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# Memo

**Date: 8/21/2024**

**To: ETAC**

**From: Carla Vita, Director Energy Transition**

## RE: Minutes

### Background

Attachment A has the submitted minutes for the April 23, 2024 ETAC meeting for ETAC Board consideration.

### Recommendation

Approve minutes.

Roll call vote.

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE**

**ENERGY TRANSITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**HYBRID OVER TEAMS AND PHYSICALLY AT THE**

**CITY OF OAK PARK HEIGHTS CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2024**

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Energy Transition Advisory Committee met in Regular Session and ETAC Chair Marshall Hallock welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order at 1:00pm at the City of Oak Park Heights City Hall Council Chambers, Oak Park Heights, MN. Roll call was taken.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Representing** | **Name** | **Status** |
| **Voting** |  |  |
| Senate Majority Appointment | **Grant Hauschild** | **Absent** |
| Senate Minority Appointment | **Karin Housley** | **Absent** |
| Speaker of the House Appointment | **Josiah Hill** | **Absent** |
| House Minority Appointment | **Shane Mekeland** | **Absent** |
| Prairie Island Member | **Michael Childs Jr** | **Absent** |
| Impacted Communities - County Representative #1 | **Tamara Lowney** | **Present** |
| Impacted Communities - Municipal Representative #1 | **Marshall Hallock** | **Present** |
| Impacted Communities - County Representative #2 | **Gregg Felber** | **Present** |
| Impacted Communities - Municipal Representative #2 | **Mary McComber** | **Present** |
| Impacted Worker at Impacted Facility #1 | **Mike Hoppe** | **Present** |
| Impacted Worker at Impacted Facility #2 | **Kristin Renskers** | **Present** |
| Impacted Worker at Impacted Facility #3 | **Luke Lallemont** | **Present** |
| Impacted Worker Employed by Company under Contract | **Richard Sackett** | **Present** |
| Professional Economic Development or Workforce Retraining Experience Representative | **Abigail Wozniak** | **Present** |
| Utilities that Operate an impacted Facility #1 | **Trisha Duncan** | **Present** |
| Utilities that Operate an impacted Facility #2 | **Joshua Skelton** | **Present** |
| Nonprofit Organization with expertise and experience delivering energy efficiency and conservation programs | **Alyssa Eilers** | **Present** |
| Coalition of Utility Cities Representative | **Shane Zahrt** | **Present** |
|  |  |  |
| **Non-Voting** |  |  |
| Commissioner - Department of Employment and Economic Development (or Designee) | **Matt Varilek** | **Present** |
| Commissioner - Department of Commerce (or Designee) | **Sydnie Lieb** | **Present** |
| Commissioner - Department of Labor and Industry (or Designee) | **Jeremy Parker** | **Present** |
| Commissioner - Department of Revenue (or Designee) | **Jeremy Neeck** | **Absent** |
| Executive Secretary of the Public Utilities Commission (or Designee) | **William Seuffert** | **Present** |
| Commissioner - Pollution Control Agency (or Designee) | **Frank Kohlasch** | **Present** |
| Chancellor - Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (or Designee) | **Rose Patzer** | **Present** |
| Governor (or Designee) | **Nicauris Heredia Rosario** | **Absent** |

DEED Staff also present: Kevin McKinnon, Catalina Valencia, Darielle Dannen, Mike McCrownsey and Carla Vita

1. Call for Nominations
	1. ETAC Chair

Hallock opened the floor to nominations for ETAC Chair. Due to State Statute his two year term is up.

Motion by Mc Comber for Lowney as Chair, seconded by Eilers. Lowney accepts.

Motion by Hoppe for Hallock as Chair. Hallock declines.

No other motions.

Unanimous roll call vote for Lowney as Chair.

McComber thanks Hallock for his years of service. Hallock thanks all on ETAC for their work for workers and communities impacted by power plant closures.

