

# NEBRASKA ENERGY ASSISTANCE NETWORK

Thursday February 8, 2007, 11 A.M. – 2:30 P.M.

York, Nebraska

Sponsor: Nebraska Public Power District

## *NEAN Meeting Agenda*

AGENDA ITEM	Time Frame	Information	Discussion	Action
Call to Order – Judi Martin, executive chair	11:00			X
1. Confirmation of Agenda - Introductions	11:00-11:01	X	X	
2. Review and Approval of Minutes	11:01-11:02	X	X	X
3. NEAN Executive Committee Report Chair - Judi Martin	11:02:11:30	X	X	X
4. Old Business - Committees-Chairs-membership	11:30-11:50	X	X	X
5. Committee Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Energy Education - Rick Cheloha</li><li>• Data - Judi Martin - Mike Kelly</li><li>• Other?</li></ul>	11:50-12:00	X	X	
6. Lunch - Networking-sharing A big thank-you to NPPD for lunch	12:00-12:30			
7. Old/New Business-strategic planning continues: Who do we want to be and what do we want to do? Our plans for 2007 and beyond!	12:30 – 2:30	X	X	X
9. Adjourn	2:30	X	X	X

### **Attachments:**

Executive Committee meeting minutes

January minutes- Mahoney

Strategic plan- revised logic model- draft

**NEAN Meeting Minutes York**  
**February 8, 2007**

**Attendance:**

Rick Cheloha	Loup Power District
Ken Curry (visitor)	NPPD
Jan Davis	Aquila
Kate Ellrich	American Red Cross
Cory Fuehrer	NPPD
Ardith (Ardi) Hoins	Blue Valley Community Action Partnership
Cheryl Holcomb	Central NE Community Services
Roger Hunt	NPPD
Mike Kelly	HHS (Conference Call)
Bill Lucke	Aquila
Judi Martin	OPPD
Sheila Nelson	Aquila
Shirley Niemeyer	University of NE – Lincoln Extension
Wayne Price	NREA
Diane Vesely-Robb	Lincoln Action Program
Scott Welk	Southern PPD

Next NEAN Committee Meeting: Thursday, March 8  
NorthWestern Energy, Grand Island – 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
Hosted by: Linda Eidem-Wittrock  
NorthWestern Energy  
515 W. Third St., Grand Island. NE  
Office: 605-782-5552; Office: 605-359-0218

Next meeting agenda:

- Committee plans
- Bylaws
- Membership issues
- Legal formation
- Website

Meeting Notes, February 8, 2007

- I. Meeting called to order by Judi Martin
- II. Minutes accepted
- III. Report from Executive Committee Meeting (Executive Committee Action Plan)
  - Cory's office title has been revised to Secretary/Treasurer
  - Executive Committee members will not chair committees
  - Motion passed to accept the following committees of NEAN (see below). Still need members assigned and Chairs appointed.
  
- By Committee (Judi will send communication requesting people to indicate where they want to be on a committee)

NEAN Executive Committee  
Chair: Judi Martin

NEAN Energy Education Committee

Chair: Rick Cheloha

Co-Chair: Shirley Niemeyer and Bill Lucke

EC Liaison: Cory Fuehrer

NEAN Resource Clearinghouse Committee

Chair: Gwen Kautz

EC Liaison: Linda Wittrock Eidem

NEAN Advocacy Committee

Chair: To be determined\_\_\_\_\_

EC Liaison: Jan Davis

Judi Martin

Roger Hunt

Jeanne Atkinson (? Mike Kelly to check)

This committee will be overseen by Energy Assistance Program Committee

Cory Fuehrer

Garry Ruliffson

Mike Kelly

Diane Vesely-Robb

Jan Davis

Pete Davis

Linda Wittrock Eidem

NEAN Energy Assistance Programs Committee:

Chair: Kate Ellrich

EC Liaison: Mike Kelly

NEAN Development/Programs Committee:

Chair: Need Chair

EC Liaison:

NEAN Membership

Chair: Gwen?

