

**Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership
BOARD MEETING**

Minneapolis Public Service Building

Monday, July 11, 2022

3:00 – 4:30 p.m.

2022 Q2 Meeting Notes

Board members present: Mayor Jacob Frey (Chair), Council Member Lisa Goodman, Council Member Aisha Chughtai, City Coordinator Heather Johnston; Bria Shea (Vice Chair) and John Marshall from Xcel Energy; Todd Berreman and Emma Schoppe (designee for Christe Singleton) from CenterPoint Energy.

Board members absent: Christe Singleton

City of Minneapolis Staff: Luke Hollenkamp, Kim Havey, Bjorn Olson, Peter Ebnet, Patrick Hanlon, Chris Droske, Zach Schultz, Kelly Muellman, Elizabeth Ebot

Xcel Energy Staff: Chris Clark (President, Xcel Energy Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota), Dan King, Suzanne Murphy, Nick Martin

CenterPoint Energy Staff: Kat Knudson, Al Swintek, Carter Dedolph, Ross Corson

- **Guests/Staff present:** Patty O’Keefe (EVAC Co-Chair, CEE), Beth Tomlinson (EVAC Co-Chair, Stantec), Marcus Mills (EVAC), Lee Samelson (Community Power), Alice Madden (Community Power), Lacy Tooker-Kirkevold (EcoFaith Network of the ELCA Minneapolis Area Synod), Paula Thausen (Lutheran Church EFN), Emilie Bouvier (EcoFaith Network of the ELCA Minneapolis Area Synod), Chris Torres (Minneapolis Climate Action), Jack Hurbanis (EcoFaith Network of the ELCA Minneapolis Area Synod)

1. Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Jacob Frey (Chair) called the meeting to order.

Chris Clark of Xcel Energy was welcomed to the meeting by Mayor Frey.

2. Review and Approve Agenda and Minutes

Mayor Frey (Chair) asked for a motion to approve the agenda, as well as the minutes from the 2022 Q1 CEP Board Meeting. It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** that the agenda for July 11, 2022 be approved. Motion **CARRIED**. It was **MOVED** and **SECONDED** that the minutes from July 11, 2022 be approved. Motion **CARRIED**.

3. EVAC Co-Chair Update

Beth Tomlinson reported on Energy Vision Advisory Committee (EVAC) activity. EVAC voted to approve recommendations for [community engagement of the Partnership Work Plan](#) which they ask the Board to review and consider. Luke Hollenkamp added that the proposed work plan

before the Board and individual Partner initiatives incorporate some elements of EVAC's recommendation.

4. 2022-2023 Work Plan Presentation

Luke Hollenkamp provided a [presentation](#) (slides 4-8) framing for the proposed 2022-2023 Work Plan as well as Theme 1. Mayor Frey presented (slides 9-10) that the City is excited about ARPA funding the City is utilizing for home weatherization as well as City staff participation in an upcoming webinar showing factors impacting energy efficiency program participation.

Dan King presented (slide 11) the proposed work of Theme 2. CM Goodman presented commentary (slides 12-13) that she is frustrated that the local solar interconnection process is too slow and complicated, and that she desires that Xcel and the City work together to utilize the large opportunity in Minneapolis for distributed solar.

Chris Clark: I appreciate the constructive approach requested and we are aware of a need to go faster. We have made investments (including in people and technology) to help speed the process. Pursuing equitable, distributed solar in Minneapolis as partners is a great opportunity to pursue.

Kat Knudson presented (slide 14) the proposed work of Theme 3 and acknowledged that CenterPoint does not feel the proposal is yet developed enough for inclusion in the work plan and that CenterPoint is committed to getting it to that level. CM Chughtai presented commentary (slides 15 and 16) that, as we heard from EVAC Co-Chair Patty O'Keefe at the last meeting, we need to work faster and do more to reduce gas consumption. CM Chughtai commented that Theme 3 as presented today does not exhibit adequate immediate action and ambition for our Partnership. CM Chughtai suggested coming back to the Q3 Board meeting to consider a more developed Theme 3 from CenterPoint.

Mayor Frey: I agree with CM Chughtai. I've seen CenterPoint's impressive green hydrogen pilot facility in Minneapolis and think there's a need in Theme 3 to develop additional ambitious work such as that. I signed a Race to Zero pledge, and we need to work toward that net zero target.

Todd Berreman: I appreciate the City's frustration and repeat that we are committed to the City's climate action plan. The recent ECO Act and NGIA legislation allow CenterPoint to consider more aggressive projects and we are in the beginning of a long process to start that work. CenterPoint is working with a large Minneapolis gas customer with ESG goals to partner toward realizing their goals. We also could work with a few City facilities in a similar manner to intentionally work to your goals.

Emma Schoppe: We are experts in energy efficiency, but these new NGIA and ECO Act opportunities are new to us and we need an extensive engagement process to collect the best ideas and work together with partners to realize them.

