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Clean Energy Ambassador Glenn Cannon Presents “The Business and Ethical Case for Energy Efficiency”

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Plains Justice’s original Clean Energy Ambassador, Glenn Cannon, spent his summer on a different kind of vacation: traveling to small municipal utilities and rural electric cooperatives around the country presenting "The Business and Ethical Case for Energy Efficiency." As a 17-year former manager of Waverly (Iowa) Light & Power and past president of the American Public Power Association, Cannon has a wealth of knowledge about successful energy efficiency programs. "All it takes is a tiny change," says Cannon, which he proves with examples of Waverly’s success.

Although Waverly is small in size, this "frugal German community," as Cannon fondly refers to it, has proven to be a large leader in energy efficiency. In the early nineties, Waverly became the first public power system in the Midwest to own and operate wind generation. With programs such as "GoodCents" giving rebate incentives to customers who upgraded to more energy efficient appliances, Cannon helped save his customers \$5.9 million.

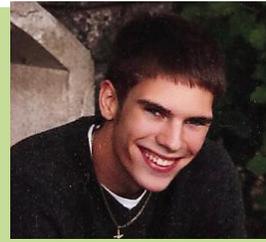
"Electric utilities deal with a tremendous amount of natural resources," says Cannon as he emphasizes the importance and moral obligation for the utility to be the catalyst for energy efficiency programs that will not only reduce pollution, but also help customers save money.

In June, Cannon spoke to community members in the small town of Vermillion, South Dakota about the successful energy efficiency programs he helped institute and how Vermillion too could become a leader in energy efficiency. His inspirational story drew much praise from his audience, who asked him on the spot to become the town’s newest resident.

Cannon gave other presentations this summer to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission; American Public Power Association National Conference; Nebraska Municipal Power Pool and Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska staff; Municipal Electric Utilities of Virginia; Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin; Florida Municipal Power Agency/Florida Municipal Energy Association; Mayor, Utility Director, and city staff of Berea, KY; and Clay County, SD Commissioners.



Cannon spoke to an appreciative South Dakota audience about saving money with energy efficiency.

*Adam Abelkop**Ingrid Anderson**Samantha Caravello**Nate Merrick**Clare Kernek*

Preparing the Next Generation of Leaders

This summer, we had the pleasure to welcome five talented interns onto the Plains Justice team: Adam Abelkop, Ingrid Anderson, Samantha Caravello, Clare Kernek, and Nate Merrick.

“The work is very rewarding. What we are doing is helping to make a better world,” says University of Iowa law student Adam Abelkop. This was not Abelkop’s first time as an intern at Plains Justice. In 2008, he co-authored a law review article with Plains Justice Founder and President Carrie La Seur. This summer Abelkop has continued doing research with Plains Justice.

Ingrid Anderson is also a law student at the University of Iowa. Anderson has spent the summer at Plains Justice researching and learning more

what it is like to be an environmental lawyer. Anderson says she loves the “individual learning aspect because when given a project, I can just run with it.”

While interning with Plains Justice, New York University Economics and Environmental studies major Samantha Caravello researched relationships between different environmental issues. Caravello says, “I like that I’m getting to observe everything and learn a lot.”

After receiving a Master’s Degree in U.S. Politics from the University of London, Clare Kernek became interested in environmental law. When Kernek heard about Plains Justice she was inspired to become involved as an intern. Kernek plans to attend law school within the next

year. “I have really been enjoying doing it and actually being involved in these actions Plains Justice is taking,” she said.

Born and raised in Cedar Rapids, IA, Nate Merrick will be a senior this fall at the University of Oregon with a major in Environmental Studies. During his internship at Plains Justice, Merrick helped complete and submit a clean energy grant to help the city of Waterloo, IA become more economically and environmentally sustainable. “It’s nice to be around people who are so smart and good at what they do,” says Merrick.

Many thanks to these outstanding Summer 2009 interns. We look forward to hearing of the wonderful future work you will do.

Public Health Specialist Donna Wong-Gibbons Shares CAFO and Coal Research with South Dakotans

We are very pleased to announce that Donna Wong-Gibbons, the Executive Director of the Iowa Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, is now working with Plains Justice on public-health issues.

Wong-Gibbons will help Plains Justice better inform the public and decision makers about the ways pollution affects the health of all of us. One of her first projects is a report on the health impacts of coal combustion waste, which contains cancer-causing heavy metals. She is also researching air pollution near

Iowa’s schools and asking questions about government air testing. For example, is the air tested in enough locations that we can be confident we know whether our children are breathing clean air when they’re at school?

This July, Wong-Gibbons traveled to South Dakota. Her first stop was Milbank, where she spoke about the potential health risks of large concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) and what communities can do to reduce their risks. Next was Vermillion, where she spoke about coal and



public health to a community that would be affected by a proposed coal plant and tar sands oil refinery. Both presentations met eager ears hoping to learn more about these controversial issues.

Empowering Communities so That Every Voice Is Heard



Construction of the first Keystone Pipeline near Yankton, SD

Part of the Plains Justice mission is to work in partnership with northern plains communities so they are fully heard when their air, water, and land are at stake. Two recent examples are our

efforts on the proposed Keystone XL pipeline and proposed South Heart, ND coal projects.

