



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Directors

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Monday, April 20, 2020 at 6:30pm

Board Members Present by Video

1. Peter Capek
2. Nancy Cincotta
3. Seth Davis
4. Jeff Domanski
5. Mitzi Elkes
6. Joan Gaylord
7. Neil Gordon
8. Arthur Jones
9. Aaron Mair
10. Janine Napierkowski
11. Cathy Page
12. Kyle Rabin
13. Jeremy Rainer
14. Don Raskopf
15. Robi Schlaff
16. Gregory Simpson
17. Steve Stanne
18. Donna Stein
19. Sarah Underhill

Board Members Present by Phone

20. Henry Neale

Board Members Absent

21. Bob Alpern
22. Allen Gutkin
23. Samantha Hicks
24. Ashley Knox

Staff Members Present by Video

25. Hal Cohen
26. Erik Fyfe
27. Mannajo Greene
28. Erin Macchiaroli
29. Amy Nelson

Staff Members Present by Video (Contin)

30. Nick Rogers
31. Greg Williams

Staff Members Present by Telephone

32. James Malchow
33. Gigi Rapetti

Guests Present by Video

34. Hope Altkin
35. Sue Gamache
36. Allan Goldhammer
37. Joyce Hanson
38. Ben Kaminsky
39. Noel Kropf
40. Tinya Seeger
41. Alan Thomas
42. Rosemary Thomas
43. Roy Volpe

Guests Present by Phone

44. Susan Berliner
45. Betty Harkins
46. Laura Selleck
47. Mark



Call to Order

The meeting on Monday, April 20, 2020 of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc. was called to order at 6:39PM by President, Steve Stanne.

A quorum was determined to be present.

Sarah Underhill led the attendees by voice in song, "River of my people" – Peter Seeger.

The meeting agenda was made available by email and posted on the website.

Prior Meeting Minutes Approval

Steve thanked Cathy for staying on top of everything as secretary, especially the last few weeks.

Steve asked if everyone had the chance to review and approve the previous meeting minutes.

Steve called for a **MOTION**: To approve the board meeting minutes from April 9, 2020 on Monday, April 20, 2020 at 6:46pm. The **MOTION** was moved by Neil and seconded by Donna. The **MOTION** was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Clearwater's Current Financial Condition

Greg presented the cash flow model as it stands today. The material included balances in our multiple bank accounts.

\$ 59,881 is the total cash balance (Non-Restricted) comprised of 3 different Clearwater accounts as of today.

\$ 5,000 is the total Restricted funds available as of today.

Greg explained further how the payroll expenditure works and that we should be able to pay another two-week payroll cycle through **May 1, 2020**. As of right now, we need **\$7,031** for the next payroll cycle.

Steve let us know that Clearwater received a **\$ 5,000** contribution today and that would go a long way to achieving that.



Mitzi asked about what loans are being paid and other payables and the timeline of paying back loans.

Greg said we have received a 6-month deferment from Ulster Bank. We have until May 8, 2020 to make our next credit card payment. These are the only two loan institutions we are working with.

Greg stated that he will submit a proposed list of expenditures the night before our Executive Committee meetings on Thursday mornings for approval of any expenditure over \$1,000.

Insurance for the sloop remained unchanged due to the anticipation of the boat being in the water in June, according to the "pause" being lifted by New York State.

No part of our insurance is on lapse.

Neil stated that our liability risk includes people, events, and all other areas. Insurance is important. This insurance does not include Revival.

CARES Act and Disaster Relief Loan Application Status Update

EIDL (Economic Impact Disaster Loan) – Funds have been exhausted and the future is uncertain. The \$10,000 advance provided by this loan would not have to be paid back and would have been delivered in roughly 21 days. We should not rely on this program given the state it is in now.

PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) – We requested **\$146,000** and have gotten confirmation that our loan is in process. Ulster has outsourced the funding to Pursuit, so we are waiting on that information. Because these funds have been exhausted, they are putting the applications they have on hold. They are optimistic that Congress and the White House will replenish the funding by Wednesday, April 22, 2020. There is reason to predict this funding could come through before we run out of money. Other sources may be available in the meantime and will be reviewed.

Please see the Executive Director's Report included as [Addendum A](#) below.

Online Folk Festival Proposal Response

Steve Stanne discussed the online streamed music folk festival proposed by Jason Samel and we have responded that Clearwater will not formally partner or engage with Jason on the proposed event.



We acknowledged that he has every right to produce an event on his own and if he chooses to do so, we have made it clear through a statement of terms that we will not allow Clearwater's intellectual property to be used without written permission.

Another proposal has been submitted today from Roy Volpe.

Roy stated that people in our community have been discussing doing a virtual concert of smaller proportions to try it out.

After greater discussion and a meeting with this smaller committee (Tom Chapin, Jeremy Rainer, Tinya Seeger, Ben Kaminsky, Rick Nestler and Roy), we are proposing to do a much more substantial virtual program on Father's Day Weekend called 2020 Revival virtual program. Music with interspersed activist presentations, children's music and probably some storytelling to bring elements of revival to this program. Roy stated that he does not know how big it will be, but the big decision will be when a tech person will be able to join us.

Roy would like to announce this on Earth Day, April 22, 2020.

Peter Capek asked about details regarding whether we would charge for it. Roy suggested it would be by donation.

Don suggested a donation button with PayPal or Venmo. Don will investigate options with someone he follows on Facebook live and YouTube.

Roy does not anticipate needing any money and Steve states that if there are costs involved that the board would have to approve that expenditure. Roy confirms the only expense may be for the technical person to help and will not commit to anything without discussing it with the board.

Roy would like to start selling t-shirts with the exact name of the event, people can get excited about the event. Don stated that we should ask the technical person for pro bono work.

Roy requested that the board acknowledge it is a good idea and a message could go out this week. Roy would like to use Revival in the title, 2020 Virtual Revival.



The following Resolution was proposed:

RESOLVED, that the board of directors of Clearwater authorize Roy Volpe and Ben Kaminsky, dedicated Revival Planning Committee (RPC) members, to move forward with planning a virtual program of music and other activities consistent with Clearwater's mission to be held on Father's Day Weekend 2020.

No funds will be expended by Clearwater in connection with this event.

Robi called for a **MOTION**: To authorize moving forward with planning a virtual program 2020 on Monday, April 20, 2020 at 7:48pm. The **MOTION** was moved by Cathy and seconded by Arthur. The **MOTION** was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Please see the Approved Resolution included as [Addendum B](#) below.

Strategic Planning Committee Update

Steve stated that we will look to leaders in the Hudson Valley community.

Steve stated that Samantha had previously said we should look inward for this effort as well.

A two-track process has been proposed:

1. One working group looks outside
2. One working group looks inside

Both perspectives are valuable.

A coordinating committee would consist of co-chairs of each group.

Outside group co-chairs are Seth Davis and Janine Napierkowski.

Inside group co-chairs are Samantha Hicks and Erik Fyfe.

We hope to have the group meet by the end of this week to come up with a sense of a timeline (long term plan) and generate a list of common questions, potential interviewees, others.

We are checking outside assistance and grants regarding this process.

Those who have expressed an interest should write to Seth, Steve, and Sam to see where your efforts work best. With two working groups, we have opportunities for people to contribute.



Education Director Report

Erik has been prioritizing his work on activities that bring in money and anything he can do that is related to the organization's resiliency.

Erik has been focusing on active education grants (**6**) with potential for about **\$60,000** for Clearwater.

Erik has been preparing vouchers for submittal in the near future; most grants are reimbursement-based grants and are reimbursed on a quarterly basis by submitting these vouchers. Available for submittal represents about **\$20,000** (25% advance on a new grant that we have); Erik met with Anita regarding funds that were categorized as restricted grants.

