

ENERGY ALLIANCE OF NEBRASKA COMMITTEE AGENDA

Thursday, July 13, 2006, 1:00PM-3:00 p.m.

Host: Char Reiman and Kinder Morgan

610 South Central

Kearney, NE

(308-380-8634)

AGENDA ITEM	Time Frame	Information	Discussion	Action
Call to Order & Introductions – Judi Martin	1:00-1:10			X
1. Confirmation of Agenda & approve minutes	1:10 – 1:15	X	X	
2. Old Business A. Committee Guidelines –approval-signing	1:15 – 1:30	X	X	X
3. Committee Reports: A. Web Page and Technology – Gwen Kautz B. Clearinghouse – Resources – Jan Davis C. Clearinghouse – Data – Judi Martin D. Conservation Education – Rick Cheloha E. Promotion and Fund Raising – Brenda Brabec F. Programs: Brenda, Jan & Judi (survey of members)	1:30 – 2:15	X	X	
4. Other Business A. Report on Joint Low Income Energy Conference- Washington DC- Judi Martin B. Member networking-sharing of ideas C. August presentation & meeting in Beatrice D. Announcement of EAN formation-when- where?	2:15 2:45	X	X	
5. Set Agenda for August 10th EAN Meeting A. Topics/programs for future meetings	2:45 – 3:00	X	X	X
6. Adjourn	3:00			X

**Energy Alliance of Nebraska
July 13, 2006 Meeting Minutes
Kinder-Morgan, Kearney, NE**

Those in attendance include:

Via Conference Call:

Linda Eidem, Northwestern
Laura Demman, Nebraska Public Service Commission
Andrea Billeter, American Red Cross
Mike Kelly, Health and Human Services
Jeff Weible, Salvation Army

Those Present:

Judi Martin, OPPD
Derek Pfeifer, Northwestern
Rick Cheloha, Loup
Pete Davis, NEO
Brenda Brabec, NPPD
Bill Lucke, Aquila
Roger Olsen, Kinder Morgan
Char Reiman, Kinder Morgan
Ronda Jaeschke, Kinder Morgan
Gwen Kautz, Dawson

Facilitator Judi Sorensen-Martin opened the committee meeting at 1:00 p.m. Minutes were approved, Brenda Brabec first motion, Rick Cheloha second motion.

Old Business:

The Energy Guideline was approved. Signing of the documentation will take place at the end of the meeting. Pictures will be taken at the time of signing. Pictures will be used for web site and any future promotions. Those not physically in attendance will sign the Guideline at the August meeting in Beatrice.

Sub-Committee reports:

Web Page and Technology – Gwen provided committee report. Looking for a web site that allowed flexibility, but yet not expensive. Also looking for reliability. Gwen has started a web site design, but waiting on the committee logo. Web site allow for file transfers from different addresses. Will have up to 10 links. Cost for six months is 30.00. Gwen will send the committee a PDF file once she gets the design completed.

Each Committee Chair will have FTP number and password which will allow the Chair to load their own document(s). Web site address: www.nebraskanenergyassistance.com

A discussion was held about changing the committee name. The committee agreed to be flexible regarding a name change.

The draft logo was reviewed. Brenda will have NPPD's graphic artist re-do logo to combine each logo presented by Gwen and Brenda.

Clearinghouse of Resources – Judi provided an update. Goal is to see how we pull all the resources available to the public where the public can access it. The United Way 211 resource referral system is very strong in the Omaha metro area. Jan and Judi met with Jamie Moore of United Way to discuss statewide coverage. 211 reaches 38 counties – 80% of Nebraska. OPPD refers customers to use 211 and is looking into its use in emergency planning. Asked Jamie Moore to attend Beatrice meeting to further explain if we can use 211 to promote our committee. Unfortunately Jamie will not be able to attend the August meeting, but Jamie will attend a meeting at another time. Judi advised committee members to go out to United Way's web site to review their resources. United Way's goal is to be the gathering point of resources. Grant/private donations was used to get intra-structure set up. Other money came from county agencies to help fund the program.

Clearinghouse of Data – Judi provided an update. Mike Kelly is Vice-Chair of the sub-committee. Focus behind committee is to pull together the census data and other data to assess the energy needs and burdens here in Nebraska. There is an abundance of studies that have been conducted but never pulled together in one statewide report. Mike and Judi will pull together different resources and will talk to UNO to see if they would help with this project. Judi routed to the committee members copies of various reports. Judi also provided copies of links that can be added to our web site for resources.

Do we want to put together some talking points – for one voice – what is the need, our concerns? Will pursue to see if Meg Power, Executive Director of Opportunities, will help guide and facilitate our group.

Conservation Education – Rick provided an update. Judi, Pete and Rick met to brainstorm. Considering the idea of having statewide energy forums, possibly in early Fall. The goal is to notify customers about utility plans, budget plans, expectations of high winter bills. Teach customers how to conserve energy, weatherize and inform customers of financial assistance thru their utility provider or other community resources available. What is our target? Low income? Senior citizens? Where are we going? What is our goal? Is it to teach conservation? How do we find these people if we decide to have state-wide forums? Can we get names of those that have had assistance in order to invite those individuals to the forums? Can HHS provide names of those receiving energy assistance so we can target them? Can HHS would release information to the media to promote the forums. Maybe contact the Housing Authority to see if they'd promote the forums. Kinder-Morgan is trying to reach the ones just a notch above poverty level. Office of Aging would be a good resource. Mike has a list of all the CAA that would be interested in joining EAN.