* 1. ETAC Vice-Chair

Motion by Lowney for McComber as Vice-Chair, seconded by Hallock. No other nominations. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

1. Welcome & Transition Community Details by Mayor Mary McComber, City of Oak Park Heights

Vice-Chair and Mayor of Oak Park Heights provided a welcome and overview of the planning, community outreach and communication with Xcel Energy. She welcomed all to review the documents on the City’s website and offered her knowledge to those with questions.

1. Welcome to Dr. Sydnie Lieb, Dept of Commerce Representative

Chair Lowney provided a welcome to Lieb. She is replacing Miltich as the representative for the Department of Commerce.

1. Approve February 6, 2024 Minutes – Roll Call Vote

Motion by McComber, second by Hoppe to approve the February 6, 2024, minutes as presented. Roll Call vote passed unanimously.

1. Presentation by Minnesota Public Utility Commission Vice-Chair Sullivan and Executive Director Seuffert

Minnesota Public Utility Commission Vice-Chair Sullivan and Executive Director Seuffert presented on the PUC. Items discussed included that the commissioners are appointed, exparte rules, open meeting law, Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) process, their mission, and more. Sullivan educated that the PUC welcomes participation from cities, counties, and others. He informed that every comment is read in the democratic process. Seuffert educated that more information can be asked for during the process.

Hallock informed that the energy landscape has evolved and the conversation has not historically incorporated workers and the community.

Zahrt requested that the presenters educate on public engagement opportunities. Seuffert indicated that public meetings are informal, convened by staff, open to the public, and information is recorded. Public hearings are administered by an administrative law judge and reports to the PUC Commissioners, these are also public meetings.

The intent of PUC meetings is for the commissioners to discuss a project in front of them.

Lowney stated that MN Power is working on their IRP. She inquired to how cost comparison is looked at within the IRP. Sullivan informed that cost is sritical to their work. He stated that they look at every dollar to see if it is justified.

Sullivan informed that Minnesota’s cost for energy is near the national average. That the residential electric costs are near the lowest in the US. Conservation is an important part to having lower electric bills.

Sullivan educated that many state do not have resource planning like Minnesota does.

Seuffert informed that transmission and distribution planning is also very important in the work of the PUC.

Seuffert stated that economic impacts are important for communities and offered that communities can write to the PUC to offer options, conditions and ideas to address their concerns.

Hallock inquired to the PUC’s confidence to meet the 2040 goals. Sullivan stated that his is confident.

Hallock stated that IRPs appear to become a longer process and document. He inquired if this is anticipated to continue. Sullivan informed that Becker plant closure took a lot of consideration. He stated that resource plans are reviewed on a regular cadence.

Hallock stated that the transition in electric generation we are witnessing is a once in a life time event. Is it possible to review everything by February 2025 for IRP 24-67. Sullivan stated that the PUC wants a regular cadence of review. He educated that if the PUC wants to delay a decision that a public hearing is needed. Sullivan continued that data centers use significant electricity and impact electric load significantly.

Vita inquired to how impacted communities and counties can assure that their concerns are addressed. Seuffert informed that communities and counties can work together, building consensus with the utilities, labor and others to find a solution or solutions to address concerns outside of the IRP process.

This potential could expedite the process and bring ideas to the PUC for their consideration. Seuffert educated that the PUC wants to hear from people and that they rely on the information that is submitted to them. He used an example information that the PUC receives from MNDOT, Ag, DEED and others.

Zahrt affirmed that participation is important. He stated that dockets are huge but if shows more conversation regarding PUC matters. He stated that the PUC Commissioners care.

Lowney stated that communities lack capacity and outreach is important.

1. IRP updates
	1. MN Power

Jennifer Kuklenski, Senior Public Policy Advisor for Minnesota Power provided a presentation on the IRP process. MN Power works closely with stakeholders within their geographic area. She discussed their customer mix and how that creates it own challenges. Kuklenski stated that the current IRP process is complex and many meetings are upcoming for involvement.