Erik stated that we have a little over **\$21,000** that we've received for tideline, in classroom and sailing programs for this spring and while we aren't expecting to offer those in the traditional forms we normally do, we've received some requests for refunds (administrators or teachers from the schools).

Erik plans to launch a Hudson River Distance Learning Initiative to provide new learning experiences. The current plan is to produce a package 8 educational videos (4-5 minute river, river ecology, navigation, sloop videos) in partnership with Amy and the crew. The crew is enthusiastic to help the organization. Erik created a Google Classroom account and have spoken with teachers to coordinate the launch (a few videos by next week).

Video and assessment (quiz from the teacher) will be provided.

The packages could be used to distribute later as well.

Erik acknowledged the furloughed staff and encourages everyone to remember their efforts.

Sloop Captain Report

Amy stated that the hull inspection is 50% (completed the first part before the beginning of the winter). Annual inspection is about 15% done.

Amy acknowledged the awesome crew for their love of the boat and the community.

They are working to get the coast guard inspection for May 5, 2020.

Amy stated there is a grant they are working on and is ongoing.



The volunteer crew has been working on goals to produce 3 of those videos by the end of this week (April 24, 2020).

Top side's restoration and prep – a bunch of the wood that was delivered needed to be treated and Amy was able to work with the company to sponsor the product that is used on that treatment.

People have visited the boat and asked how things are going; the crew has been positive and uplifting to those who came. Projects are being worked on the community including volunteering at the farm and project resilience (delivering food for the community).

Amy states that they enjoy giving back to the community during this time and want to give back as much as they can.

Greg and Henry both stated that they were really impressed with the work that has been done and we should all recognize Amy and the crew for their extraordinary efforts.

Environmental Action Report

Manna stated that 50% of her time recently has been working on the Nuclear Decommissioning.

Manna reviewed some of the following:

1. The Regional Renewable Energy Implementation Plan
2. Coeymans Creek Research Project
3. Nuclear Decommissioning Advocacy
4. Unity for Clean Energy Coalition
5. Stop Danskammer Expansion Campaign
6. Newburgh Drinking Water Contamination

Please see more on the Environmental Actin Board Report included as [Addendum C](#) below.

Board engagement & IMMEDIATE Action Item List

Steve stated that there is a list of things that need to be done and there is a list of things that Board Members should be taking on.

Cathy stated January 2020 board meeting outlined all of the board participation vehicles we have available to us as Directors (Goal Worksheet, Board Manual, Board Retreat).



At that meeting, the new year brought encouragement for all board members to participate.

Cathy encouraged that we, as the Executive Committee, are here to support the Board.

We (Cathy, Arthur, Neil) put together Board Metrics list of things we could use help on from the Board.

Things that we can do that we think are reasonable and easy to contribute to the organization as board members, especially at this time:

Basic areas that were presented were the following:

1. Fundraising
 - a. Raise money for the organization through Ambassador Pages, Outreach to personal contacts, and asking other supporters to support us.
2. Board Engagement
 - a. Engage with donors
 - b. Reach out to family, friends, members and other community members

We could use each person on the Board of Directors to participate and help the organization get through this difficult time, every last thing we can do is critical right now.

Cathy stated that we have to bring our community together (internally and externally) to bring us into the next 50 years. If the doors close, it will be on all of us.

Noel Kropf stated that members like him also want to help with fundraising. Noel said that social media and phone calling suggestions work for members too.

Steve stated that anyone can be an Ambassador for Clearwater, we welcome the support.

Cathy stated that people respect your stories about why we love Clearwater, the Hudson River and can connect with them. It is all relatable and people have passion for this organization.

Educating people about issues relating to our mission is one of the best ways to engage.

If Board Members need more information about how to give back to Clearwater, please contact Cathy Page.