EC Liaison: Judi Martin

NEAN Administrative/Communication Committee

Chair: Sheila Nelson

EC Liaison: Jan Davis

Co- chairs: Cheryl Holcomb, Ardi Hoins, Diane Vesely-Robb

Jan to check and see if Gene, Ronda with Kinder Morgan are interested.

Judi Martin

Administrative:

- Need letterhead/stationery – Cory will work with his people
- NEAN News release sent February 2; membership dues may be needed for the future
- Jan is working on by-laws

## Website Status:

- According to Gwen, we have the shell
- Site will take a considerable amount of time to develop and additional cost for “members only” site
- NPPD IT — \$60/hr.
- OPPD IT can provide references on servers
- Consultant (Hosting) Ready Hosting  
\$149 first year  
\$99 a year after (\$10-\$20/month)
- Go Daddy — \$11.99 / month
- Stacey could design — \$30 / hr.
- Estimated cost to build \$300 — \$450 to set up and redesign website
- Maintenance – do not leave to members
- Member log-in needs programmer
- \$60-\$100 / hr. set-up
- Possible four hours / month might be needed for maintenance
- \$2,600 over year’s time is estimated total web costs
- Outside company might need to start from scratch
- Concept would stay the same
- Possibility of advertising on site to off-set cost of maintenance?
- General purpose of web
- Education for general public
- Assistance Program
- Links to other sites
- Web expenses
- Need firm prices/bids to determine budget
- Cost picked up by NEAN businesses and supporting agencies?
- Executive committee will put together a cost plan

## I V. Old Business

- Status of NEAN Energy Kits, December 8, 2006

### ***Kits with Booklets***

Rick Cheloha	1
Sheila Nelson	1
Bill Lucke	32
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>334</i></b>

### ***Kits without Booklets***

Scott Walk	24
Cory Fuehrer	108
Sheila Nelson	56
Gwen Kautz	11
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>199</i></b>

### ***Booklets Only***

Scott Walk	5
Rick Cheloha	1
Sheila Nelson	41
Bill Lucke	129
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>176</i></b>

***Kits with Cleaner***

Judi Martin	4
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>4</i></b>

- Judi used 32 additional kits for a “train the trainer” presentations.( has two left over)
- Sheila as requested 40-50 kits for an Energy Forum in Lincoln February 26. Planning forum with the following Diane Vessely-Robb, (Lincoln Action Program); Bob Ruskamp (LES); Paul Johnson (Aquila). Will keep surveys separate from others. Sent copy to Diane to see if changes need to be made.
- Inventory as of end of February will be approximately 150, most of which are being stored at NPPD York location. (May be a shortage on books.)
- If anyone wants kits for additional energy forums or similar usage, submit requests to Jerome Deichert with copy to Judi Martin, [jdeicher@mail.unomaha.edu](mailto:jdeicher@mail.unomaha.edu) [jamartin@oppd.com](mailto:jamartin@oppd.com)

V. New Business- Committee Reports

Energy Education Committee:

- Follow-up surveys not yet available
- Grant concept paper has been submitted
- Judi will be attending Energy Conference in Nashville
- Fundraising workshop
- Two hot topic sessions
- This committee will review/edit materials from a hot topics session on a renters’ guide in finding an energy efficient rental
- Rentwise low income education and budget information available thru Shirley Niemeyer (UNL)

Energy Assistance Committee:

LIHEAP

From Mike Kelly (HHS):

