

THE
WATCHDAWG
REPORT

Climate Change – Perspective from a Missouri Farmer’s Daughter

The recent drought reminded me of my father’s stories about the 1930s when it did not rain on Missouri farms for almost ten years. The drought was not manmade. It was the cycle of weather. That does not mean that manmade abuses of our environment are not occurring, or that we have no responsibility to remedy them. For many years, the political juggernaut of “global warming,” then adjusted to “climate change” has wreaked havoc on common sense progress toward healing our environment.

This discussion should not be political. It should occur among free people working for good things. The belief that the government should control everything is not a good path forward for any of us. Its surprising how many young people automatically look to government to provide for people and resolve all difficulties. We desperately need classes on civics and the Constitution.

Greenhouse gases are bad, and to reduce them is good. We all agree on that. Where thinking folks draw the line is the position that the government is in charge, and we must destroy the economy of our country to accommodate a political goal that will irreversibly harm our citizens, their children and grandchildren.

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Camden County Commission Meetings

The revised Unified Land Use Code was presented at the August 31 commissioner meeting, and Static License Plate Readers were discussed at an evening meeting on August 29th. Video available at camdenmo.org
The commissioner assigned committee provided background and a review of the updated R1 and R2 sections of the ULUC.

Many restrictions that previously required a visit to the Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustment have been removed. Changes were made to the regulation that required only a residence could be built on a lot. This made sense as it would allow owners to build a garage or a septic system on a separate lot from where their house sits. Restrictions remain on separation of potable water and a septic system when located on the same lot. The theme was definitely personal property rights associated with doing as you please on your own property. It was made clear that this applies only to unincorporated county properties, not including areas subject to restrictions from cities, towns or HOA’s.

One member of the public had the audacity to mention short-term rentals. This instantly produced nervous giggles from the Commissioners and a rush to mention ways to recuse themselves from ever addressing that concern...ever.

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With the issue of climate change, the forces that push to divide us have been wildly successful. What a shame we cannot talk honestly and peacefully with each other to develop plans to heal our environment. All communication is now encapsulated in the war about “climate change” because it is code for “government tyranny.”

We know that China and India are the uncooperative world leaders in producing greenhouse gases. We also know that the only way to have successful global influence is to be economically dominant. Currently, the US is responsible for about 15% of global CO2 emissions. That is down from over 50% in 1950. We almost never recognize and appreciate these successful efforts, like the invention of the catalytic converter in America.

Most people have deep concerns about our environment, but all they see in the mainstream media representing that concern is “climate change.” To them, the term represents an unacceptable all or nothing pathway leading to economic downfall. This is an example of the enemies of our Republic successfully controlling language. Change the language.

Good things come from people talking to people...preferably in person and usually starting small. So yes, I will say it... Put the phone down. Have a community coffee clutch, a happy hour, coffee and dessert gatherings...whatever works for you and your neighbors

Hard times are very likely on the horizon, and building those community relationships now is important. Suggested discussions:

- Does your HOA ban clothes lines? Change the restrictions and speak with neighbors about saving electricity by using a clothesline. Remember how bed sheets smell when they have been dried outside? At least remove the restrictions so that those who want to use the clothesline can. It is amazing the amount of electricity spent on clothes dryers...look it up.
- Carpool to the farmers markets or grocery stores. Speak with neighbors about shared grocery lists that one person picks up or traveling together to work or shop. It is more fun together anyway. Maybe get lunch!
- Promote upcycling to reduce plastic waste in the landfills. If you are or know a crafter, you know what I mean.
- Remind each other to recycle those plastic bags...the dang box is right there inside the Wally-World door! I know, I forget too but we can do better.
- Lawns should be going out of fashion. Let's think higher than using chemicals that drain into our lake just for aesthetics. Change your space to something natural or grow food...feel the good vibes of having done something wonderful together.

In the days prior to the meeting about Static License Plate Readers (SLPRs - fixed cameras that capture license plate information), the Presiding Commission published a video encouraging the public to come give their valuable input. He mentioned in the video how he was elected to protect our liberty, so expectation was high the Commission would propose a ban on all types of surveillance equipment that gathers information from citizens without a warrant.

