

Clean Energy Partnership - Meeting Notes

Minneapolis Energy Vision Advisory Council

2021 Q2 Meeting Notes

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

June 8, 2021

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Meeting attendees:

EVAC members present: Margaret Cherne-Hendrick; Rick Dallmeyer; Timothy DenHerder-Thomas; John Farrell; Heidi Hamilton; Leah Hiniker; Jon Kuskie (proxy); Marcus Mills; Patty O’Keefe; Rebecca Olson; Jamez Staples; Elizabeth Turner

Guests/Staff present: Kim Havey, City of Minneapolis; Luke Hollenkamp, City of Minneapolis; Patrick Hanlon, City of Minneapolis; Julia Evelyn, City of Minneapolis; Emma Schoppe, CenterPoint Energy; Bridget Dockter, Xcel Energy; Al Swintek, CenterPoint Energy; Sara Barrow, Xcel Energy; Nick Martin, Xcel Energy; Farah Mandich, Xcel Energy; Robin Garwood, City of Minneapolis; Peter Ebnet, City of Minneapolis; Karlee Weinmann, City of Minneapolis

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Meeting Protocol

Roll was called and meeting instructions for Microsoft Teams relayed.

2. Review and Approve Agenda and Minutes

Becky Olson asked for a motion to adopt the Q1 meeting minutes and Q2 meeting agenda. Both were MOVED and both motions CARRIED.

3. Board Meeting Report

Patty O’Keefe debriefed on the Q2 CEP Board meeting. In that Board presentation, she talked about the letter EVAC drafted on inclusive financing and the importance of the Partnership to prioritize something as close to the PAYs model as possible. She updated on the community voices and franchise fee discussions by EVAC, as well as updates on the development of an inclusive financing pilot filing to the Public Utilities Commission anticipated September 1, the time-of-rent energy cost disclosure developments for 5+ unit buildings and 1-4 unit buildings, and the passage of the ECO Act.

John Farrell asked what the data privacy concern was for a residential customer. The current PUC process was explained: utilities must follow the PUC-established 4/50 aggregation threshold rule for buildings with four units or less, whereby no one customer may use more than 50 percent of the energy used in a building or that tenant must give consent to release their data prior to release of their usage information for aggregation.

The ECO Act powerpoint presentation given at the Board meeting was posted in the chat. It is also available on the mplscleanenergypartnership.org webpage.

4. City's Franchise Fee Spend Discussion

John Farrell provided background on the historical work EVAC did analyzing franchise fees, their usage, and their paper with a 0.5 percentage point increase recommendation. The City ultimately approved the 0.5 percentage point increase in franchise fees. EVAC would like to re-engage as they did in the early years to brainstorm ideas for exploration of how to best spend use these funds and get the most out of them.

Peter Ebnet described the City budget process and acknowledged the tension that franchise fee spending and programs are City-specific decisions, yet EVAC is officially a CEP-specific advisory committee (not a City-only committee). There is ongoing funding from the 0.5 percentage point increase locked into on-going climate programming. The City budget process runs yearly, with the Council adopting a budget in December, and then the enterprise immediately pivots to thinking about the following year's budget. New proposals originating from EVAC would be considered new spending in the Sustainability and Health Departments. EVAC could begin working in mid-spring/early summer with the Mayor's Office on suggested new spending for the budget, with finalized recommendations by July/August.

A work group will convene a separate meeting to open a discussion and conversation and not just receiving information and presentations. A balance will need to be struck for the newer EVAC members and providing them background and members who have been on the committee for a longer period of time. It will be important to not only have a conversation about what can be done with the franchise fees, but where we are at in relation to the City's goals, what is needed to bridge the gap in both the short and long term, and how utility CIP spending/programming and the recently passed ECO Act can be leveraged as well.

Next steps: A smaller group of volunteers to discuss this further included: Marcus, Timothy, Elizabeth, Heidi, Margaret, Patty, and John. John will host, organize, and meet with Patty, Becky, and Timothy regarding the structure and cadence of the meetings and identify different levels of engagement based on knowledge this week or next week.

