

# NEBRASKA ENERGY ASSISTANCE NETWORK

Thursday March 8, 2007, 11 AM – 2:30 PM

Grand Island, Nebraska

Sponsor: NorthWestern Energy

## NEAN Meeting Agenda

AGENDA ITEM	Time Frame	Information	Discussion	Action
<b>Call to Order – Judi Martin, Executive Chair</b>	11:00			X
<b>1. Confirmation of Agenda-Introductions</b>	11:00-11:10	X	X	
<b>2. Review and Approval of February Minutes</b>	11:10-11:12	X	X	X
<b>3. NEAN Executive Committee Overview Chair- Judi Martin</b>	11:12-11:30	X	X	X
<b>4. Committees- Reports</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy Education</li> <li>• Energy Assistance/advocacy</li> <li>• Membership</li> <li>• Resource clearinghouse</li> <li>• Development/programs</li> <li>• Administrative/Communication</li> </ul>	11:30-2:20	X	X	X
<b>5. Lunch- (will break when food is ready) A big thank-you to NorthWestern Energy for lunch!</b>  <b>Networking-lunch discussion: Why am I here? What can NEAN do for me? What are my interests &amp; strengths?</b>	TBD	X	X	
<b>5. Next meeting sponsor — calendar update</b>	2:20-2:30		X	X
<b>6. Adjourn</b>	2:30			X

### Attachments:

Executive Committee meeting minutes  
 February minutes  
 Strategic Plan updates  
 LIHEAP support letter

**NEAN Meeting Minutes – Grand Island  
March 8, 2007**

**Attendance:**

Rick Cheloha	Loup Power District
Pete Davis	Nebraska Energy Office
Linda Eidem	NorthWestern Energy
Kate Ellrich	American Red Cross
Cory Fuehrer	NPPD
Julie Hendricks	Nebraska Housing Developers Association (Conf Call)
Ardith (Ardi) Hoins	Blue Valley Community Action Partnership
Mike Kelly	HHS (Conference Call)
Gwen Kautz	Dawson PPD
Judi Martin	OPPD
Jamie Moore	United Way (Conference Call)
Sheila Nelson	Aquila
Shirley Niemeyer	University of NE – Lincoln Extension
Char Reiman	Kinder Morgan
Jeff Wiebel	Salvation Army (Conference Call)

Next NEAN Committee Meeting: Thursday, April 12  
11 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
Hosted by: Jan Davis  
Aquila, 720 Lincoln Ave., York, NE  
Office: 402-362-5548 Office: 402-616-6940  
June 14 – Shirley Niemeyer may host at UNL

- I. Meeting called to order by Judi Martin
- II. Minutes accepted from February meeting
- III. Executive Committee Report

Follow-up on survey (see notes below)

By-Laws: Jan has Aquila legal counsel assisting

Committee status:

- Membership Chair- vacant- Judi covering for now
- Resource Clearinghouse- Gwen will chair
- Development- Salvation Army considering

Letterhead:

- We now have letterhead.
- All members need to be recognized on letterhead

Website:

- Gwen will oversee
- Once funding is underway, Judi will approach web consultant/designer and turn it over to Gwen
- Estimated cost
- Design and improve functionality: \$500
- Membership Access Only (not included in \$500; approximate price of \$1,000)
- \$12 monthly maintenance fee

- \$30 per hour to add information to the website
- Are UNO/UNL students available to do work?

#### Funding Possibilities:

- Sponsorship – pay per month or by membership donation
- Grants
- All members may make individual donations
- Cory will make up electronic invoices for every member organization to make donations( being request- ed- but not required...sensitive to non-profits)

#### Financing Miscellaneous

- Cory will set up checking account
- United Way can serve as agent for us
- Cory will follow up with Jamie Moore
- Cory will apply for 501(c)(3)

NEAN Calendar: Still need sponsors for upcoming months

Press Releases: Communications will be handled by Jan

#### IV. Committee Reports

##### Development Committee:

- Jeff Wiebel checking with Salvation Army for approval

##### Energy Education Committee:

- Follow-up surveys not yet available
- Lincoln Energy Forum at Lincoln Action Program location was successful; may want to follow a similar format in the future
- Recommend forums for 2007 – if there is a conflict with symposium, may want to schedule for Jan/Feb. 2008
- Funding would be an issue
- How many attending?
- How to go about?
- What direct impact do we have?
- How many people are we reaching?
- Retail sponsors like Wal-Mart, Home Depot?
- Diverse age group
- Use of utility sponsored assistance funds?
- Educating low income and working poor
- More Train the Trainer programs?
- Possibly work with other programs like Head Start families
- Expand to other agencies? Community Action Agencies REACH program — 9 agencies in the state; 6 trained to do REACH; 8-10 awarded per year — nationwide
- Providing assistance on development of Guide to Finding an Energy Efficient Home brochure (NFFN)
- Reviewed Logic Model Mission
- Shirley N. discussed possible EPA grant; will check it out

