

Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership
CEP BOARD MEETING
Minneapolis Central Library, Doty Board Room
Friday, March 4, 2016

Meeting Notes

Board Members present: Laura McCarten and Lee Gabler from Xcel Energy, City Council Member Kevin Reich, City Council Member Cam Gordon, Brad Tutunjian and Doug Peterson from CenterPoint Energy, Spencer Cronk, John Stiles.

Board Members excused: Mayor Betsey Hodges - alternate John Stiles; Jeff Daugherty from CenterPoint Energy - alternate Doug Peterson and Council Member Elizabeth Glidden (arrived late) - alternate Council Member Cam Gordon.

EVAC Members present: Matt Kazinka, Annie Levenson-Falk, Jamez Staples.

Guests: Siri Simons, Carter Dedolph, Timothy DenHerder Thomas, Lee Samelson, Katie Jones Schmitt, Alice Madden, Eric Immler, Marcus Mills.

Planning Team present: Bridget Dockter, Nick Mark, Al Swintek, Stephanie Zawistowski, Gayle Prest, Robin Garwood, Ani Backa, Peter Ebnet and Louis Mondale.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chair Laura McCarten called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and made introductions. She welcomed new member Brad Tutunjian from CenterPoint Energy, he is the new Vice President of Gas Operations in Minnesota replacing Joe Vortherms. Brad is an engineer by trade and has been with CenterPoint for 18 years on both the gas and electrical areas of the business. She also welcomed John Stiles from the Mayor's Office and Council Member Cam Gordon who were sitting in as alternates since they are at an event with US Department of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julián Castro.

2. Review and Approve Agenda and Minutes (Attachment A)

Referencing today's agenda and minutes from the CEP Board Meeting of November 16th, Laura McCarten asked for a motion to approve the agenda and adopt the minutes. It was MOVED and SECONDED that the agenda and minutes be approved. Motion CARRIED.

3. Planning Team Updates (Attachment B)

Annual Report Preparations: Bridget Dockter gave the overview. The group discussed the previously approved metrics that will be used to track CEP activities and progress in 2015. Staff will be presenting baseline metrics to the Energy Vision Advisory Committee (EVAC) at their next meeting (which will be prior to presenting to the CEP Board in June). Once approved, the annual report will also be presented to the City Council. Council Member Gordon suggested specific goals and targets be set at a future date.

City Residential Energy Efficiency Policy Research: Gayle Prest gave the overview. The Minneapolis Climate Action Plan has some aggressive goals focusing on the residential market. City staff have been reviewing best practices on energy efficiency in other cities and are

reviewing four different policy positions, including asking for feedback from the partnering utilities. It is anticipated that later this year this item will be brought to the Minneapolis City Council for further investigation.

Community Solar Garden Update: Gayle Prest gave an update on recent City activities.

- The Minneapolis City Council recently authorized Community Solar Garden agreements with four suppliers totaling 7.5 million kWh annually via an RFP the Met Council released in 2015.
- The City is also developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) community solar garden services for City owned -facilities that will include low income participation and other attributes.
- The City is working with Fresh Energy and CERTS to offer the first Community Solar Garden Speed Dating Event (as part of Minneapolis Community Connections Conference at Convention Center on Saturday April 2). Attendees will learn about Community Solar Gardens and have the opportunity to interview 4 – 6 solar developers. CenterPoint Energy is a sponsor of the conference and Xcel Energy will have a table at the solar speed dating event.

Lee Gabler presented an update on Xcel Energy's Community Solar Garden program. (Attachment C). In January, a significant number of projects kicked off in the study process. 132 projects are currently being studied, each lasting 50 days. One small garden is online now, with two in process in Minneapolis, one in St Paul and a larger one coming on this summer. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission has a current docket open until April 1 seeking comments on how to address three things: size, pricing and accessibility for all. Xcel Energy expects 250MW of community solar to be approved by the end of the year.

2015 City Sponsored Home Energy Squad buy-downs for Income Qualified and 0% Financing: Gayle Prest presented an overview of the 2015 City financed program that provided free Home Energy Squad visit to 174 income qualified participants. Additionally, the City provided funding for 31 0% residential energy efficiency loans.

