

CEAC Meeting Minutes – June 26, 2013

Attendance: Ross Abbey, Kevin Bengtson, Marty Broan, Lisa Daniels, Darrell Gerber, Meleah Houseknecht, Pat Mulloy, Roxxanne O'Brien, Jennifer Ringold, Annette Rondano, Brian Ross, Michelle Schroeder, Sarah Sponheim, Alexis Troschinetz

Others in Attendance: Eliza Broan, Mike Bull, Karlie Cole, Julia Eagles, Cam Gordon, Russ Henry, Andrea Jenkins, Randy Kiser, Mike Luke, Liza O'Reilly, Gayle Prest, Jane Shey, Al Swintek

Absences: Diane Daun, Shalini Gupta, Tony Hainault, Michelle Stockness, Jamison Tessneer

Meeting Minutes and Agenda

Chair Sarah Sponheim called the meeting to order at 5:01. May minutes were approved unanimously. Agenda was approved.

Announcements

1. Jamison had a baby boy recently and Michele Stockness had a baby at the end of May.
2. The Climate Action Plan passed City Council's Regulatory Energy and Environment (RE&E) Committee, and will go to the City Council Committee of the Whole on Thursday and full council on Friday. There will be minor amendments, but the plan is expected to pass. Thanks to CEAC for all their work on the plan.
3. A number of CEAC members toured the Metro wastewater plant tour on June 20th.
4. Brian has requested a leave of absence from CEAC to work on the Energy Pathways Study. There was a motion to accept his leave of absence; the vote was unanimous to allow Brian to take a leave.
5. Xcel Energy – 610,000 customers were out of power in the recent outage from the wind storm, as of today only approximately 2,500 customers were still out. 1,000 linemen were working on the restoration. 22 different companies from 14 different states contributed assistance. Mayor Rybak raised the issue of burying power lines, but it could be 10-20 times more expensive to bury power lines than have them run aboveground. The Park Board is working through removing street trees first and then park trees. Some people estimate that the damage to trees may have been as bad as the North Minneapolis tornado, just not concentrated in one area. You can leave tree debris on the curb and Park Board crews will pick it up from July 1-12.
6. The Park Board has started an education campaign to identify Ash trees that will be lost to Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Neighborhoods are being encouraged to replace trees in advance of EAB losses so entire blocks are not without trees all at one time.
7. Last night there was a mayoral forum on energy issues. All the candidates answered questions on energy, climate change and transportation. You can watch the debate on theuptake.org.
8. Council Member Gordon announced that tomorrow at Committee of the Whole he will introduce a motion to set two public hearings for August 1 for putting a question on the November ballot to municipalize our energy utilities. This is very similar to the MEO resolution, although the ballot language has not been drafted yet.

Homegrown Minneapolis Update

Russ Henry and Jane Shey gave an update on the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council. Homegrown is a policy advisory body to promote healthy food options and make growing food easier in the City. They gave examples of projects the Council is working on and how the Food Council is structured.

The Food Council would like a CEAC volunteer to sit on the land access subcommittee to see how the groups can collaborate. Ross Abbey and Meleah Houseknecht expressed interest in sitting on the subcommittee on behalf of CEAC.

The next land access meeting is July 24th. Email Jane Shey for more details:
jane.shey@minneapolismn.gov

Energy Vision Process Overview

Gayle Prest and Brian Ross gave an update on the Energy Pathways Study and the development of an Energy Vision as part of that work. The Center for Energy & the Environment is the lead consultant with CR Planning as a sub consultant to complete this work. The City Council has asked that CEAC provide input on the development of the Energy Vision. The Energy Vision will draw primarily from a number of different policies or priorities that are already in place such as the Climate Action Plan, City strategic goals and directions, and the Comprehensive Plan.

The consultant team will have an assessment of current city policies and a draft vision done in the next 2-3 weeks. They will do stakeholder interviews in July with other groups that may not have been involved with other pieces of policy development. The consultant team will facilitate a discussion CEAC with CEAC on July 24th regarding the Energy Vision. This is an opportunity for CEAC to provide input; they don't necessarily have to vote on something. The final Energy Vision will go to the City Council on September 9th.

MN Legislative Update

Darrel Gerber gave an overview of the 2013 legislative session, and distributed the Minnesota Environmental Partnership's (MEP) 2013 session-end outcomes document. The session produced results related to clean energy, clean water accountability, groundwater monitoring and management, funding for state environmental agencies, support for bicycling and transportation alternatives, and bans on coal tar sealant and state purchasing of Triclosan-containing products. See MEP's full summary here: <http://www.mepartnership.org/our-work/2013-session-end-outcomes/>

Ross Abbey gave an update on the Clean Energy and Jobs campaign, the coalition of organizations that worked on getting the solar energy standard passed. The legislature passed standard requiring investor-owned utilities to generate 1.5% of their electricity from solar by 2010, and established a state goal of 10% solar by 2030. Good progress also on energy efficiency and net metering rules. There was not very good progress around transportation this session; transit funding failed to pass the legislature.