Hallock inquired to the workers and if the people that were impacted in the last closures were retained. Kuklenski stated that she would need to investigate and get back to Hallock. Hallock inquired if the MN Power IRP requires that workers be addressed. Kuklenski stated that it does. Hallock inquired whether they anticipate lay-offs in the future. Kuklenski stated that she does not know, but the company has numerous openings. Lowney stated that with Boswell closing, it is going to be difficult for people to stay in their home community.

* 1. Xcel Energy

Duncan informed that the Xcel IRP was discussed in detail at the February 2024 ETAC meeting and she does not have any additional updates.

Sullivan discussed the meetings all over MN regarding the IRP. He continued that supplemental comment are anticipated in September.

McComber inquired to where the meetings can be located. Duncan stated the PUC website. Duncan stated she would send to Vita to send out.

Hallock inquired to any additional meetings. Duncan stated that they have quarterly meetings with Becker and Oak Park Heights. Hallock indicated in the past Xcel held workshops with their IRP. Duncan stated that workshops are planned.

1. Legislative Update - Adding a School Representative to ETAC

Dannen informed that ETAC’s request to add a K-12 school representative to ETAC was brought to the legislature. She informed that the bill language in the Senate was passed and it is currently at the House.

1. Request to consider Workforce Sub-Committee

Vita stated that the workers are an important part of ETAC. Staff was considering adding a workforce sub-committee and the idea was verified with the ETO strategic planning meetings in which the idea was also brought up.

Motion by McComber, second by Sacket to create a Workforce Sub-committee. Wozniak inquired to the vision of the sub-committee. Vita stated to stay abreast of the worker situation at both MN Power and Xcel Energy, learn from best practices from other impacted locations within the US, and stay current on other workforce items that we are not envisioning currently.

Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

Volunteers include: Sacket, Hoppe, Renskers, Wozniak, Hallock, Lowney and Parker.

1. Updates
	1. Emerging Issues Sub-Committee

Vita informed that the sub-committee met two times with the Department of Revenue regarding an idea that they are investigating. The idea is a change in the taxation of power plants among other utility infrastructure. The Department of Revenue assisted with the sub-committee’s questions and due to inquiries they delayed their response date to assist in the process.

* 1. ETAC Plan

Vita informed that State Statute requires a yearly update to the ETAC plan. She anticipates that changes will be minimal: Updates to impacted communities, communities to be included, and their respective info. Vita requested a few volunteers to assist in the document to be brought forth to the full board for their review at their next meeting for any comments. The goal being a completed update by years end in preparation for the 2025 legislative session.

Hallock, McComber, Zahrt and Felber all volunteered to participate in assisting in updating the plan.

* 1. EQB

Memo was provided.

* 1. MN State Colleges and Universities

Patzer stated no updates.

* 1. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Kohlasch stated no updates.

* 1. Department of Revenue

Neeck did not attend the meeting and no other Revenue staff attended. No updates.

* 1. Department of Labor and Industry

Parker stated no updates.

* 1. Department of Commerce

Leib had left the meeting, so nothing was reported.

Hallock stated that he appreciated the updates from PUC and EQB. Updates are important especially as the ETAC plan is integrated with the work of other state agencies. He encouraged memos to be submitted for future ETAC meetings.

* 1. ETO Strategic Plan

Vita informed that the ETO office, which supports ETAC, but has its own set of Statutory requirements, held a strategic planning session. The session was held at no cost to the ETAC/ETO by the DEED Innovation Lab. For the planning Vita invited DEED staff representing business development, workforce strategies, ETO grants; impacted cities – coal and nuclear, impacted county, non-profit, Prairie Island Indian Community, Coalition of Utility Cities, and Federal Intergovernmental Working Group/Environmental Protection Agencies – plus the other hats each wears. The work was significant and will assist the ETO in the work for the impacted communities, counties and workers.

Hallock stated that the meeting was great and really will help focus the work. Many bumps in the road will occur.

Other – Lowney requested a doodle poll to assist in coordination of the next ETAC meeting – specifically focusing on Wednesdays or Thursdays.

1. Adjourn – Roll Call Vote

Motion by Hallock, second by McComber to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.