more people”

Adjourn