

Clean Energy Partnership - Meeting Notes

Minneapolis Energy Vision Advisory Council

2023 Q4 Meeting Notes

Minneapolis City Hall, Room 132

December 11, 2023

4:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Meeting attendees:

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

Staff/Guests present: Luke Hollenkamp, City of Minneapolis; Ed Eiffler Jaramillo, City of Minneapolis; Peter Ebnet, City of Minneapolis; Alice Froehlich, City of Minneapolis; Kim Havey, City of Minneapolis; Al Swintek, CenterPoint Energy; Kat Knudson, CenterPoint Energy; Sofia Troutman, Xcel Energy; Nick Martin, Xcel Energy; Lee Samuelson.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Patty O’Keefe welcomed everyone and asked for introductions around the room.

2. Review and Approve Agenda and Q3 Meeting Notes

Patty O’Keefe asked for a motion to adopt the Q3 meeting minutes and the Q4 meeting agenda. Agenda item 5.a. regarding the Climate Legacy Initiative was moved up in the agenda to occur before the Board Meeting Updates. Both were MOVED and both motions CARRIED.

5. Climate Legacy Initiative

a. Status Update (Peter)

Peter Ebnet updated the group that much of the hard work begins on January 1 when implementation commences, and he is hopeful the immense amount of citywide engagement with stakeholders already completed will create a smooth rollout that is informed by the previous stakeholder engagement. The CLI is about \$10.2M annually of new on-going funding, split into many different projects and it also includes funding for staff and infrastructure. The

on-going funding goes to staff, infrastructure, and proven programs and concepts. The one-time money is for programs and projects that are novel and need to be examined after they are launched to gauge effectiveness and determine if their funding should be converted to on-going, remain one-time, or be reallocated for other climate work. It is the intention of the Mayor that the \$10.2M funding as a whole remain protected for climate work.

However, Council adopted amendments that diverted some money of the \$10.2M to non-climate work, which was a concern of the Mayor's office. There is likely now recognition by administrative city staff that to prevent this from happening again to such a high-importance topic that a dedicated fund is needed. The intent is to come back with a proposal through the Mayor's (2025-2026) budget proposal next year to address this.

In response to an EVAC member's question on how the CLI spending and results will be communicated out to the business community and large buildings, Peter updated that the Mayor's new CLI sub-cabinet met last week for the first time, and this was a topic of discussion. Outreach and conveyance of results will include dashboard and metrics, working relationships with stakeholders, conversations with boards and commissions like EVAC, and the budget process. The additional new city staff hired for CLI will also help efficiently, effectively, and responsibly administer the CLI.

3. Board Meeting Updates

Katie Jones provided an update of the Board's Q3 meeting earlier that day. Katie was asked by Mayor Frey how EVAC could be utilized in CLI feedback, and Katie in the meeting suggested during Q2 2024 there might be a meeting. Twelve EVAC Board members were reappointed to 2024. Three members (Natalie Haberman, Leah Hinkier, and Margaret Cherne-Hendrick) were not interested in reappointment and their terms will expire at the end of 2023. Katie summarized the presentations from the Partnership's 2022-2023 Work Plan as well as other Partner updates, all of which were presented to the Board.

4. State of the Clean Energy Partnership

a. Report back on subject matter meeting with EVAC members (Patty)

Patty O'Keefe provided an update that a group of EVAC members met to reflect on the soon-to-be expiring franchise agreements and related MOUs. The group focused on how to build more accountability to EVAC and between Partners in the Partnership, including structural changes - a number of new ideas were explored. Having an EVAC seat on Board, undergrounding wires, published progress toward utility goals, and dashboard reporting were all suggestions.

EVAC members engaged in a discussion wherein members shared ideas and feedback, including:

- EVAC membership on the Board to create more accountability from the Board to EVAC and provide more immediate subject matter expertise during Board meetings.
- Exploring the difference behind a group giving “advice” and one participating in “advocacy”, and how other City advisory groups are thinking through their roles.
- The role city and utility staff play in connecting the Board and EVAC.
- The ability of EVAC to both proactively and reactively provide advice and feedback.
- The Partnership clarifying whether it is a structure with binding commitments to each other or rather a space to have non-binding conversations and share ideas.
- The tension between the City being transparent on funding changes over time and the utilities being less so.
- Further clarity is needed on what each Partner is contributing to these collective actions, in both financial terms and staff time.
- The Partners contributing staff time to help EVAC subcommittees with issue exploration.
- Potential future responsibility of Partners to inform each other of filings, etc. that impact another’s goals.

The next step is for Katie and Patty to compile a list of EVAC recommendations to the Board on this topic, for presentation and vote at the Q1 2024 EVAC meeting.

5. Climate Legacy Initiative

b. Implementation Work Group Concept - presentation (Alice Froehlich)

Alice provided an update which was outlined in a handout, followed by answering questions from EVAC members.



Implementation Work Group Project

Purpose:

This project is the first phase of forming the new CLI Implementation Group. This project will gather input to develop a request for proposal (RFP) that will seek contractor(s) to lead the development of the new group and support its on-going work. This project will develop a framework and background information that the new contractor(s) can use in their work.

Timeline: October – January

Leads: Kim Havey, Patrick Hanlon, Alice Froehlich



Implementation Group Scope of Work

- Provide input on Climate Legacy Initiative (CLI) program areas
 - Primary focus program areas:
 - Data | Reporting (admin)
 - Climate Incentives
 - Policy Coordination and Outreach
 - Secondary focus
 - Carbon Sequestration
 - Urban Forestry
 - Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure
 - Homegrown Support – Circular Economy
 - Pathways and Workforce



Contractor Scope of Work

- Analysis and Recommendations on current Advisory Bodies
- Formation of Implementation group
 - Identify members, set up expectations, communications, work plan, etc.
- On-going management of Implementation Group



Primary Program Areas

Data Reporting	Climate Incentives	Policy Coordination and Outreach
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualitative data collection • Quantitative data metrics and collection • External and internal reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project application review • Project prioritization • Incentives • Tracking spending on specific projects? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing and outreach of programs and incentives

CLI alignment with Climate Equity Plan

The Climate Legacy Initiative supports the advancement of the Climate Equity Plan in the following areas:

Climate Legacy Initiative Program Area	Climate Equity Plan Goal Area
Climate Incentives	Healthy Homes Building and Industry
Policy and Coordination	Building and Industry Energy Systems
Carbon Sequestration	Green Spaces and Trees
Urban Forestry	Green Spaces and Trees
Electric Vehicle and Charging Infrastructure	Transportation and Complete Streets
Homegrown Support – Circular Economy	Food and Zero Waste Circular Economy
Pathways and Workforce	Economy and Workforce

Meeting Adjourned