

CEAC Meeting Minutes – February 18, 2014

Attendance: Ross Abbey, Darrell Gerber, Shalini Gupta, Alexis Troschinetz, Roxanne O'Brien, Sam Grant, James Nash, Pat Mulloy, Lisa Daniels, Michelle Stockness

Others in Attendance: Andrea Jenkins, Gayle Prest, Aisha Gomez, Eduardo Cardenas, Steve Donse, Brendon Slotterback

Absences: Jamison Tessneer, Meleah Houseknecht, Tony Hainault, Marty Broan, Jennifer Ringold, Michelle Schroeder,

Approval of Agenda and January minutes

Agenda approved unanimously. Minutes – update to reflect that Michelle Stockness was absent. Amended minutes approved unanimously.

Announcements

1. New CEAC member Eduardo Cardenas is going through the City Council approval process.
2. At February 10th HECE meeting the City Council passed a ban on triclosan in products purchased by the City and added it to the state and federal legislative agenda.
3. The Energy Pathways Study will be presented at the HECE meeting on Monday the 24th at 1:30 pm. The study will be posted online on Friday. Gayle will send out a link to the study when it is up on the website.
4. The City has a number of vacancies on various boards and commissions. Please direct any interested applicants to the City's website.
5. The City Trees program will be open for orders on March 17th at 8 am. Trees are \$25. Tree pick up is in May.
6. This weekend is the Izaak Walton League's annual wetlands summit. Topics addressed will include invasive species, agricultural pollution, and restoring wetlands. If anyone is interested, contact Darrell for details.
7. Hennepin County has withdrawn their permit request to be allowed to burn more waste at HERC. They also want Minneapolis to have a plan for expanding curbside organics collection citywide by the end of 2014.
8. Many things are happening around solar energy production. The Made in Minnesota solar PV incentive application deadline is February 28th. There was a public hearing on community solar gardens today the Public Utilities Commission. The first community solar garden project has been fully subscribed, and the project is in Minneapolis on Lake Street.
9. CEAC completed the Climate Action Plan Priorities recommendation letter to send to HECE. Darrell will work with City staff to get the letter sent to the committee.
10. Staff will present a report on the Climate Action Plan priorities to the HECE Committee on Monday.

Election of Chair & Vice Chair

CEAC elects a Chair and Vice Chair for one-year terms, and they must do so by the second meeting per the bylaws. The Chair runs the meetings, works with staff to develop the agenda, and coordinates the year-end review document. CEAC members nominated candidates for chair and used an anonymous voting process to hold the election.

Lisa Daniels nominated Darrell Gerber to be chair. Shalini nominated Alexis as chair or vice chair. Alexis said she was not interested in chair, but would serve as Vice Chair. Members voted to elect Darrell, with one abstention.

Shalini and Alexis were both nominated to be Vice Chair. Members gave brief speeches about why they nominated Shalini and Alexis for the position, and Alexis and Shalini gave brief speeches. Shalini won the ballot and was elected Vice Chair.

Approval of 2014 CEAC Meeting Dates

CEAC chose to meet on the second Thursdays of each month from 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm. This decision was approved unanimously.

Discussion of Draft Environmental Justice Letter to City Council

Shalini provided background on the environmental justice topics CEAC has reviewed and the establishment of the racial equity environmental justice subcommittee. The subcommittee has been meeting monthly since October.

The subcommittee drafted a letter to the City Council which marks the 20th Anniversary of the Environmental Justice Executive Order from the White House. The letter identifies near-term actions that the City of Minneapolis should take on environmental justice issues.

Darrell suggested that a good addition may be to make a recommendation about incorporating environmental justice issues in the Comprehensive Plan.

Ross suggested that adding mention in the letter of EPA administrator Gina McCarthy recently naming February "Environmental Justice month".

Michelle Stockness suggested that a sentence be added to state that the EJ Working Group will be working on the items listed in the letter in the coming years, and will make recommendations to the Council on how they could be implemented.

Pat moved that CEAC vote on the letter and let Shalini and Darrell make the above edits. This action was approved unanimously.

Subcommittee Updates

Darrell asked that in the future subcommittees send updates electronically in advance of the meeting so that CEAC meeting time could be used more effectively.

Darrell also suggested that CEAC consider what subcommittees people are interested in and how they should be organized to be most effective. Subcommittee may need to be reorganized, combined or eliminated.

Less Waste

The subcommittee has not been active recently. Alexis volunteered to chair the Less Waste subcommittee.

Water

The subcommittee met with Lois Eberhart in Public Works to discuss her goals and what she is working on related to surface water and stormwater management. The subcommittee may work to help identify where illicit discharges into the surface water system are happening.

The Asian Carp bill that could close the lock and dam in Minneapolis is working its way through Congress, but passage of the bill is tenuous at this point.

Utility Franchise

Michelle sent out an update via email, which was passed out to members. On March 17th there will be a hearing at the Minnesota Legislature to provide an update to members on Minneapolis' work on energy. Lisa updated the group on some discussions happening in the state related to changing the business model of utilities to more effectively align with climate and energy goals. Xcel recently convened some focus groups of customers, and many of the questions that Xcel asked of participants dealt with what will happen in the future, and also what kind of programs they would like to have access to through their utility.

Michelle would like to know if others would be interested in the committee. The subcommittee will meet the second Tuesdays of the month over lunch. Lisa volunteered to host the meetings at her office.

Climate & Air

The subcommittee has identified a few items in the Climate Action Plan priorities list that they could take on that didn't have an obvious champion. Two of those programs might be reviewing the mechanical permit fee structure and how to establish a multifamily energy efficiency program.

The subcommittee will meet the hour before the regular CEAC meeting each month.

Racial Equity Environmental Justice

The subcommittee will switch the meeting date to the third Thursday of each month. CEAC members who are part of the subcommittee include Pat, Sam, Roxanne, Shalini, Darrell, Tony, and Alexis. The subcommittee will be finding a new, quieter meeting space. The subcommittee will be working on the items listed in the letter to the City Council.

Future agenda items

- Pathways study review
- Shakopee presentation or tour
- Presentation from Alexis on book on leadership in multicultural age
- Consideration of a long-term carbon reduction goal

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

**CEAC Subcommittees
March 2014**

	Chair	Members	Typical meeting times	2013 ideas
Less Waste	Alexis	Jamison, Annette, Diane, Tony, Ross, Sarah	2:00-3:00 before CEAC meeting	Construction debris Organics
Water	Michelle Stockness	Meleah, Darrell	3 rd Thursday 8:00-9:00 am Wilde Roast	
Utility Franchise	Michelle Schroeder	Brian, Pat, Meleah, Sarah, Lisa, Shalini, Roxxanne		
Environmental Justice	Shalini	Roxxanne, Tony, Andrea, Darrell, Sam	Franklin Library?	
Climate Air	Ross	Michelle Schroeder, Meleah, Lisa, Pat, Shalini, Marty, Alexis, Kevin, Tony		

Each CEAC member is asked to join and actively participate on at least one subcommittee