Subcommittee Updates

1. CAP Priorities Task Force (Sponheim) – Sarah proposed forming a CEAC Task Force to review and prioritize strategies from the Climate Action Plan (CAP) for implementation. There will also be a staff group working on this out of the Sustainability office. Staff also needs to work with departments to get staff input. The group will be in touch with Brendon and Gayle about what would be an appropriate role for CEAC in that process.
2. Outreach (Rondano) – Annette met with Karlie Cole from Sustaining Community Twin Cities and Sean Gosiewski from Alliance for Sustainability to talk about how all these programs could work together. There will likely be another meeting, seems like there are some promising connections there. Still seeking additional members from folks who are interested.
3. Less Waste (Sponheim) – Met with Kelly Kisch, the new recycling coordinator for the city. It's a new position for the city, working on education and outreach around single-sort. The feasibility study on expanding residential organics recycling is due soon, which the subcommittee will review. The subcommittee is also working on a proposal to RE&E to suggest a plastic bag ban in Minneapolis.
4. Water (Gerber) – The tour of the wastewater treatment facility functioned as the latest meeting of the water subcommittee. It went well, thanks to all who attended.
5. Air & Climate (Abbey) – The subcommittee had a meeting last month, and established a regular meeting time (2nd Thursday of the month) at Common Roots. The next meeting will be held there. There was a good turnout last meeting, the group talked about the Climate Action Plan

and setting priorities. The scope of the CAP is beyond just Air & Climate, it includes transportation, waste, etc. It seems that all subcommittees should be involved in some way. The group discussed the Clean Air Dialogues. Meleah will give a full update at a future meeting. Also had a conversation about divestment, and whether the city has any investments in fossil fuel companies that should be examined. The City doesn't own any stock, so would not have anything to divest. The group discussed whether Minneapolis should make a statement similar to other cities. The City did make a similar statement about South Africa, and Sudan, according to Robin Garwood- Council member Gordon's aide. The subcommittee may take action on that at a future meeting. The group could potentially look at industries that have significant air quality and climate impacts, like the backyard burning ban. The Clean Air Dialogues included a lot of ideas and strategies around that topic.

6. Utility Franchise (Schroeder) – A lot of conversations about the franchise agreements, and the initiative of Minneapolis Energy Options. Michelle Schroeder and a number of others were at the DFL endorsing convention, where MEO got an endorsement. There was also discussion of MEO at the mayoral debate last night, where the candidates had varying positions on the issue. The Utility Franchise subcommittee did not reach a consensus; there has been a lot of dialogue without taking a clear position. The group discussed whether CEAC should write a letter to the city, or wait and see what comes out of the Energy Systems Pathways Study. Both MEO and Xcel have been talking to neighborhood organizations about the issue. Michelle suggested that CEAC should have presentations by MEO as well as Xcel and CenterPoint, and talk with city attorneys about their utility franchise memorandum and others to get more information about the issue. Michelle is also interested in hosting a meeting about the process of shepherding a bill through the Legislature, with Steve Simon or Frank Hornstein. Those who are interested in learning about this issue could participate in an Adult Civics 101 class ahead of time, so that a meeting with representatives could get into more details on specific bills. At about 5:00, Roxanne raised the issue of a recommendation to the City Council from CEAC for the August 1 public hearing. Sarah Sponheim suggested waiting to hear more about Cam Gordon's initiative before taking any position. After further conversation, Roxanne O'Brien makes a motion that CEAC invite MEO, Xcel and CenterPoint to come to the August CEAC meeting to present their positions on the issue; Lisa Daniels seconds the motion. This passes unanimously. The group continued to discuss the issue. CEAC does not necessarily need to take a firm yes or no position for the Public Hearing on August 1. MEO has met with the Utility Franchise subcommittee. Some thought that the rest of CEAC needed to hear all sides of the issue before making a recommendation. August 16 is the last regularly scheduled meeting of the City Council for action on a proposed resolution/ballot question prior to the statutory deadline for ballot questions for the November 5 election. Typically recommendations come from the CEAC subcommittees first and there has not been a proposal from the Utility Franchise subcommittee on this.

Future meeting agenda items

- Presentation on the Energy Vision process, getting feedback from CEAC on findings, priorities, perceived gaps in policy or goals

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

**CEAC Subcommittees
July 24, 2013**

	Chair	Members	Typical meeting times	2013 ideas
Less Waste	Sarah	Jamison, Annette, Diane, Tony, Ross	2:00-3:00 before CEAC meeting	Construction debris Organics
Water	Darrell	Michelle Stockness, Meleah, Sarah	3 rd Thursday 8:00-9:00 am Wilde Roast	
Air Climate	Ross	Michelle Schroeder, Meleah, Sarah, Lisa, Pat, Shalini, Marty, Alexis, Kevin, Tony	2 nd Thursday 4:00 Common Roots	Climate Action Plan Env Justice Energy Efficiency Renewables
Utility Franchise	Michelle Schroeder	Brian, Pat, Meleah, Sarah, Lisa, Shalini, Roxanne		
Outreach	Annette			
Climate Action Plan				