

CEAC Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2014

Attendance: Ross Abbey, Darrell Gerber, Shalini Gupta, James Nash, Lisa Daniels, Eduardo Cardenas, Marty Broan, Michelle Schroeder, Brian Ross

Others in Attendance: Gayle Prest, Julia Eagles, Al Swintek, Savannah Devies, Brendon Slotterback

Absences: Jamison Tessneer, Meleah Houseknecht, Tony Hainault, Jennifer Ringold, , Alexis Troshinetz, Roxxanne O'Brien, Sam Grant, Pat Mulloy, Michelle Stockness

Approval of Agenda and January minutes

Michelle Schroeder suggested that the agenda be amended to discuss reinstating Brian Ross to CEAC after he took a leave to work on the Pathways Study. Darrell suggested that this go before the Subcommittee Updates.

Minutes were not officially approved because there was no quorum.

Announcements

1. ECT update: ECT has not met since the last CEAC meeting.
2. The Energy Pathways Study and the Climate Action Plan priorities were presented at the last HECE meeting. The Study was accepted with a staff direction to pursue the recommendations through the franchise negotiations. The two-year climate action priorities were adopted.
3. Earth Hour is March 29th 8:30 – 9:30 pm. Earth Hour asks people to turn off their lights for an hour as a symbolic effort. The City will turn out lights in public buildings and on the Stone Arch Bridge.
4. The Community Connections Conference is Saturday, March 22nd. Registration is free, and the conference is open to anyone interested in neighborhood issues. <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/CommunityConnectionsConference>
5. The One Minneapolis Grant Fund is now available and grants are focused on equity issues. Applications are due April 7th. <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/WCMS1P-121376>
5. Ordering for the City Trees program starts March 17th. Order your tree at: <http://treetrust.org>
6. The City has a draft of the new Vision, Goals and Strategic Directions available for public comment. This document will guide the city's work over the next four years. Comments will be accepted through March 14th.
7. The Clean Energy and Jobs Coalition rally will be at the State Capitol on April 22nd at 4 pm.
8. Environmental Initiative has a Beyond Zero Waste event on May 9th 7:30 am.
9. The Zero Waste Community Forum hosted by Minneapolis council members and Congressman Keith Ellison is on March 20th, 6 pm at the Walker Methodist Church.
10. On Monday, March 17th city staff will be presenting to Transportation and Public Works Committee on the proposed next steps and costs for developing a citywide organics recycling program.
11. Yesterday the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) adopted a Value of Solar rate formula. Minnesota is the first state in the nation to do so. Xcel will use this value for community solar projects, and could adopt the rate for other solar projects.
12. The PUC also made improvements to the Community Solar program. Interconnections of new projects could start happening this fall.

13. There will be a webinar on solar thermal energy on Wednesday put on by the State Department of Energy Resources.
14. There will be a Metro CERT Spring resource and networking event on April 17th from 4 to 8 pm at Como Park Zoo & Observatory in St. Paul.

Energy Pathways Update

Brendon gave a presentation on the Energy Pathways Study to CEAC. The presentation was similar to what was presented to HECE in March.

HECE Direction on Long-Term Carbon Emissions Reduction Goal

The City Council directed Sustainability staff to work with CEAC to develop a long term carbon emissions reduction goal, to supplement the City's short- and mid-term goals of 15% by 2015 and 30% by 2025. Staff must report back to HECE with a recommendation no later than April 14, 2014.

The Air & Climate subcommittee met before the CEAC meeting and saw a presentation from staff on what it would mean to adopt a long-term goal, and some goals that other entities have adopted. Staff will bring a presentation to the full CEAC in April.

As HECE meets the Monday after the next CEAC meeting, CEAC should have any recommendation ready prior to the April CEAC meeting for circulation and editing. CEAC's recommendation would need to be sent to HECE members the day after the April meeting.

Subcommittee Updates

Water

Michelle sent out a written update to the group about things that the subcommittee is working on:

- Identify potential pollutant discharges to storm sewers that are not currently known, identify audiences that are not being reached- action item 3.7 from the City's Stormwater Management Program
- Look into the Envision program, a sustainability rating system for infrastructure
- Discuss climate adaptation planning with relevant City staff
- Revise water sustainability indicators

Darrell gave an update on Asian Carp. There were Asian Carp eggs found 20 miles south of the Minnesota border. That was 250 miles further north than they had been found before. The bill to close the Upper Saint Anthony lock in Minneapolis is in conference committee in Congress. It was part of the RRDA bill. The controversy around lock closure in the bill has been resolved. The bill says simply that the lock will be closed one year after the bill passes. The projection is that the bill will be completed in April. Gayle attended a forum today and congressional staff were not optimistic about the bills potential to pass this year. The Upper Harbor Terminal that Minneapolis owns will be closed at the end of the year.

The subcommittee will meet April 2nd at 8 am at Wilde Roast Café. Going forward the meeting date will be the first Wednesday of the month.

Less Waste

The City Council may be looking at a Citywide zero waste policy. Alexis can give a longer update at the next meeting.

Franchise

The subcommittee decided not to dissolve. There will be overlap between this subcommittee and the Air & Climate subcommittee. Michelle sent out updates to CEAC via email. The next meeting is Monday, April 7th.

Air & Climate

The subcommittee will be reviewing the long-term carbon goals to send a recommendation to CEAC for the April meeting. The subcommittee will be looking at the list of 2-year climate action plan priorities to identify items they might want to work on. The next meeting will be April 10th, right before the regular CEAC meeting.

Environmental Justice

The group sent out the letter about the recommendations around EJ month to the City Council members. Some members are meeting with Council Member Cano and Glidden. The subcommittee will meet the third Thursday of each month at 12:30 pm. The next meeting will be at Maria's Café. The next meeting will be getting speakers organized for the topics that were identified in the letter to the Council. There is an emergency response event on the south side being planned by a community organization.

Potential future agenda items

- Long-term carbon reduction goals recommendations
- Reinstating Brian as a regular CEAC member
- Reviewing the focuses and work of each committee

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:25p.m.