5. EVAC Recruitment

EVAC committee terms will expire at the end of this year. In October the Planning Team will open applications, November will be used to review submitted applications, in December the Board will vote and new members will be notified by the Planning Team. New members will receive an orientation in January of 2022. Members requested a 1-pager that says what EVAC is to hand out to prospective committee members. Members expressed the desire to bring frontline voices to the conversation. A member wanted to remind the committee to not forget about the small business owners, they are important too and we tend to put a lot of focus on the residential sector.

Next steps: Planning Team will send out the EVAC application and 1-pager explaining what EVAC is to the group. EVAC will review and determine if there are things in the application that we should consider changing that will help diversify the committee.

6. Community Voices Working Group Update/Discussion

Patty reviewed the previous Community Voices discussion. Patty, Marcus, Mauricio, and Kelly Muellman met to discuss this topic. The group wants their meetings to be as accessible and jargon-free as possible. Consider updating the role of EVAC on the website. Consider creating new resources like a visual or illustration that would describe what the group works on and could be used in the community. The group is meeting with the North Side Green Zones task force in August to see what they are working on and be in better communication and if they can better lift up some of the work that is happening in the Green Zone. Also hoping to meet with the Energy Efficiency Cohort regarding weatherization and assistance regarding policy coordination and grants. They are working on getting more funding. They are looking to get feedback from these communities to find out what the big issues are and how EVAC can assist. The Energy Efficiency cohort is a good resource and we would appreciate a read-out from them and the Green Zones task force on what they are experiencing right now.

A member noted community members are fatigued and the group should be looking at commercial voices as they can have the biggest impact in terms of GHG reductions. The residential sector is tired. We are looking to build a clean energy future for our city, and we need to think big picture. Residents have resources available but wondering what the commercial sector has available as they look at options for clean energy and even employment. Conversations with BOMA and Downtown Council have brought forth that businesses not having enough engineers. Another member noted that commercial buildings are important, but we see the largest greenhouse gas rise from residential buildings. The group discussed determining what their focus is; carbon reduction, public health and clean air quality, accomplish energy savings?

One member recommended that when the group looks at creating a 1-pager they are not inadvertently de-emphasizing any other critical aspects of their work.

Next Steps: The smaller group will convene another meeting; Patty will send out notice to the committee to extend an invitation to anyone who may want to join.

6. Partner Updates

Resilient Minneapolis Project

Nick Martin provided an update on the Resilient Minneapolis project from the PUC's first request during early COVID, asking for opportunities for economic recovery in MN. Xcel Energy has received six applications: Sabathani Community Center, East Plymouth Innovation Corridor, Little Earth of United Tribes, Downtown Longfellow Coliseum, Minneapolis American Indian Center, and Midtown Global Market. Xcel Energy will seek formal approval from the Commission in November with construction next year.

A member asked what the community's reaction was around ownership and where are our discussions because the application stated Xcel Energy would own it. There has been a mix. Xcel indicated flexibility around that. Some assets will be owned by the applicant and some by Xcel Energy, like battery storage. Of the six applicants, only one expressed the desire to own everything.

Minneapolis 100% Renewable Electricity Blueprint

Kim Havey provided an update on the City's goal to go community wide 100% renewable by 2030. The City has done a lot of individual and robust outreach with communities of color and now has a list of recommendations they are ready to bring forward. The outreach was stalled a bit during COVID but has now been re-invigorated and the City would like to now have a discussion with EVAC about where the City is going the next 10-years. They will also be offering public comment periods around August 1.

Elizabeth asked for a separate meeting to discuss this for anyone interested.

Next steps: Kim will schedule a meeting and send the draft out mid-July

Inclusive Financing

Kim Havey provided an update on the Inclusive Financing project, including how to include gas and electric savings, the impacts of the ECO Act and electrification, eligibility measures (possibly changing the 80/20 rule), participant eligibility including residential and multi-family throughout the Center Point Energy service territory, consent and future participant notification, outreach and engagement of Xcel Energy in the discussions.

Plan is to have a larger stakeholder meeting in mid-July to discuss the notification and consent process, lay out the proposal early August and have individual 1:1's. Draft tariffs will be out at

that time as well and we are looking to gather as much support as possible. Anyone is welcome to reach out to CenterPoint Energy or the City anytime to ask additional detailed questions.

Rebecca Olson asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was MOVED that the meeting adjourn. Motion CARRIED.

Meeting Adjourned

DRAFT