If you would like more information about how you can help Clearwater through Member or Community engagement, please send an email to secretary@clearwater.org and Cathy Page will send you a list of how you could help.



Adjournment

Steve called for a **MOTION**: To adjourn this meeting on Monday, April 20, 2020 at 9:00pm. The **MOTION** was moved by Joan and seconded by Don. The **MOTION** was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Page, Secretary, 5/12/2020



Executive Director's Report

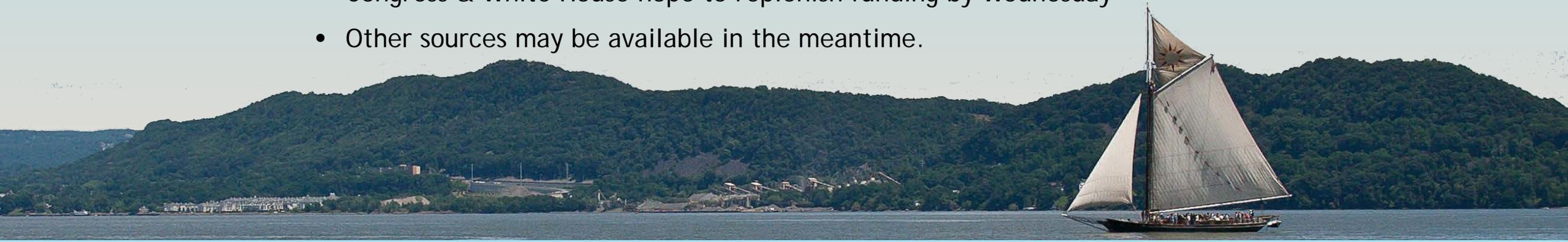
FINANCIAL CONDITION & RELIEF APPLICATION STATUS

APRIL 20, 2020



Assistance Status

- Economic Impact Disaster Loan - EIDL
 - \$10K “advance (does not have to be paid back) delivered in roughly 21 days
 - Up to \$2M loan, determined by Small Business Administration
 - Funds exhausted. Future Uncertain.
- Payroll Protection Program - PPP
 - \$146K Requested
 - Application on hold
 - Funds exhausted. Future Uncertain.
 - Congress & White House hope to replenish funding by Wednesday
 - Other sources may be available in the meantime.





Secretary's Certificate

I, **Cathy Page**, Secretary of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc., a New York State corporation, do hereby certify that the resolution attached hereto as **Exhibit A** is a true and accurate copy of a resolution adopted by the board of directors of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc. at a duly called meeting of the board on **4/20/20**.

I further certify that said resolution has not been rescinded, amended, or modified and is in full force and effect as of the date hereof. In witness whereof, I have executed this certificate this **20th** day of **April, 2020**.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cathy Page".

Cathy Page, Secretary

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc.

Note:

Corporate Seal will be affixed after COVID-19 stay-at-home requirement has been lifted.

Addendum B

Exhibit A

Resolution: Authorization to move forward with planning a Virtual Program 2020

RESOLVED, that the board of directors of Clearwater authorize Roy Volpe and Ben Kaminsky, dedicated Revival Planning Committee (RPC) members, to move forward with planning a virtual program of music and other activities consistent with Clearwater's mission to be held on Father's Day Weekend 2020.

No funds will be expended by Clearwater in connection with this event.

Dated: **4/20/20**

The above resolution was discussed and approved by a majority of the Board of Directors participating at a meeting held April 20, 2020, a quorum having been determined to exist.