Would like to focus on 4-8 areas for the forums. Look for locals to conduct the forums. Provide the presenter a template to have same presentation. Each committee member to make a contact in our areas to schedule, arrange, etc.

Promotion/Fundraising – Brenda provided an update. The subcommittee discussed their vision for promotions and fundraisers, but until we have a better grasp of what utilities in the state have for energy assistance, it is very difficult to create a plan. Therefore the subcommittee felt that the first item on the agenda was to wait upon the results from the Program sub-committee's survey regarding what entities have energy assistance programs. This will help get the committee's name out. Would like to include a flyer with the survey supplying the logo, current membership, mission/vision statements and objectives.

Two different messages

- 1) To the public – advise that we have a list of resources available to them. Could be accomplished via utility company's newsletters and bill stuffers, newspaper articles.
- 2) To social service agencies, state and utilities – advise that we have a clearinghouse of information and resources.

Fundraising: Be careful so it does seem like we are drawing from our funds, rather we are building the funds. Will need to carefully review the logistics of allocating funds. Run funds thru United Way, etc.

In the future: Place EAN information in phonebooks, provide information/flyers to real estate agents, etc. May be able to apply for a grant to help cover printing/postage costs.

Programs - Judi provided an update. Two versions of a survey to utilities have been developed. There is a short version that will be sent to utilities that do not have a current energy assistance program. The longer version is for those utilities that currently have an energy assistance program. Jan will be responsible for sending the surveys to gas utilities. Judi and Brenda will send to electric utilities. The reasoning for a short version is to promote our committee, basically obtain a contact name for the utility in order to provide a follow-up call to that individual. Will include a flyer in the mailing.

Judi will provide a presentation to the Customer Solutions Network (CSN) meeting in Beatrice the morning of August 10th (same day as our monthly committee meeting). Brenda will also attend the meeting. Approximately 20 utilities will be represented at the meeting. Rick has extended an invitation to that group to attend our committee meeting that afternoon which is scheduled to take place at NPPD's Beatrice Power Plant (same location as the CSN meeting).

Member networking and sharing of ideas:

Derek Pfeifer of Northwestern – Weatherization forums was conducted last year at Menards. Brought in energy expert from Montana. Worked with senior citizens and low income. Received a \$1 million dollar grant to split across service territory. Did not spend budget amount because didn't know how to reach those people that really needed to receive assistance. Forums were conducted Grand Island, Kearney and North Platte.

Rick Cheloha of Loup – Have a program called Heat Helper focused in Columbus along with HHS. Local Platte County assistance is thinking about not funding. General assistance programs are available in every county in Nebraska.

Pete Davis of Nebraska Energy office – Have plenty of weatherization money. Good time to apply. Can apply through Community Action Agency. Have plenty of money through the loan program.

Brenda Brabec of NPPD – NPPD's program is called Pennies for Power. Customers are asked if they would like to round up their monthly bill with the proceeds going to Pennies for Power or they may make a one time donation. Recently the employees were asked to participate in a joint program called Pennies from Power. Currently collecting about \$800.00 a month from this program. In addition, Customer Service Reps have put together a cookbook that will be sold this Fall in the local offices with proceeds going to the Pennies for Power fund.

Bill Lucky of Aquila – Their program is called Aquila Cares. Provides opportunities to their customers to participate through a one time gift or check box on pay stub identifying what they'd like to give per month. Salvation Army administers the program. Aquila matches the funds up to \$375,000.

Char Reim of Kinder-Morgan – They are in the process of implementing an energy assistance program. Community Action of Nebraska (CAA) will administer the program. Kinder-Morgan has not signed the agreement yet with CAA. Goal is to target people who are too proud to take CAA money, who refuse to get disconnected and would rather go without medicine or food.

Judi of OPPD – OPPD's program is operational from July through December. MUD has a program heat aid that is conducted from mid-January through May. ARC asks they apply at LiHeap. A video was developed that includes representation from ARC and OPPD. The video is played on OPPD's intranet to increase employee participation. OPPD has conducted bake sales. Recently they sent 10,000 letter to current pledgers to thank them for their pledges and continued support. A second batch of letters will be sent to the ad hoc customers. OPPD pays administration fees on their energy assistance fund. A Jeans day will be held on July 21st with funds going to their program. The focus this year is on increasing pledges this year through employees, retirees and volunteers.

Judi provided a report on the National Fuels Fund conference she attended in Washington D.C. last month. Judi conducted a presentation on our group.

The committee discussed whether or not it was time to include the media on the committee's development. The committee decided it was still too early to involve the media.

Next month's meeting is scheduled for August 10th at NPPD's Beatrice Power Plant. Brenda will facilitate. Gwen will be the notetaker.

Judi conducting the presentation at the Customer Solutions Network meeting scheduled for the same day and location starting at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned. Those in physical attendance signed the Guideline.

Minutes are respectfully submitted by Brenda Brabec