

CEAC Meeting Minutes – September 25, 2013

Attendance: Ross Abbey, Marty Broan, Lisa Daniels, Darrell Gerber, Shalini Gupta, Tony Hainault, Meleah Houseknecht, Pat Mulloy, Roxxanne O'Brien, Annette Rondano, Michelle Schroeder, Sarah Sponheim, Michelle Stockness, Alexis Troschinetz,

Others in Attendance: Julia Eagles, Robin Garwood, Gayle Prest, Casie Schennum, Brendon Slotterback,

Absences: Jennifer Ringold, Jamison Tessneer

Meeting Minutes and Agenda

Sarah indicated that the minutes from August need to be changed to indicate she was not in attendance. The minutes were approved. Annette took the Outreach subcommittee update off the agenda as the group will not be formed without more volunteers. Amended agenda was approved.

Announcements

1. On Friday there is a legislative coaching meeting with Representative Steve Simon. If you're interested in advancing bills at the legislature, this will be a valuable educational session. Michelle would like volunteers to attend to make sure enough people are attending to warrant a session. After this training, meetings may be set up with Representatives who may be advancing the franchise and municipalization bills.
2. The City filed comments with the PUC that Xcel should plan to close Sherco coal plant Units 1 and 2 in their updated resource plan. Xcel will be filing this plan soon.
3. The City Council received the Energy Vision that was part of the Energy Pathways Study. CEAC played a key role in shaping the Energy Vision.
4. A staff person from the EPA visited Powderhorn Lake to tour some of the cleanup efforts that have occurred at the lake. It is a national model.
5. There are many meetings going on regarding solar, including topics such as community solar gardens and value of solar. Gayle, other city staff, and other advocates are attending these meetings to give input and shape the results.
6. ACEEE ranked Minneapolis as #8 of the 34 largest US cities in terms of energy efficiency. They commented on the work on utility franchise agreements and the building disclosure policy. The report says more work is needed on transportation issues.
7. The Freshwater Society is holding an event on the science of Asian Carp on the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota on October 8th from 7 – 9 pm.
8. Car2Go has rolled out as part of the response to the City's RFP for curbside car sharing. ZipCar and HourCar will soon have more curbside spaces. Car2Go is free to join right now with a discount code. They are small blue and white cars parked throughout the city.
9. Council Member Gordon is hosting a roundtable Discussion about the threats and opportunities facing our urban tree canopy, for October 7, 7-8:30pm, at Longfellow Park, 3435 36th Ave S. They will discuss the tree loss from this summer's storm, Emerald Ash Borer, the importance of watering trees, and the Longfellow Trees program. You can find out more about Longfellow Trees here: <http://www.longfellow.org/trees/>
10. Minnehaha Ave Cycle Track update: Hennepin County has decided to move forward with a bike lane design for Minnehaha Avenue. There have been three public meetings and petitions that have been signed by almost a thousand Minnehaha road users; you can read more on the second ward blog: <http://secondward.blogspot.com>.
11. It is Choose to Reuse Month. Tony passed out coupon books. Hennepin County also has a mobile app that gives you access to the coupons.
12. Nancy Lo at Hennepin County started Fix-It Clinics last year. 12 clinics were held last year, and 638 people participated. Clinics encourage you to bring your broken items and volunteers will help you fix them. They repaired 932 items for a 75% repair rate. The clinics diverted two tons

from the waste stream. The next Fix-It clinics will be in the fall. Check Hennepin County Environmental Service's Facebook page for more details.

13. There is a new business recycling grant program. Grants are available in two programs – one is to support businesses in adopting a recycling program and has funds up to \$10,000. The second grant program is competitive and is up to \$50,000.
14. In the future, CEAC agendas will be distributed via GovDelivery, but staff will also email it directly to CEAC members since some CEAC members experienced problems receiving the agenda via GovDelivery.

Subcommittee Updates

Less Waste – The source separated organics collection study is in final draft form. David Herberholz, Director Minneapolis Solid Waste and Recycling was at the subcommittee meeting talking about the results. The report identifies options and the tone of the report says it's very feasible to expand the program citywide. The subcommittee will be reading it carefully and asking questions of Dave. The subcommittee will also be exploring a plastic bag ban and a ban or fee on polystyrene food containers. Plastic bags create problems for the single-sort recycling system.

There was a question about multi-family recycling programs for organics. Hennepin County has built infrastructure for large producers of the waste like schools, restaurants, etc. to process the waste. There are economies of scale in working with these producers. The availability of organics recycling in multifamily properties is now determined by the landlord and the waste hauler.

Water – The subcommittee is trying to find a date to meet. CEAC has recommended to the Council to support closing the locks to protect the upper reaches of the river from Asian Carp. The U.S. Senate has passed the Water Resources Act which would close the lock within a year. The House has introduced their first draft version of the same bill, which contains similar language. The subcommittee is also working on arranging a tour of a water treatment plant.

Climate Action Plan Priorities Task Force – The subcommittee will be meeting for the first time on October 4th at 3 pm in City Hall, Room 132. They will likely meet twice before making any recommendations to full CEAC. They will review the Climate Action Plan, hear from staff on discussions among departments about priorities, and discuss the priorities of those who attend.

Environmental Justice – Shalini distributed a handout on potential key areas of work that a new Environmental Justice Working Group would address. The long-term goal is that an EJ perspective is incorporated into all things that CEAC does, but there is a realization that in the short term there is a space for work to be done. Key areas of work:

1. Recruitment of 2015 CEAC members that represent our city.
2. Integration of equity measures into City Sustainability Indicators.
3. Implementation of a City Environmental Justice Ordinance.
4. CEAC recommendation on HERC as it relates to City Council vote.
5. CEAC Member and staff trainings/education on environmental justice: racial justice trainings; viewing of Place Matters clip from Unnatural Causes movie.
6. Support the integration of environmental justice into other working groups (i.e. Energy Pathways Study and Climate Action Plan Priority settings has racial and economic justice as a central piece).

Pat had a concern that by making a separate group, discussion of the topic could be avoided by the larger group. Other subcommittees should work to incorporate these issues into their approach. Shalini said the intention is not to separate the issue, but rather the opposite. A separate subcommittee can explore the issue and report back to full CEAC, eventually this subcommittee might not be needed. Shalini will send out information on meeting times to the whole group so people can attend if they would like.

Franchise Agreements – There are two bills at the legislature to give cities more flexibility in their franchise fees and in establishing municipal utilities. The subcommittee is discussing how to advance these bills. CM Glidden let CEAC know that they can influence the cities future decisions on energy issues. CM Glidden said she wants CEAC to be involved in the Climate Action Plan. Many groups are working on these issues right now at the legislative and PUC level; please make an introduction from CEAC if you have the opportunity. The group will meet quarterly with different City Council members to discuss franchise issues and with outside groups to explore issues.

Pat expressed a desire to have more input on the Pathways Study than has currently been planned.

Gayle said the legislative session would be short and would not focus primarily on the environment. Darrell said the group should think about a longer timeframe, like 3-5 years, to set the stage for bigger things we want to work towards at the legislature.

Future meeting agenda items – October 23rd and December 4th

- Contaminants of emerging concern speaker can't make October.
- Place Matters clip in October
- CAP Priorities Task Force report in October
- A film festival meeting may happen in 2014.

Subcommittee break-outs

Each subcommittee met individually to discuss priorities and their agenda items.

Adjournment The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

**CEAC Subcommittees
October 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 Suspended for two months)	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, Roxxanne		
Environmental Justice	Shalini	Roxxanne		
Climate Action Plan Task Force	Ross	See Air Climate		