We worked with Dakota Rural Action to get more time for landowners to become intervening parties in the Keystone XL regulatory proceeding at the South Dakota Public Utility Commission. As intervening parties, landowners gain the right to present expert witnesses, file testimony, and question the project developers' experts, so the Public Utilities Commissioners are better informed about the public's interests.

A difficult calving season and extreme weather combined to keep many landowners near the currently proposed route from attending public meetings about the project, much less filing the necessary paperwork to be intervening parties.

Without the time extension, landowners would have had to follow a much more involved late application process, with no guarantee their late applications would be accepted.

Plains Justice similarly helped community members in South Heart, North Dakota. A coal preparation plant, two million-ton-per-day coal mine, and coal to hydrogen to electricity power plant are being planned near their farms and ranches, where there are no coal mines or coal facilities now. Plains Justice, the community group Neighbors United, Dakota Resource Council, and the Sierra Club worked for a public hearing where the public could ask questions and voice their health concerns. More than 100 people attended, including a coal project developer who had resisted past community efforts to interact with him.



Concerned community members packed the room during a public hearing near South Heart, ND

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Plains Justice Thanks New and Departing Board Members for Their Service

Plains Justice is proud to welcome two recently appointed board members, Bob Sessions and Steve Merrick. Although they are new to Plains Justice, they are certainly no strangers to interest in a clean and healthy environment.



Bob Sessions and grandchild

Born and raised in Redfield, South Dakota, Sessions has been an environmentalist for 50 years. He has spent the last 25 years teaching philosophy and humanities at Kirkwood Community College in Iowa City, Iowa where he volunteers his spare time maintaining and recreating the prairies of Hickory Hills Park.

Sessions explains that he joined the Plains Justice Board of Directors as Secretary because “I am especially interested in advocacy and action groups. Plains Justice is the kind of environmental organization I like to support.” He believes in

Plains Justice’s cause and explains, “Most fundamentally we’re citizens of the earth. That’s the basis of all life. I think that our most fundamental set of obligations is to the health, beauty and continuance of life on earth.”

Steve Merrick too is a Midwesterner originally from rural South Dakota. He grew up on a farm in Alcester. After graduating from the University of South Dakota, Merrick went on to work with the South Dakota Legislative Research Council, where he dealt with natural resource issues within the state of South Dakota. Merrick now works as the Director of Business Development with Metro Studios in Cedar Rapids, where he has resided for 21 years.

As a businessperson, Merrick is very conscious of the need to



Steve Merrick

balance economic development with environmental impact. He believes that often there is a lack of understanding in the business community about the reality of environmental issues. “There is a need to have an organization to be able to respond to environmental issues in an educational manner,” says Merrick, and he believes that Plains Justice does a large part in fulfilling this need.

While we say “hello” to new board members, we also say “farewell for now” to a staunch supporter of Plains Justice, Benjamin Webb. An original



Benjamin Webb

member of the Plains Justice Board of Directors, he has left our board to found and direct the Center for Regenerative Society. The Center will provide leadership renewal programs for people and institutions playing an important role as catalysts in shaping a more just and sustainable economy and communities, both nationally and regionally. Thank you, Ben, for your dedicated service, and good luck in this new endeavor.

Helping Women Transform Farming and Food

By Jana Linderman

People often are surprised to learn that women own the majority of farmland in Iowa, just as women perform most of the labor to grow the world's food. These women often have strong values about how to care for the land and how to grow the food that feeds our families. Yet their voices frequently are overlooked in agriculture and food policy discussions.

Iowa non-profit Women, Food & Agriculture Network (WFAN) links and empowers women across the country to build food systems that are healthy, just and

environmentally and economically sustainable.

Growing up on a third-generation family farm in North Dakota, I witnessed first-hand the unique barriers faced by women in agriculture. It's harder for women to obtain loans, access technical assistance and find the help and advice they need to make informed decisions about their land and their farming operations.

WFAN brings women together to share their ideas, expertise



Plains Justice staff attorney Jana Linderman chairs the WFAN Advisory Board

and values about how we can become our own best advocates, care for the land we live on and grow food that is safe, healthy and kind to the environment.

Working Together for Sustainable Communities



Plains Justice is pleased to be working with Lee Clancey, the new Clean Energy Business Organizer for Community Energy Solutions (CES), a community group based in Waterloo, IA.

Clancey was Mayor of Cedar Rapids from 1995 to 2002, where she showed her commitment to the Cedar Valley. She says of her new position, "My role is to bring the community of Waterloo together to come up with a more sustainable plan for the future."

Her work so far has included a presentation for the League of Women Voters in Cedar Falls, IA. "I talked about how businesses can lessen their carbon footprints by creating more energy efficient means of operating and policies," says Clancey.

She has also worked in collaboration with Plains Justice intern Nate Merrick to find funding to help Cedar Valley communities become more energy efficient and sustainable. CES has applied for a major Environmental Protection Agency grant in partnership with the City of Waterloo, Greater Cedar Valley Alliance, and Waterloo Convention & Visitor's Bureau. The City of Waterloo, IA passed a resolution supporting the grant application this July.

A decision on the grant is expected later this year.

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So that every voice is heard when decisions are made about our air, our water, our land, and our lives.



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