

# Clean Energy Partnership - Meeting Notes

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## Minneapolis Energy Vision Advisory Council

### 2022 Q2 Meeting Notes

#### Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

June 8, 2022

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

#### Meeting attendees:

**EVAC members present:** Patty O’Keefe (Co-chair); Beth Tomlinson (Co-chair); Timothy DenHerder-Thomas; John Farrell; Mauricio Leon; Marcus Mills; Jamez Staples; Margaret Cherne-Hendrick; Elizabeth Turner; Ansha Zaman; Jon Kuskie; Katie Jones; Natalie Townsend; Molly Janis, Leah Hiniker.

**Staff/Guests present:** Kim Havey, City of Minneapolis; Ly-Ly Vang-Yang, City of Minneapolis; Stacy Miller, City of Minneapolis; Luke Hollenkamp, City of Minneapolis; Emma Schoppe, CenterPoint Energy; Al Swintek, CenterPoint Energy; Carter Dedolph, CenterPoint Energy; Ethan Warner, CenterPoint Energy; Kat Knudson, CenterPoint Energy; Dan King, Xcel Energy; Suzanne Murphy, Xcel Energy; Nick Martin, Xcel Energy; Marty Kapsch, CenterPoint Energy.

#### 1. Welcome, Introductions, and Meeting Protocol

Roll was called and meeting instructions for Microsoft Teams relayed. Introductions included a welcome to new CenterPoint Energy CEP Planning staff member Kat Knudson with Emma Schoppe changing roles internally.

#### 2. Review and Approve Agenda and Q1 Meeting Notes

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

#### 3. EVAC Q3 Meeting Style

Luke raised the question of whether the group wanted to move back to in person meetings or stay with virtual for now. He mentioned that we don’t currently have good options for hybrid meetings, and this may change by end of the year to allow for hybrid options. Straw poll was taken via Chat.

## 4. Planning Team Quick Updates

Emma kicked this topic off by mentioning the planning team has a number of updates that relate to engagement opportunities for EVAC members with the Work Plan and other times people might be interested in taking advantage of.

- a. **Minneapolis and CenterPoint Energy Petition Tariff On Bill** – Emma noted that the special meeting with EVAC members in May was well-attended, with about half the members able to join. We filed our reply comments to the Public Utilities Commission on May 13<sup>th</sup>. The PUC issued a notice of comment period goes until 7/25/22. To comment on or reply to comments, reach out to your Planning Team representative, and offered that EVAC members can feel free to ask questions.
- b. **CenterPoint Energy CIP triennial planning process** – Ethan explained that the every-three-year Conservation Improvement Plan (CIP) filings are due for all utilities on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 for triennial 2024-2026. Stakeholder engagement planned for late summer or early fall. Currently CenterPoint is taking input on what the stakeholder engagement process might look like. If EVAC member is interested in providing feedback about how they'd like to be engaged, reach out to Kat.
- c. **CenterPoint Energy Innovation Plans planning**– Emma shared this Innovation Plan falls under the new Natural Gas Innovation Act and that CenterPoint is also planning stakeholder engagement for the same timeframe, currently in the process of engaging a third party consulting firm for this effort. The Request for Ideas (RFI) process was recently completed with about 100 submissions submitted from 40 companies. These innovation plans will include things such as renewable natural gas, biogas, beneficial electrification, power to hydrogen, power to ammonia, innovative technologies that will help decarbonize natural gas in Minnesota. Emma explained they're currently pulling the information together and to look for updates on when and how to engage, but she offered she's happy to take any specific ideas. In the Regulatory space the PUC issued a carbon accounting framework and a cost benefit framework for these innovation plans. An EVAC member asked if there will be a Request for Proposal (RFP) as well, and Emma responded that an RFP has been issued for a technical consultant has gone out, and CenterPoint will be reviewing them in the next few weeks. Another member asked at what scale is the GHG accounting; Emma said it's a lifecycle carbon accounting for each technology or innovation eligible under the NGIA.
- d. **Xcel Energy Equity Stakeholder Group** – Dan shared progress has been made toward convening the group which will be expansive in scope, such as renewable energy, renewable affordability, workforce diversification, and distribution system planning. This came out of an order point with the recently approved IRP. In addition to the items listed the Commission has expressed an interest in procedural justice through this. He also let the EVAC members know he might have something more formal at the next meeting for Xcel's triennial planning process and that he's happy to take input at any time.
- e. **Xcel Energy Integrated Distribution Plan & Resilient Minneapolis Project** – Dan discussed that last week as part of the integrated distribution plan, Resilient Minneapolis has been approved. New requirements were placed on it such as a cost cap