Secretary

Environmental Action Update

- **The Regional Renewable Energy Implementation Plan:** Working with The Nature Conservancy, Scenic Hudson, HV Regional Council, New Yorkers for Clean Power, Sustainable HV and Sustainable Westchester and others.
- **Coeymans Industrial Park research project** is complete; will soon post report on CW website and issue media release
 - Funded by **Rose Foundation**; possible legal action if Rose Foundation will support.
- **Nuclear Decommissioning Advocacy:** Indian Point, Regional and National
 - Apr. 17-18 Two-day National Nuclear Waste Strategic Planning video-conference
 - This work is funded by **Birches**; checking with them re: 2020 funding
- **Unity for Clean Energy Coalition:** April 19 Zoom call summarizing work
 - **NYS Decommissioning Oversight Board legislation:** S.8158/A.10236, sponsored by NYS Senator Peter Harckham and Assembly member Sandy Galef, to create a statewide oversight board to protect the financial and other interests of NY State and ratepayers during the decommissioning of nuclear energy facilities, starting with Indian Point.
- **Stop Danskammer Expansion campaign:**
 - Friday, May 1 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. In honor of International Workers Day, Clearwater will sponsor an educational event: **Workforce Development for Just Transition to a Renewable Energy Economy.** Starting with a First Nation perspective, speakers from the Workforce Development Institute, area labor unions, a battery storage company and others will present their experience and feature case studies where workers transitioned to jobs in the emerging renewable energy economy. Register at bit.ly/maydayworkforcewebinar to receive the webinar connection link and related information.
- **Newburgh Drinking Water Contamination:** Member, Stewart Air Nation Guard Restoration Advisory Committee (RAC) for the PFOS remediation.
- **EA Development:** Write and administer grants specific to Environmental Action work and doing related fundraising; **Bydale** and **Patagonia** proposals need to be submitted for Decommissioning work.



Addendum C

Environmental Action Board Report: April 20, 2020

Proposed Danskammer Expansion: Coalition opposing this proposal is making great progress; with weekly organizing calls. 16 municipalities have passed resolutions opposing this foolhardy project to burn fracked methane in an expanded facility on a flood-prone peninsula. More than 100 elected officials have signed a letter in opposition. We are coordinating a Workforce Development/Just Transition Forum, which will be done as a webinar instead of an in-person meeting.

- **Friday, May 1 1:30 to 3:00 p.m.** In honor of International Workers Day, Clearwater has coordinated an educational event: **Workforce Development for Just Transition to a Renewable Energy Economy.** (See details below.) Please register [here](#) or go to bit.ly/maydayworkforcwebinar to receive the webinar connection link and related information.

National Nuclear Power Decommissioning Program: Clearwater EA continues to work on the decommissioning of Indian Point and Oyster Creek, and to help coordinate a national discussion on safe, equitable decommissioning of nuclear reactors affecting ~ 90 reactor communities in the US.

Indian Point License Transfer Application (LTA) and Post-Shutdown Activities Report (PSDAR): Entergy is in the process of seeking a license transfer application for Indian Point to Holtec. Clearwater Comments on the LTA/PDSAR were submitted March 25, 2020. Riverkeeper and the NYS Attorney General Letitia James have filed contentions to intervene in the NRC proceedings. Comments due on April 7 on a parallel NYS Public Service Commission Proceeding (19-E-0730) – Proposed Transfer of Indian Point Energy Center have also been submitted. If you would like to add yours, comment form is available at: www.dps.ny.gov. Select “Indian Point Sale Review” and click on “Post Comments”.

The NRC [Office of Inspector General issued a report](#) was highly critical of the NRC and FERC for undertaking an unreliable study of the Algonquin Pipeline expansion running next to the facility and two older pipeline running under the plant. The OIG report confirms our concerns and make the creation of the NYS Decommissioning Oversight Board even more urgent and essential.

National Grassroots Radioactive Waste Summit and Strategic Plan: There is also strong national opposition to Holtec, which manufactures thin-walled, unmonitorable canisters and has a history of practicing "quick and dirty" decommissioning that will allow them to keep any unspent decommissioning trust funds, and ultimately to get paid to store huge amounts of high-level nuclear waste on site, or worse, to send it across the country to their proposed Consolidated Interim Storage (CIS) facility in New Mexico. Holtec is also preparing to build small nuclear reactors (SMRs) as the next wave of nuclear power. Clearwater hosts biweekly National Decommissioning Working Group calls, alternating with Indian Point and Oyster Creek calls, is on the National Strategic Planning Committee and the Legislative Task Force, each of which also has weekly or biweekly calls. The National Strategic Planning Committee held a 2-day virtual meeting on April 17-18 to finalize a draft of the plan for national review and input.