The meeting is available to view at camdenmo.org. Click on Departments, Commission, and scroll to the bottom to View Past Meetings. There is a note in the list indicating the evening meeting. I recommend everyone take a look, not just because of this issue but to see how our politicians handle the tough questions.

The Sheriff's deputies spoke about the static cameras and also about cameras inside the patrol cars. They were clear about how these cameras will aid law enforcement. Community members then spoke about how these cameras have the potential for mass surveillance capabilities and how they do not want to go down that slippery slope. The Deputies, and the company who supplies the equipment, assured everyone that the surveillance footage is never stored, or transferred to others, or hacked...so whew, that's certainly a load off our minds...just like we can be sure electronic voting machines are 100% secure 100% of the time...

No doubt the Deputies were speaking from the heart, with a view of the importance of catching criminals and perhaps not having sophisticated knowledge of how data can be mishandled outside of their view. They frequently returned to the point that cameras exist and that their use will continue to be expanded on state property (highways), and in the cities (existing on HH in Lake Ozark) unaffected by any decisions made at the county level.

There were several speakers from the community who were very eloquent, and I hope you will check out the full video. One made the point that while we may trust the current regime to protect our data (do we?), what about down the road when others are in charge? **Security versus Freedom is the challenge.** No question in my mind...Freedom first, last and always.

Given the lead-in by the Presiding Commissioner, we were all ready for the move to ban these cameras on county property. The citizens that filled the room were clearly supportive of the ban. The Commissioners suddenly began to waffle, and said they were surprised to find out the data gathered was dumped if a plate match was not found. They seemed to forget that we cannot know for certain that the data is dumped immediately, or in the future...that's the whole point.

The Commissioners passed a motion to table the issue "for further review." **They did not ban the cameras.** They said they want the County Attorney and Sheriff to discuss appropriate restrictions. In a more recent video posted on Facebook, Commissioner Skelton said they would "restrict and prohibit", which I mentioned was contradictory and asked for clarification. The comment back from Commissioner Skelton was "in the video I inform the citizens the proposed ordinance would prohibit the Static License Plate Readers in the unincorporated areas." He only mentions the "Static" or fixed cameras...no mention of data gathering cameras inside the deputy's cars as discussed at the public meeting. We'll review the ordinance when it's available.

2024 is on the horizon, and with it, elections!! Next year's choices will be critical in the fight against the woke regime currently attacking us from Washington, D.C.

- If you are supporting efforts to "true the vote," double down with time and money. Become a poll watcher. Get on the list of election judges. Research hand-counting and let me know if you are in favor of making that change in Camden County and in your city.
- If you donate to politically active church leaders or groups that provide education on history and civics with a goal of re-establishing our Republic, right on!
- If you are ignoring the whole situation thinking its other people's problem, do better research.

If you live in Camden County and are not registered to vote, I can help. Email me at contact@watchdawgreport.com and I will meet you with a voter registration card to fill out and hand back to me. I will collect and deliver them to the county courthouse so you can then receive your voter registration card in the mail. Please get registered.

For the first time since 1996, Missouri will choose delegates for the national tickets via party caucus. I like the idea that the folks who will have the most influence are those that care enough to become educated about the candidates and show up to work for their party.

At the caucus, members of a political party meet in person at an appointed time and location to discuss the presidential candidates and debate their merits. The voting for candidates happens either by raising hands or by separating into groups, with the votes being counted manually by counting the number of supporters of each candidate. You must be a member of the political party to participate in the caucus. Here in Camden County, party caucuses will be held at local precincts with dates and times to be provided by local party leaders.

The County Clerk's office is not involved in the caucuses. They follow their election process to hold the primary election as usual, which includes presidential candidates along with the many down ballot choices for local offices. Primary outcomes for president have never been binding in Missouri, but I expect around here we will see primary votes and caucus results matching up...making it clear to state party leaders who Camden County supports.

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