

## CEAC Meeting Minutes – August 28, 2013

**Attendance:** Ross Abbey, Kevin Bengtson, Marty Broan, Lisa Daniels, Darrell Gerber, Tony Hainault, Meleah Houseknecht, Roxanne O'Brien, Annette Rondano, Michelle Schroeder, Michelle Stockness, Alexis Troschinetz,

**Others in Attendance:** Mike Bull, Robin Garwood, Darrin Larr, Mike Luke, Nick Mark, Liza O'Reilly, Gayle Prest, Brendon Slotterback, Al Swintek,

**Absences:** Shalini Gupta, Pat Mulloy, Jennifer Ringold, Sarah Sponheim, Jamison Tessneer

### Meeting Minutes and Agenda

Darrell Gerber opened the meeting at 3 pm. Agenda and minutes were approved.

### Announcements

1. Hennepin County will be having more Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection events soon. Tony passed out information.
2. Roxanne alerted people that some children in Minneapolis Public Schools fainted due to the extreme heat.
3. Kevin announced that he is leaving his job at Xcel and will be working for the Center for Energy and the Environment. He asked for CEAC to accept his resignation. Staff are asking the Mayor to appoint another industry representative.
4. Fresh Energy is having a three-part event series on solar energy. The first is for businesses and Ross will be sending out more information to the group.
5. The CEAC picnic will be held on September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 pm at Annette's house.
6. The CEAC meeting agendas will be distributed by GovDelivery, the City's email listserve service. This will allow everyone who is interested, including CEAC members, to receive a notice of meeting times and agendas. You can sign up for the list at: [https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MPLS/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=MPLS\\_184](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MPLS/subscriber/new?topic_id=MPLS_184)
7. There were no Environmental Coordinating Team updates. The September 9<sup>th</sup> RE&E meeting will have two items that CEAC has acted on: the Energy Vision document and the Sherco comments to the PUC.

### Support for Submitting Comments on Xcel's Sherco Plant

There is a window of opportunity for stakeholders to comment on Xcel's next Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), which includes the Sherco Power Plant. The plant is a very large coal plant, and the single largest greenhouse gas emitter in the state. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) is asking for comments on the future of units 1 and 2, the oldest units, in the 2014 IRP. Ross made a motion that CEAC ask the City Council to submit comments that ask Xcel to include a timeline for replacing Sherco units 1 and 2 with cleaner sources of electricity to the Public Utilities Commission.

Alexis and Tony suggested an addition to the motion to clarify what CEAC understood about the plant, and then make a statement about what CEAC was asking the City Council to do. Ross indicated he would revise the statement.

Kevin abstained from the vote, all others voted in favor. Gayle said would forward it to the Regulatory, Energy & Environment Committee for their meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:30.

### Presentations by Centerpoint, Xcel and Minneapolis Energy Options

At the June meeting, CEAC voted to ask Xcel, Centerpoint, and Minneapolis Energy Options to present at a meeting to talk about the franchise agreement negotiations and the Climate Action Plan to understand their approach and what role CEAC can play.

Centerpoint, Xcel and Minneapolis Energy Options each presented to CEAC and accepted questions.

1. Roxanne asked a question about whether utilities would invest in air conditioning for public schools that don't have air conditioning. Utilities responded that they couldn't pay for air conditioning, but could help design systems if schools came forward with resources.
2. Michelle asked the utilities whether they would support legislation to allow inclusion of more renewables into the franchise agreement process. Xcel responded that they didn't think the franchise agreement was the appropriate place to have energy policy, since they have so many different franchise agreements across the state. Xcel stated that they are looking for a way to move these goals forward, and they have made a commitment to be a part of conversations with the City. Centerpoint said there is a way to formalize commitments with the City outside of the franchise agreement. There may be ways to meet these goals without a change to laws or a change to franchise agreements. John Farrell said that if CEAC is frustrated with the current process, it should support the current energy pathways study and its outcomes. Robin Garwood stated that the City passed a resolution to re-adopt the previously legislative agenda item advocating for the change to franchise legislation. Robin stated that we have the capacity to create energy goals, but very little agency to impact those goals. Robin summarized the rest of the motion passed by the Council to move forward with the work of the Energy Pathways Study.
3. Meleah asked what structure for the discussions the energy utilities would like to see if the franchise agreement wasn't the appropriate place to identify work going forward. Centerpoint would like to see significant, ongoing dialog with the City and CEAC including formal and informal discussions. Mike Bull said that this kind of dialog is unique and new for both communities and utilities and it's really an evolution. It will take some concentrated, sustained activity. Centerpoint also said it's a little unknown what the next steps are. There are some models, like Centerpoint programs for multi-family housing.
4. Lisa asked what the committee might look like and how it might be organized. Xcel said they'd like to know what committee they should engage with and who should be on it. Centerpoint said this committee should be empowered to actually make change. Brendon said that staff are in conversations right now about the ongoing meeting structure, and that some of the discussion would depend on the outcome of the Energy Pathways Study and that the continued dialog shouldn't get out ahead of the study results.

Ross made a motion to have a cutoff of the discussion on this issue at 5 pm and allow for subcommittee updates after 5 pm for those who could stay. This motion was approved by a majority.

5. Darrell said the definition of equity, which both utilities addressed in a certain way, goes beyond the jobs question to include the upstream impacts such as the impacts of generation and the impacts at the point of energy use. He asked how the utilities would address these issues. Centerpoint said that is an issue, for example in the data privacy realm where they can't use energy heating assistance information to target efficiency programs. The ongoing privacy docket at the PUC may address this issue. Xcel said they address that in many ways and suggested maybe that needs to be a specific focus for the dialog going forward.
6. Roxanne suggested that we should talk about low income communities using different language, such as using the term "under-resourced communities". She suggested that the utilities should make these communities a priority for investment. She said that we won't be able to address the challenges until we address the historic inequities.

## **Subcommittee Updates**

Climate Action Plan Priorities Task Force – the Air & Climate subcommittee will be suspended for two months and a new task force will be formed. The Task Force will look at the process to prioritize work on the Climate Action Plan strategies. Ross will circulate a doodle to find a time for people to meet for this task force.

Outreach – The Outreach subcommittee is looking for new members. The subcommittee is looking for the appropriate vehicle to do communication, but hasn't figured it out yet. The subcommittee will report back next month.

Less Waste – The composting study has been postponed, so the subcommittee doesn't have any new details. Sarah is working on some information about C&D waste.

Water – The subcommittee is planning the drinking water plant tour. There are other items that the subcommittee continues to work on.

Utility Franchise – No updates, the subcommittee worked on organizing the presentations today and has worked on many issues that have come before the Council recently.

**Future meeting agenda items**

- Previous superfund sites in Minneapolis?
- Conversation about contaminants of emerging concern.
- Film “Unnatural Causes” – 30 minutes
- A film fest meeting where CEAC members submit video or pieces they are interested in – Ross suggested he might be willing to curate.
- Clean Air Dialogue process?
- Tours?
- Updates from members on their work?

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

**CEAC Subcommittees  
September 2013**

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