Article 78 Challenge to NY Nuclear Subsidy: After a lower court ruled against us, Clearwater *et al* recently filed a Notice of Appeal to allow us to pursue our claim that the NYS Public Service Commission's \$7.6 billion, mandatory 12-year nuclear subsidy is illegal and improper, and not a good use of ratepayer dollars. It is likely we will need to withdraw from this important challenge due to lack of resources.

Birches Grant: A proposal for an additional \$35,000 for Indian Point and National Decommissioning work was drafted by Clearwater grant writer, Margot Becker. The Birches Foundation gave Clearwater \$15,000 for this work in January. Greg is in touch with Birches to help sort this out.

Coeymans Creek Research Project: Working as fiscal sponsor with a law firm and a science team to gather data regarding possible contamination of the Coeymans Creek and Hudson River from nearby Industrial Park. Sampling by scientist, Jeremy Dietrich has been completed. The legal team is considering next steps based on the findings. We are developing a media release and text to post the final report on CW website. Possible litigation to be discussed if additional Rose Foundation funding is available.

Regional Renewable Energy Implementation Planning Process: Working with the MH Regional Sustainability Coalition to create an implementation plan to achieve the goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). A White Paper is in progress to define this groundbreaking roadmap Coordinating with a similar initiative on Long Island lead by The Nature Conservancy.

EA Interns: SUNY/New Paltz senior, Marlee Lawless, is actively working on the Regional Renewable Energy Planning team with volunteers Jim Gordon, a retired investigative journalist, and Kira Petersen of Vassar.

KEY MEETINGS AND EVENTS:

Sun., Mar. 22 Virtual Climate Reality Project chapter meeting
Weds., Mar. 25 Comments due on Entergy/Holtec joint LTA/PSDAR.
Sat -Sun. Mar. 28-29 Virtual NYS Climate Reality Project retreat
Tues., Mar. 31 Virtual Clearwater Board Discussion
Thurs., April 2 Mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability Coalition meeting, Newburgh
Fri. April 3 Follow up on Decommission for virtual meeting of Beacon Sloop Club
Sun., April 5 Unity for Clean Energy Convergence, Stony Point, and Clearwater Gala, Garrison
Tues., April 7 Comments submitted on NYS Public Service Commission Proceeding 19-E-0730 on Entergy/Holtec Joint License Transfer Application; deadline has been extended until May 7.
Thurs., Apr. 9 Virtual Clearwater Board meeting; followed by second session Fri., April 10
Fri.– Sat. Apr. 17-18 National Decommissioning Strategic Planning: 2-day virtual meeting

SAVE THE DATE:

Tues., April 21 at 1:00 p.m. NRC webinar on Indian Point Decommissioning as called for by Assembly Member Sandy Galef. To [pre-register to join the webinar](#) or call in to hear audio: Bridge Number: 1 (888) 391-9420 Passcode: 3518357# For more information: <https://www.nrc.gov/pmns/mtg?do=details&Code=20200260>

Thurs., April 30, Restoration Advisory Committee for PFOS remediation of Stewart Air National Guard Base – Manna has been appointed to represent Clearwater on this important body.

Friday, May 1, 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. In honor of International Workers Day, Clearwater has coordinated an educational event: **Workforce Development for Just Transition to a Renewable Energy Economy.** Starting with a First Nation perspective, speakers from the Workforce Development Institute, area labor unions, a battery storage company and others will present their experience and feature case studies where workers transitioned to jobs in the emerging renewable energy economy. Please register [here](#) or go to bit.ly/maydayworkforcewebinar to receive the webinar connection link and related information.