but the Commission indicated that don't want that to be a reason to not move forward with projects; Xcel is sorting what this means.

- f. **Minneapolis Climate Action & Equity Plan (CAEP) kick off** – Kim shared the City has been doing background and research efforts and is now entering in listening phase with 10 community based organizations which will be paid for their time and will be involved throughout the phases. The City is also talking internally with department leadership to hear their priorities, all with the focus of the Race to Zero-established goal of net zero by 2050 and the carbon budget. He explained after the listening sessions, they'll be going into work groups, then compiling a steering committee around specific topics. Then hoping to have large community meetings with Neighborhood and Community like the City did with the Green Zones Summit for the Community Connections Conference. **Much of the work has already been** initiated or accomplished: a transportation plan has been completed, close to completing a food action plan, North and South Side Green Zones plan, so synchronizing with them, and working with MN350 and have established opportunities to work together and planning monthly meetings with them. The City is planning on bringing the plan forward by Q1 2023 to the City Council. The website is up; he invited EVAC members to Google "Minneapolis Climate Equity". There's also a survey that Elizabeth's team has put together for people to be engaged. An EVAC member asked if the City is still looking for participants. Yes, there's a signup on the webpage for the newsletter, and if people would like to participate, send an email directly to Sustainability@mn.gov. Elizabeth added taking the survey is a great way to get engaged and shared there will larger-based Zoom sessions and tabling at community events, and the information about these will be on the website sometime this week.

## 5. Work Plan/EVAC Engagement Plan Updates

Dan gave the overview about this year being a year of transitions, including an evolving landscape around the ECO Act and NGIA. The Work Plan lays out a framework, and the planning team wants to invite EVAC's involvement in meaningful ways through working groups. He shared the themes: decarbonizing homes, local solar, and reductions in commercial & industrial gas use. Emma offered the planning team sees that there's tie in with the Community Voices memo and overlap. Luke shared that this is an evolving process of how the City and utilities work with EVAC; this engagement plan is way of creating the space to work with interested EVAC members as we have these deeper technical conversations, much as the discussions that led to the franchise fee increase. An EVAC member commented they liked the working group idea but has specific questions and asked for clarification of meeting schedule and times. Dan offered that maybe monthly or one meeting between quarterly EVAC meetings could be the cadence, that the working group meetings don't need to be the same among the themes or rigid. The meetings could flex as needed. Emma said the planning team expects to be engaging with EVAC throughout the summer. The planning team wants to balance being thoughtful with

being efficient. For energy efficiency and NGIA planning process, we want to leverage the CIP triennial planning avenue as much as possible.

The planning team staff members will be the facilitators and are looking for EVAC to flag properties. An EVAC member asked about the methodology for sharing documentation and about how would the notes be shared. Emma offered that certainly reporting out and checking in with the larger group will be a part of the working plans process. The question was asked if an EVAC member could appoint a proxy. Dan thought that would be fine. Another member raised process-wise have a discussion at the beginning about what's the scope, such as technology pathways or programmatic ones, and then map out.

An EVAC member asked a question about representation, Emma offered EVAC members can either represent themselves or their organization but to know we're working directly with other people with organizations, such as Hennepin County. The question was asked if there was a plan for coordination between this process and the Climate Action & Equity Plan. Luke explained that they aren't explicitly coordinated but hope to move the work forward at a rapid clip. With the CAEP more about vision with action in the future, but that he could see some of the work overlapping. The work of EVAC could be used to help with CAEP information sharing at a minimum.