#### Energy Assistance/Advocacy Committee:

- Advocacy combined with Energy Assistance
- Worked on strategic plan and Logic Model
- Measure number of shut-offs from utility companies
- Need to review data currently available
- What are we looking for?
- Develop awareness
- Intervention strategies
- Prevent disconnects
- Bench-marking
- Need to pinpoint other factors that influence shut-offs
- How can we change behaviors?
- Money
- Key leaders
- Irregular incentives
- Demonstration projects
- Impact of national economy
- New energy codes-enforcement (involve housing code enforcement)
- Remodels
- How do we break the behavior cycle; poverty cycle?

#### LIHEAP Support:

- Currently proposed \$14 MM reduction
- NEAN letter sent requesting more funding to elected representatives in DC
- Need more formal, organized process in asking for LIHEAP support
- NEAN letter sent requesting more funding

#### Resource Clearinghouse Committee:

- Website (see above notes)
- Combine/connect resources with United Way 211  
80% coverage in NE  
Searching for partnership for other 20%  
Bill introduced in House & Senate thru Block Grant – Dial 1-888-PASS- 211; sponsored by Dole & Clinton; bill covers five-year period
- Need to be specific on what we want Clearinghouse to do
- Members only section
- Public section
- Link to other websites

#### Membership Committee:

- Recruitment
- Develop PowerPoint presentation
- Write articles about NEAN for publication
- Invite people to attend
- A promotional brochure will be developed. Judi asked for quotes from members to use in the brochure. Sheila will send request and will gather these.
- Judi will send membership letter template to those attending & update membership list.
- Other possibilities – publish through other agencies in their newsletters
- Landlord associations, realtor associations
- State agencies – NE Energy office; HHS; chamber of commerce; county office

- Have speakers from other organizations come to our meetings?
- Wait – need to be more time to build our own organization and plan
- Use symposium to recruit members?

Networking Lunch Break — discussed the following:

- Why am I here?
- What can NEAN do for me?
- What are my interests and strengths?

Administrative Committee:

- Meeting Notes – only to confirmed members
- Send meeting announcements to all on list
- Need to update members list
- Before anything goes out – it should go to Exec Committee for review
- Working to reduce e-mails, will help when website up and running

VI. Grants — Symposium:

- First grant – Use Energy Wisely
- Need questions for UNO
- Mid-March to send follow-up surveys
- Energy Burden Study
- Working on enhancement features
- Resources, bill pay assistance, weatherization
- In-depth resources – total resources in 5 counties
- 800 surveys – discuss different energy issues
- If utilities or organizations have interest – they may solicit additional areas for a reasonable fee
- Phone survey – 10 minutes or less
- Not able to add many questions
- Shirley N. did a similar survey in the 1980s; would be interesting to compare results

Symposium:

- Possibility of three symposiums – 150 – 200 attendees
- October or November 2007
- Who would be our audience?
- Public Policy makers?
- More than one audience?
- What's the purpose?
- What have other states done?
- With whom do they share information?
- How can we have the most impact?  
Decision makers?  
State leaders?  
Economic Class – upper; middle; low income; elderly; single parent household; disabled; working poor
- Julie Hendricks mentioned a symposium for August 6-7 in Lincoln
- Builders and realtors
- Provide training and technical advice
- Assistance in affordable housing
- \$125-\$150 registration fee
- Might NEAN want to partner with another organization?
- LIHEAP, NE Energy Office, Community Action

- Breakout sessions?
- Registration fees – sense of value if registration fee

#### Funding

- No funding for symposium in grant
- How to raise funding? Ask NEAN members to contribute
- Locations: Kearney, Omaha, Grand Island?
- Registration fees enough to cover attendance of non-profit organizations?

#### Committee members

- Shirley Niemeyer
- Char Reiman
- Linda Eidem
- Sheila Nelson
- Judi Martin
- Chairs of the committees
- UNO as administrator of grant

Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Special thanks to NorthWestern Energy for providing the site and food.