Commercial Building Energy Benchmarking: Gayle Prest gave the overview. The Minneapolis' commercial building benchmarking and disclosure policy (ordinance 47.190) requires large commercial buildings to report energy and water performance data to the City annually via the EPA's ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager benchmarking tool. The City will soon be releasing its third annual report based on data submissions through August 31, 2015 which summarizes the collection activities and includes benchmarking results, analysis, and trends for public buildings greater than 25,000 square feet and private commercial buildings 50,000 square feet and above. Benchmarking results for this report included 429 buildings representing 50% of the City's commercial building space and about 17% of the City's GHG emissions. Building energy disclosure is intended to increase building owner and public awareness of building energy performance, and spur action to increase efficiency. The average Energy Star Performance rating was 74. The City also recently received a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency grant to

help buy down the cost of those buildings with a score over 75 that wish to receive an official Environmental Protection Agency Energy Star certification.

DOE Better Buildings Recognition: Stephanie Zawistowski updated the group on a recent trip to Washington D.C. where she and Bridget Dockter from Xcel Energy received a Better Buildings Award from the Department of Energy (DOE) for the work done on the benchmarking data accelerator which is a tool that makes whole-building energy data more accessible to building managers and compliments the City's benchmarking ordinance. The purpose of the trip was twofold: 1- Receive recognition that only a handful of cities were qualified to apply, and 2- Participate in a round table discussion with Boston to talk in part about the Clean Energy Partnership and examples of our challenges and successes. DOE has taken notice, and is interested in how they can help promote this effort to other cities and what they can learn from us.

4. Multi-Family Energy Efficiency Program presentation (Attachment C)

Nick Mark provided an update on the multi-family energy efficiency program. - There has been a great collaboration between CenterPoint and Xcel on this new program. It started in October 2015 and this program has garnered interest from over 100 customers. Thirty of those customers are in Minneapolis with 23 pending approval.

Council Member Gordon asked where the funding came from. Nick responded state programs within their Conservation Improvement Program (CIP). However, both utilities already exceed their spending requirement; this new program is additional funding beyond those state requirements. The Minneapolis Public Housing Authority is strongly encouraged to participate.

5. EVAC Community Engagement Planning Process presentation

Annie Levinson-Falk and Matt Kazinka presented a community engagement process that was developed by the EVAC Engagement Subcommittee. The work plan focuses on engagement processes for residential customers, single and multi-family, with an eye toward achieving the overarching goals outlined in the Climate Action Plan including:

- 1) 75% participation in energy retrofit programs by 2025
- 2) 15% energy efficiency in residential buildings
- 3) 10% local or directly purchased renewable energy

They proposed a need to emphasize community engagement in outreach to transition from marketing to something broader. In the proposed engagement plan, they developed a template that could work in any community.

EVAC proposed conducting a pilot in 2 to 4 communities over the next 18 months (starting this year 2016 and into 2017) to engage the communities that are underserved while ensuring a diverse and informative pilot using an RFP to hire a consultant(s).

The five key steps of the work plan include: 1) Prepare 2) Learn 3) Design Plan 4) Implement Plan and 5) Evaluate.

Council Member Gordon expressed concern about the timeline. Matt responded that the group is positioning themselves to be more thoughtful and successful in multiple communities.

Lee Gabler asked if there is a tie in to learnings from Xcel Energy's Partners in Energy program and an opportunity for alignment that hasn't already occurred. Spencer Cronk asked if Q2/Q3 is the right time. Matt responded that he thinks the timing is right. There are more business events and public spaces to engage in at that time. Laura McCarten noted that there will be a lot of things that we should see play out with RFPs.

Council Member Kevin Reich stated that a budget should be established by Q4. The Planning Team has started looking at outside funding from places like Minneapolis Foundation thanks to Al Swintek, and others. We will continue that process.

Laura McCarten read the draft recommended action whereby there would be an initial investment by each Partner of \$10,000 to begin the RFP process for community engagement pilots. There was further discussion about details. Peter Ebnet assured the Board that staff will come back to the Board prior to any further commitments. A motion was MOVED to adopt the Community Engagement Process as referred by EVAC, approve an initial commitment of \$10,000 from each partner, and direct the Planning Team to work with EVAC to analyze potential pilot project communities and develop a Request for Proposals with the understanding that the Board will receive a report before any contractors are hired, SECONDED. Motion CARRIED.

6. Announcements and Adjournment

Council Member Kevin Reich noted the "DOE Better Buildings Recognition" to City of Minneapolis and Xcel Energy for completing two-year data accelerator. He acknowledged the significant staff time each party in this partnership is putting towards these efforts.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40am.