List of EVAC members who are offered interested in the working groups:

Theme #1: Ansha Zaman, Elizabeth Turner, John Farrell, Katie Jones, Marcus Mills, Margaret Cherne-Hendrick, Timothy DenHerder-Thomas (if capacity)

Theme #2: John Farrell, Timothy DenHerder-Thomas, Marcus Mills, Natalie Townsend, Margaret Cherne-Hendrick (proxy)

Theme #3: Beth Tomlinson, Katie Jones, Margaret Cherne-Hendrick, Molly Janis, Ansha Zaman, Elizabeth Turner, John Kuskie, Leah Hiniker, Patty O'Keefe

## 6. Community Voices Update

Patty shared an update about the proposal from the Community Voices subgroup as part of acknowledgement that the EVAC members are representing but not inclusive of all people across Minneapolis and especially BIPOC and low income community members. The subgroup is hoping to get the proposal supported by EVAC and conveyed to the CEP Board. Timothy gave an overview of the updated proposal sent before the EVAC meeting. This plan is voicing a vision for broadly how we propose the CEP goes forward with engagement, so we aren't exhausting communities with one-off engagement and goes through a set of activities including identifying communities and working with leaders of those communities while collaborating with them to develop the engagement process. An

EVAC member asked if this is a duplicative effort. Timothy shared he didn't think so, and Patty added that this is meant to be broader than the Clean Energy Partnership. The proposal was put to a vote to formalize the recommendation. Timothy and Patty asked if there were objections, and none were raised, nor were there any abstentions. Proposal passed.

## **7. Work Plan Theme: Impactful reductions in Commercial/Industrial (C/I) Natural Gas Use**

Emma reviewed the Work Plan Theme around C/I reductions, then laid the groundwork of what the C/I space currently looks like in Minneapolis. The service industry is the largest user in natural gas in this space in Minneapolis. A question was raised about the "Other" category and Ethan said they are number of different small industries that are very discreet. An EVAC member noted that the pie chart totals more than 100% and Emma noted we can follow up about that. The question was asked where District Energy buildings are within this chart, and Ethan believes they are spaced out among separate categories, such as the system at the University of Minnesota will be in Education, for example, and not concentrated into one segment. Emma noted the larger power generating customers were removed from this chart, but the District Energy entities would be included in the working group.

She laid out that within the City, rebates are the most participated in CIP program with audits helping funnel customers into energy-saving opportunities. Then shared a snapshot of existing of C/I participation and savings within the current CIP resources, while teeing up the CIP triennial planning process as the best way to influence. She noted the CEP and EVAC shouldn't be limited to what currently exists. An EVAC member asked about pilot projects. Emma responded that yes, we've done them in the past. If an offering isn't part of the process, we'll often pilot them but pointed out not everything needs to be a pilot. She gave the example of when the City came to Xcel and CenterPoint about combined electricity and natural gas commercial audit programs; this didn't need to pilot to execute. Another member suggested the working group on this theme dive into exploring barriers to greater participation, whether its rebate amounts or processes to participate. An EVAC member asked about potential joint fundraising to incentivize deep retrofits, has it been a focus of the Partnership? As part of the ensuing discussion, EVAC members agreed there should be creative funding explored. Luke pointed out that additional policy would be needed on this sector and that there could be space in this group for the City and utilities can work together to move forward and implement policy.

An EVAC member asked what existing zoning ordinances prevent the expansion of the envelope of a building because of setback requirements, and how is the City permitting for equipment currently laid out? Are there opportunities the City could leverage? Another member wanted us to keep in mind that District Energy can benefit both Residential and Commercial and to not

lose sight of this as we split the work into three groups. On the next steps, Emma sees organization a conversation around the barriers to C/I sector to decarbonize and to dive into coming up with a list of resources and opportunities that the CEP group can help with.

## Meeting Adjourned

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