Respectfully submitted,

Manna Jo Greene

Manna Jo Greene, Environmental Director



Happy B'Earthday, Earth Day!

April 22 Marks the 50th anniversary of the First Earth Day Celebration.



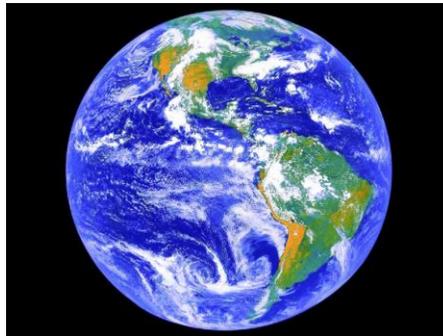
In 1969, the year Clearwater was launched, Senator Gaylord Nelson, a junior senator from Wisconsin who had long been concerned about the deteriorating environment in the United States, witnessed the ravages of a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, CA. Inspired by the student anti-war movement, Senator Nelson wanted to infuse the energy of student anti-war protests with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution. At that time, peace activist John McConnell proposed a day to honor the Earth and the concept of peace to the UNESCO Conference in San Francisco. Building on that idea, Senator Nelson announced the idea for a teach-in on college campuses to the national media, and persuaded Pete McCloskey, a conservation-minded Republican Congressman, to serve as his co-chair. They recruited Denis Hayes, a young activist, to organize the campus teach-ins and they choose April 22, a weekday falling between Spring Break and Final Exams, to maximize the greatest student participation. Recognizing its potential to inspire all Americans, Hayes and his staff changed the name to Earth Day, which immediately sparked national media attention, and caught on across the country inspiring 20 million Americans — at the time, 10% of the total population of the United States — to take to the streets, parks and auditoriums to demonstrate against the impacts of 150 years of industrial development which had left a growing legacy of serious human health impacts. Thousands of colleges and universities, and groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, the loss of wilderness and the extinction of wildlife united to achieve an effective movement. By the end of 1970, the first Earth Day led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the passage of the National Environmental Education Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) and the Clean Air Act (CAA).

On April 14, 1970 Pete Seeger and the crew of the Sloop Clearwater, sailed to Washington DC, to bring thousands of letters and petition signatures and hold a Congressional forum with an impromptu concert calling for federal clean water protection. Pete said, ***“The problems of the American Rivers can’t be solved by people . . . who live on them. Only the Federal Government has the power to enact and enforce the laws that are needed.”*** This helped to turn the tide in favor of the Clean Water Act (CWA), which passed two years later. Since then many additional laws and regulations have been passed to protect human health and the environment and to promote environmental justice. A second Earth Day in 1990 drew 200 million people from around the globe. Sadly, the very environmental protections we have gained over the past 50 years are now being systematically dismantled by the current Administration and its EPA. This is precisely why Clearwater’s work, especially in the face of a global climate crisis, is more important than ever. Please celebrate Earth Day by [donating](#) to help keep Clearwater afloat.

Citations: <https://www.earthday.org/history/>
<https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/resolutions/2019/j1126>
<https://omeka.hrvh.org/exhibits/show/rescuing-the-river/clearwater-americas-enviro-fl>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth_Day

Bad News/Good News: [While this Administration and its EPA are drastically rolling back 50 years of environmental protection](#), in addition to NY's groundbreaking **Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA or Climate Act)**, New York is taking up the call and has passed many excellent environmental protection and climate solution bills in the 2020 Budget Bill and since, including:

