

**Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership
BOARD MEETING**

Microsoft Teams
Wednesday, June 2, 2021
10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

2021 Q2 Meeting Notes

Board members present: Council Member Cam Gordon, Council Member Jeremy Schroeder, Council Member Steve Fletcher, and Mark Ruff from the City of Minneapolis; Amber Lee (Vice Chair), Brad Tutunjian, and Todd Berreman (alternate) from CenterPoint Energy; Bria Shea and John Marshall from Xcel Energy.

Board members excused: Mayor Jacob Frey (Chair)

Planning Team present: Sara Barrow, Bridget Dockter, Peter Ebnet, Robin Garwood, Kim Havey, Patrick Hanlon, Luke Hollenkamp, Nick Martin, Emma Schoppe, Al Swintek, Karlee Weinmann

Guests/Staff present: Rebecca Olson, Nick Mark, Ross Corson, Stacy Miller, Patty O’Keefe, Brian Millberg, Julia Evelyn, Guest Phone numbers (612-406-1252, 970-270-7280, 206-372-8471)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Vice Chair Amber Lee called the meeting to order.

Julia Evelyn welcomed participants and read the City Clerk protocol for member access and connectivity, introduction to online meetings, and called roll.

2. Review and Approve Agenda and Minutes

Vice Chair Lee asked for a motion to approve the agenda, as well as the minutes from the 2021 Q1 CEP Board Meeting. It was MOVED and SECONDED that the minutes from February 2021 be approved. Motion CARRIED. It was MOVED and SECONDED that the agenda for June 2, 2021, be approved. Motion CARRIED.

3. EVAC Co-Chair Update

Patty O’Keefe reported on Energy Vision Advisory Committee (EVAC) activity.

EVAC sent a letter to the Board in April about inclusive financing, expressing concern that the original agreement between CenterPoint Energy and the City of Minneapolis did not follow the characteristics of successful inclusive financing programs closely enough. Inclusive financing is a stated priority of the CEP and it’s very important that a pilot program is successful in supplementing existing programs. There is a real need for accurate information and to center customer affordability in this pilot.

EVAC also formed a community voices working group to better amplify the voices of Minneapolis community members, centering BIPOCI and low income community members. EVAC is still developing what this will look like but anticipates many listening sessions and meetings with a variety of community members and organizations and is looking forward to gaining these diverse perspectives.

At EVAC's upcoming meeting, there will be discussion on how EVAC can better weigh in on franchise fee funding allocations. EVAC is also starting conversations about recruiting new members for the next EVAC cohort and focusing on further diversifying the representation of the committee.

John Marshall: Thank you EVAC and, in particular, Patty for your continued leadership. I commend the time and effort you're putting in to engage with community.

Vice Chair Lee: Thank you for the update and your work on behalf of EVAC. Please keep bringing your thoughts forward as we discuss some of those topics mentioned in greater depth.

4. Work Plan Updates

a. IF.1: Inclusive Financing

Kim Havey and Amber Lee provided an update on the Inclusive Financing Pilot which is covered in the [Work Plan Update](#). Kim focused remarks on activities that have happened since the Q1 meeting. On March 1, 2021, the PUC required that the City and CenterPoint consult with interested parties and submit a new filing with greater detail. The City and CenterPoint have developed a pilot program design, but there is still additional development required. The City and CenterPoint submitted a progress report on June 1, 2021 to highlight the parts of the pilot that need additional development and requested a 90-day extension to continue this work.

The City and CenterPoint plan to continue stakeholder engagement and pilot program planning to create a program that will best reflect needs and goals of customers and City of Minneapolis. There are elements that are still being refined, including: participant eligibility for residents outside the City, eligible measures to increase the number of residents eligible for savings, working on both gas and electric savings, third party capital in place of funding from the utility company, participant consent and notification, disconnection policies, project verification savings, and prioritizing inclusivity in program design. Program participation goals and costs, as well as metrics for success, will also continue to be evaluated.

Next steps: The City and CenterPoint will continue to meet with stakeholders to get input on these aspects of the program. The pilot proposal will then be filed on or before September 1, 2021.

Amber: CenterPoint would like to thank the City, including Stacy Miller, Jocelyn Bremer, and Kim for all your help in the past few months to get us organized for the filing yesterday. We look forward to continued engagement.

CM Schroeder: I want to strongly encourage Xcel to be involved in this program, and I want to encourage the work of EVAC that hopefully won't go unnoticed by board members. We've discussed this for five years, during which residents have had high utility costs in both winters and summers. We've made a lot of compromises to make this palatable for utilities, and the PUC had problems with those compromises. Let's take these 90 days to create the proposal, listen to the PUC and their concerns for the consumer. I've really appreciated the City and CenterPoint and others who have put in the work on this.

Bridget Dockter: To comment on Xcel's participation on this, Xcel has participated in these discussions and did more analysis. We're doing executive discussions and stakeholder discussions in Colorado as well. We're open to continuing these conversations with the City as the program changes.