CM Goodman: I agree with CM Chughtai. I feel like CenterPoint being in the Partnership but coming to this meeting without substantial ideas after a long period of time to work on them is greenwashing. Does CenterPoint want to be in the Partnership?

Emma Schoppe: Yes, we want to be here. But these ideas take time to work through and it requires an extensive engagement process.

CM Chughtai: The City also has many processes and considerations for our work, but we don't come to this space saying our processes require us to slow our work down, like we are hearing from CenterPoint. I hope that we can come back at the Q3 Board meeting after our city staff continue to work with you to create a much more impressive work plan for Theme 3.

CM Chughtai motioned to approve the 2022-2023 Work Plan with Themes 1 and 2, and that Theme 3 be carried over for additional development and future consideration at the Q3 Board meeting. Mayor Free seconded the motion. Motion CARRIED.

5. Partner Updates

Minneapolis Climate Action & Equity Plan (CAEP) Kick-off

Kim Havey: The Climate Equity Plan has a new webpage launched with a survey available. So far in our engagement we are seeing a lot of cross-over between safety and livability with our sustainability goals. We are currently engaged with 10 community-based cultural organizations that we will have sustained engagement with over time, as well as an upcoming virtual event and being present at other community events throughout the city. Later in the year we will launch work teams on specific topics. At the end of Q1 2023 we would like to have the plan considered and then adopted by the City.

CenterPoint Energy Innovation Plan

Emma Schoppe: CenterPoint Energy is in the process of developing its first Innovation Plan enabled by last year's passage of the Natural Gas Innovation Act (NGIA). In April, CenterPoint Energy released a Request for Ideas for "innovative resources" to consider including in the Company's first Plan. Under NGIA "innovative resources" means biogas, renewable natural gas, power-to-hydrogen, power-to-ammonia, carbon capture, strategic electrification, district energy, and energy efficiency. The Company received about 100 ideas from over 40 different organizations. The Company is in the process of engaging a technical consultant and stakeholder engagement facilitator to help the Company review, evaluate, and engage stakeholders in the process to develop the Company's first Plan. Stakeholder engagement is anticipated to kick off later this summer. On June 1, 2022 the Public Utilities Commission issued an order adopting frameworks for GHG accounting and cost-benefit analysis.

CenterPoint Energy 2024-2026 Triennial Plan

Todd Berreman: We file our Conservation Improvement Plans every three years with the Department of Commerce and are in the process of starting to plan for the 2024-2026 triennial. It is an extensive planning process that will kick off later this month and go through until June 1st of next year. All programs must be cost effective since our

customers are paying for them through our rate tracker, and all segments need to be represented: commercial, industrial, residential, low income. In this planning process there's going to be new focus because of the recent legislation including fuel switching and response programs for gas companies. There's also a focus on low income which went into effect this year, raising our statutory minimum spending on low-income programs from .4% of our gross operating income up to 1%. Our overall budget will be about \$40 million per year to deliver these programs, and our savings goals will be in the range of 2 BCF or 2 billion cubic feet of natural gas, around 1.4% of our annual throughput. That will put us at about \$6 million on low-income spending, with about \$3 million of that spent here in the City on Minneapolis residents. We also collaborate with Xcel very closely during this planning process; we deliver joint programs, Home Energy Squad being one. We will be holding stakeholder meetings during this planning process, and we open this up to anybody who would like to come. EVAC members will be invited, as well as nonprofits, to come and give us their input.

Xcel Energy Equity Stakeholder Group

Nick Martin: One of the things that emerged from the last integrated resource plan was an emphasis on equity. Xcel Energy was asked by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to implement an equity process with three components: an advisory group, community outreach, and an environmental justice accountability board. Specific areas of focus will include looking at energy burden, energy efficiency programs, renewable energy, workforce diversification. We have focused most so far on the equity stakeholder advisory group that includes many entities who are often involved in Commission proceedings, but many who are not in order to focus on increasing participation.

Xcel Energy Integrated Distribution Plan & Resilient Minneapolis Project Approval

Bria Shea: Every other year we file a detailed distribution plan. One element of this is discussing interconnection and how we incorporate distributed generation onto the grid, which was brought up earlier in the meeting. The most recent one was just approved in June. Part of the approval was the Resilient Minneapolis Project that was created with a great deal of input and collaboration with the City. This is an innovative project that we are proud of. We also proposed to hold a series of distribution grid workshops. Local energy goals will certainly be a part of that discussion, which will inform our next distribution plan. This is another step that we're taking to recognize our cities' local goals and make sure that we are appropriately incorporating those into planning.

Inclusive Financing

Kim Havey: CenterPoint and the City submitted a revised proposal to the PUC that has reduced cost implications to hopefully have a better chance of approval. The Comment period has been extended to July 25 and the two parties don't intend to make Reply Comments unless necessary, given the parties have tried very hard to put the best proposal forward as recently submitted. We hope the Commission may consider the

proposal in early fall. If approved, work could begin in early 2023. The pilot as proposed would be territory-wide for all CenterPoint customers.

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.