- **Revised Siting Bill: Section JJJ of the Governor's Budget** – This piece of the budget removes burdensome siting regulations for renewables in the state and is a key to moving forward with the speed necessary to achieving the goals of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.
- **\$500 Million for the Clean Water Infrastructure Act.**
- **\$300 Million for the Environmental Protection Fund** – a source of funding for capital projects that protect the environment and enhance communities.
- **\$3 Billion Dollar "Restore Mother Nature" Bond Act** to fund nature-based habitat restoration, flood prevention, community climate preparedness, green roofs, urban forests, and renewable energy.
- **Permanent Fracking Ban** – the ban on hydraulic fracturing which had been an Executive Order has been codified into law, giving it protections against the whims of political change.
- **Polystyrene (aka "Styrofoam") Ban** on takeout containers and peanuts, which will go into effect in this year.
- **Green Jobs added to the Excelsior Jobs Program** – The Excelsior Jobs Program provides job creation and investment incentives to firms in targeted industry. This is a nice unexpected win.
- **Legalization of electric bikes and scooters** for alternative and low-carbon transportation.
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EARTH DAY ACTION ALERTS: Please make a point to take these two easy but important actions to honor Earth Day this week.

#1) Support the Passage of New York State Decommissioning Oversight Board: Clearwater strongly supports the passage of S.8158/A.10236, sponsored by NYS Senator Peter Harckham and Assembly member Sandy Galef, to create a statewide multi-agency oversight board to protect the financial and other interests of NY State and ratepayers during the decommissioning of nuclear energy facilities, starting with Indian Point. The oversight board will be comprised of appointees from various state agencies, the legislature, and union and community members with expertise in the operations of a nuclear energy facility. While we continue to oppose the application of the license transfer of Indian Point from Entergy to Holtec — a company with a history of malfeasance with very little experience in decommissioning nuclear power plants — this legislation will help ensure effective oversight of the decommissioning process regardless of the company in charge. Please take a moment to call your New York State Senator and Assembly member in support of this important bill.

Senate Bill: <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2019/s8154>

Assembly Bill:

https://assembly.ny.gov/leg/?default_fld=&leg_video=1&bn=A10236&term=2019&Summary=Y&Text=Y

Find your NYS Senator: <https://www.nysenate.gov/find-my-senator>

Find your NYS Assembly Member: <https://www.nyassembly.gov/mem/search/>

Find your NYS Legislator: <https://www.aqeny.org/find-your-new-york-state-legislators/>

Call-in Script: *“Hello, my name is [Your Name]. I am a resident of [name of your municipality] and I am calling to urge the [Senator/Assembly member] to support [S8154/A10236]. We need Decommissioning Oversight Boards in New York to protect the best interests of our state and our communities. Thank you.”*

#2) Fossil Fuel Divestment: .This action will take less than a minute. Please urge the State of New York to stop propping up the fossil fuel sector by divesting in these stocks which continue to lose value and put NY in double jeopardy -- both financial and environmental. Urge the passage of the NY Senate (The Fossil Fuel Divestment Act – S2126) which is now enjoying a supermajority of co-sponsors. Please call Governor Cuomo at **518-474-8390**. (Press 2, then 1 to leave a message (without having to listen to the two recordings). Please leave the following message:

“Governor Cuomo, My name is _____. I’m a constituent from _____ and a member of the Climate Reality Project. I’m calling you to ask you to divest New York State’s pension funds from fossil fuel holdings. These holdings are losing money for our retirees. They represent a burden on our economy which is already challenged by the current health crisis. This week is the 50th anniversary of the original Earth Day. There is no better gift you could give to New York than divesting from fossil fuels now. Thank you for your service”.

#3) Please **[DONATE](#)** to Clearwater so we can continue our essential work.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Friday, May 1 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. In honor of International Workers Day, Clearwater will sponsor an educational event: **Workforce Development for Just Transition to a Renewable Energy Economy**. Starting with a First Nation perspective, speakers from the Workforce Development Institute, area labor unions, a battery storage company and others will present their experiences and case studies where workers transitioned to jobs in the emerging renewable energy economy. Please register [here](#) or go to bit.ly/maydayworkforcwebinar to receive the webinar connection link and related information.