CM Schroeder: I appreciate your comments Bridget and would still highly encourage Xcel to reevaluate. It's interesting to hear about advances in Colorado and other areas, and Minneapolis would really welcome expanding and advancing these kinds of programs here.

Bridget Dockter: We are coming into this with good faith, and we appreciate the City's flexibility in adjusting the program as parameters change due to the ECO Act.

Patty O'Keefe: In our letter, EVAC also encourages Xcel to join this program. EVAC cares about this from a racial justice and a climate perspective, which I know everyone on this call understands. We have a small window of time to make dramatic changes to decarbonize, and we need to use every tool that we have to increase energy conservation. Inclusive financing is one tool shown to work in many places around the country.

Amber Lee: We have talked with the utility Ameren of Missouri about how they launched their program. Progress is being made on this issue on many places.

b. EE.5: Time of Rent Disclosure & Impact of PUC Data Privacy Docket

Luke Hollenkamp, Bridget Dockter, and Emma Schoppe gave a [presentation](#) to update the Board on EE.5.

Vice Chair Lee: When will the data analysis be completed by Xcel?

Bridget Dockter: For the 1-4 units, mid-June. Within a week and a half.

Vice Chair Lee: Is the plan for the City to publish these energy disclosures annually?

Luke Hollenkamp: Yes, they will be published annually.

Vice Chair Lee: How long will it take to populate this data?

Emma Schoppe: We have the City's data now, and we're doing our own 24-month data matching analysis right now. The findings will be out sometime in June.

5. Legislative Updates

a. HF 164: The Energy Conservation and Optimization Act of 2021

Nick Mark gave a [presentation](#) on HF 164, the ECO Act, which was signed by the governor in May 2021, and it's the biggest overhaul to the state's energy efficiency legislation in about 15 years. It modernizes many aspects of the programs and provides new mechanisms to achieve the high goals that it sets. A broad coalition of stakeholders supported this bill and it was passed in a divided legislature. That was very encouraging and suggests we're on the right track.

CM Gordon: Thank you very much for the presentation. One question: I'm intrigued by the term fuel switching. Does that include cleaner energy sources like wind, geothermal, heat pumps?

The language in the legislation defines things from the customer perspective, such as electricity, natural gas, propane, etc. It's not focused as much on the source of the electric generation. But if you're making the switch from gas to electricity, you do need to show that it will produce a net decrease in GHG emissions.

CM Gordon: This is a positive report and I appreciate it. I want to make sure we keep working on this together and with stakeholders.

John Marshall: Regarding fuel switching, we do see lots of opportunity to do beneficial electrification pilots. We certainly look forward to the next decade as this legislation is a great vehicle for these programs.

b. Natural Gas Innovation Act

Amber Lee gave an update on NGIA, which CenterPoint has been working on for a few years. It is now included in the omnibus bill and CenterPoint is hoping it passes in special session.

NGIA establishes a regulatory framework for natural gas utilities to bring innovative pilots to the commission. This could include renewable natural gas, hydrogen, and electrification, among others. This legislation would also enable the PUC to do regulatory investigations on what policies should be adopted by gas utilities in order to meet the state's GHG emission reduction goals. We had great support from varied stakeholders, and we'll need all of that support going forward if the legislation passes.

c. Better Buildings Legislation

Kim Havey gives an update on the Better Buildings Legislation. This is the third year working on this legislation and we have a great coalition behind us. This year's bill language has a small change from previous years in that it now directs the Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) to update the state's building and energy

code every 3 years rather than the current every 6 years. It also directs the creation of a pathway for all new buildings to be net zero energy by 2036.

This would require additional research and work by the DOLI, and it would require additional workforce training. The legislation provides funding for this. It is currently included in the omnibus energy bill and was passed in the House, but has not been able to get the same level of support in the Senate. It's a great effort that gets to carbon neutral and net zero energy buildings faster than they would be otherwise. We appreciate the support from Fresh Energy, the Great Plains Institute, and funding from Bloomberg and the National Resources Defense Council.

6. Other Partner Updates

a. Low income community solar garden

Bridget Dockter noted that this project is scheduled for a hearing on June 10, 2021. The project began in 2019 with grant funding for Minnesota Renewable Energy Society to create a solar garden on Minneapolis property. We're hoping it gets approved and we can move forward.

b. Multifamily dwelling unit pilot program for electric vehicles

Bridget Dockter gave an update on their EV MDU pilot program. This program was approved at the PUC last week. The pilot objectives were to test market barriers to install EV charging at MDUs, financial support needed to encourage EV charging at MDUs, and specific financial support to facilitate installation of EV infrastructure in affordable housing MDUs. We've had support from the Department of Energy's office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. The pilot will enable qualifying customers to gain additional benefits. We're excited for the pilot to roll out in the affordable housing community.

CM Fletcher: I want to appreciate the work that Xcel is doing on EV charging.

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.