- One of my primary responsibilities is managing the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Nebraska will pay approximately 75% of the funding in any given year towards utility bills. The remaining amount goes towards the Energy Office for weatherization, administrative funds and carryover of funds to the following year. 11% will go to the Energy Office, 10% for administrative funds and will carryover any where from 4% to 9% for carryover.
- In Fiscal Year 2006 the LIHEAP funding for Nebraska was more than \$28 million. In Fiscal Year 2007 the LIHEAP funding for Nebraska was down to \$18 million. There is a chance that there will be some additional funding for Fiscal Year 2007. The proposal for Fiscal Year 2008 for LIHEAP funding for Nebraska is at \$13.5 million. This will be less than half of the funding received for Fiscal Year 2006. This kind of cutting will not only reduce the amount of funds that would be available for our clients, but it would also reduce weatherization funding and put added stress on other funds that are out there to help households meet their utility needs.
- Agency Resources Available — The Public Information Office (PIO) in HHSS has access to all of the media outlets (TV, Radio, Newspapers, etc.) in Nebraska. When a press release is done by the PIO it will go to all of the outlets. There is some limited printing that can be done, but it will take some prior notification for it to get done.
- NEAN Committee is considering sending letters to encourage more funding for LIHEAP.

VI. Lunch was sponsored by NPPD — thank-you

VII. Strategic planning/ brainstorming continued:

- Brainstorming discussion focused around committees' functions. Committees will take ideas generated and develop their own plans/goals.
- Advocacy and Energy Assistance Programs: Both committees combined for time being

Disconnects — best practices:

- Baseline on disconnects
- August and September Electric
- After cold weather rule for gas
- Rolling average number of disconnects?
- Forced collections?
- Need data and awareness
- Education regarding timing for assistance
- Consider city vs. rural
- Companies and agencies have different guidelines
- National Energy Assistance on disconnects and reports available
- Relationship between disconnects and education on reducing energy usage – can we connect the two?
- Trends in disconnections
- Models of energy assistance programs
- Financial education for low income customers
- Awareness and support of energy assistance programs
- Political pressure
- Landlord involvement

Increase Donations:

- Inventory of who has energy assistance programs
- Ask all utilities to run bill insert campaign in a given month
- Large bills as a result of Cold Weather Rule
- Make people aware that they have to pay their bill
- Encourage communication regarding all agencies to avoid misuse of system
- Additional sources of funding

Energy Education Committee: Has a lot of ideas from last planning session – will incorporate these ideas

Certifications:

- Certifications for energy rating of builders – have no way of certifying because you need to be there throughout the building project.
- Liability is an issue
- New code is not being enforced
- It's not enough to have qualified, trained inspectors
- Need more builder-efficiency training

#### Incentives:

- Need tax credit incentives to increase conservation and energy improvements
- Also need to reach builders, developers and landlords
- Need positive incentives for rental property
- Need landlords, Home Builders' Association and NE Housing Development Association as part of NEAN.
- How do you motivate people?
- Incentives don't seem to be enough

#### Lack of Funding:

- If they don't qualify under weatherization, what can they do?
- What sources could be available for senior citizens who don't qualify or the working poor?

#### NEAN Membership Committee:

- Membership guidelines — need
- What levels of membership — regular, sponsor, partnership?
- Investor-owned Utilities
- Public Power
- Community programs
- Non-profit agencies
- Non-profit builders — Danielle Hill
- Regular government and tribal
- Individuals with deep concern for conservation
- Home Builder associations
- Energy raters
- Housing inspectors
- Administrators of housing repair programs
- Weatherization
  
- Responsibility of members?
- Dues: How much – who pays?
- Funding
- Power Point presentations — Judi has and can modify
- Brochures and talking points to use in recruiting members — what is in it for me?

VIII. Adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Special thanks to NPPD for providing the site and food.

Future Meeting Schedule. Requesting hosts for upcoming meetings to provide site and food for upcoming meetings. Locations will vary – dependent on host.

NorthWestern Energy (Grand Island) will host March 8 meeting.

Expect meetings (scheduled for Thursdays) will be 11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., unless otherwise indicated:

April 12

May 10

June 14

July 12

August 9

September 13

October 11

November 8

December 13