

NEBRASKA ENERGY ASSISTANCE NETWORK

Thursday April 12, 2007, 11 AM – 2:30 PM

Lincoln, Nebraska

Sponsor: Aquila Inc.

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	11:00-11:10	X	X	
2. Review and Approval of March Minutes	11:10-11:12	X	X	X
3. Committees- Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership • Executive Committee • Energy Education • Energy Assistance/advocacy • Resource clearinghouse • Development/programs • Administrative/Communication 	11:12-1:45	X	X	
4. Lunch- (will break when food is ready) A big thank-you to Aquila for lunch! lunch discussion: Welcome New Members	TBD	X	X	
5. New Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal formation • Name change (EAN to NEAN) • Mission – Vision statement- discussion and revision • Fiscal Agent Agreement • Operating budget- funding 	1:45- 2:15	X	X	X
6. Next meeting sponsor — calendar update	2:15-2:30		X	X
7. Adjourn	2:30			X

**NEAN Meeting Minutes – Lincoln
April 12, 2007**

Attendance:

Rick Cheloha	Loup Power District
Jan Davis	Aquila
Pete Davis	Nebraska Energy Office
Laura Demman	Nebraska Public Service Commission.
Linda Eidem	NorthWestern Energy
Kate Ellrich	American Red Cross
Cory Fuehrer	NPPD
Ardith (Ardi) Hoins	Blue Valley Community Action Partnership
Ronda Jaeschke	Kinder Morgan – Kearney
Paul Johnson	Aquila
Mike Kelly	HHS (Conference Call)
Bill Lucke	Aquila
Judi Martin	OPPD
Sheila Nelson	Aquila
Shirley Niemeyer	University of NE – Lincoln Extension
Char Reiman	Kinder Morgan
Reggie Robinson,	U.S. Dept of HUD
Tom Schik	Catholic Social Services
John Turner	Region VI Systems
Diane Vesely-Robb	Lincoln Action Program

Next NEAN Committee Meeting: Thursday, May 10
State Office Building (SOB)
Hosted by: Mike Kelly and Kinder Morgan
HHSS

301 Centennial Mall South

(3 blocks south of “O” St. — one block east of 14 St. — southeast corner of 14 & M Sts., Lincoln, NE)

Office: 402-362-5548; Office: 402-616-6940

- Parking in parking lot recommended
- Check into the main HHSS desk on third floor
- Notify Mike Kelly (in advance) if you wish to attend in person.
- Notify Mike Kelly (2 weeks in advance – BEFORE May 2) if you wish to participate via conference call
- June 14 – Shirley Niemeyer will host at UNL

I. Meeting called to order by Judi Martin

II. Minutes accepted from March meeting

III. Executive Committee Report

IV. Introductions

V. Executive Committee Report:

Logo:

- Working on meeting announcement logo
- Goal: Increase attendance at meetings by inviting guests

Conservation:

- Discussed use of “energy efficiency” vs. “conservation” in vision. Education Committee will review and make recommendations to the NEAN membership.

Committees:

- Submit Strategic Plans to Judi Martin
- If committees want to submit agenda items, send items to Judi Martin prior to the fourth Monday of each month.

Legal/NEAN as Non-Profit organization:

- Motion proposed and passed to use Creighton University as legal advisor for creation of legal entity
- Motion proposed and passed to enter into fiscal agency agreement with American Red Cross
- Motion proposed and passed to change name from EAN to NEAN
- Need to incorporate NEAN as a non-profit agency
- NEAN will apply for (501)(c)(3) approval from IRS
- Entering an agreement with American Red Cross to integrate as “fiscal agency” until such time as we have 501(c)(3) status to make contributions tax deductible.

VI. Committee Reports

Development Committee:

- Nothing to report

Energy Education Committee:

- Surveys have been sent as a follow-up to forums. Forum coordinators were asked to contact Senior Citizen Center directors to notify and request responses.
- Forums were successful; have received requests for additional forums. Would like to do additional forums – need to look at grants and/or other ways to pay for additional energy kits.
- Discussed possibility of smaller kits and what items are most likely to be used by the customers (to be determined from survey responses)
- Possible of having prize items as a drawing instead of kits for everyone
- Local utility sponsorship
- Partnerships/involvement with other groups
- Kiwanis Clubs, Scouts, Habitat for Humanity, etc.
- Possibility of purchasing items at a discount or cost from local businesses
- Cost of kits \$16,800 for 800 kits
- Train the Trainer possibility
- A Weatherization subcommittee to brainstorm and research possible weatherization programs was formed and will be chair by Sheila Nelson. NEAN members volunteering to serve include Paul Johnson (Aquila); Kinder Morgan, and Roger Hunt (NPPD) and Judi Martin(OPPD). Sheila will report to Rick, chair of Energy Education Committee.
- Best Practices/Hot Topic Session will be reviewed by the Energy Education Committee. There is some question whether the information will be adaptable to each state. The goal is to have a uniform message regarding energy efficiency and conservation.
- Reggie Robinson (HUD) will check to see if his office has something coming out on this subject; nothing available from Nebraska Energy Office.
- Reviewed website: www.housing.ne.gov as a possible resource for energy information and/or maybe a possible link to remind people to consider utility costs when renting or buying a home.

- Possibly use LES presentation and convert to NEAN, with LES approval. Sheila will copy LES presentation on disc and send to Rick Cheloha for review. She will also send her own presentation she made from Energy booklet.

Energy Assistance/Advocacy Committee:

- Need to link the various organizations that can help individuals and state criteria so that customers can realize possibilities for support
- Need to demonstrate the need for assisting families who can't pay their utility bills
- Disconnect notices and amount of money attached
- Actual disconnects, Avg per month?
- Arrears – 30/60/90 days?
- Utilities will find what information is available; by format, date, etc. – will report at next NEAN meeting
- REACH Program – disconnect notices are tracked, but very limited group
- Can we track pledge payments coming in to get utilities turned on?
- Need to increase LIHEAP funding.
- Audience — To whom and when should information be used to the best advantage?
- Congress & federal senators
- Legislature is not a good audience – governor would be more effective
- State does not fund LIHEAP programs – funding is 100% federal, including administration
- Use numbers to seek funding/grants and educational opportunities
- Have information available when it can do the most good
- Use information as an awareness tool for other media
- Additional sources of information
- Jerry Deichert referred to census information and classes to retrieve and interpret the information – Judi Martin will check with Jerry.

Resource Clearinghouse Committee:

- Waiting for funding from memberships

Membership Committee:

- Working on NEAN brochure and PowerPoint presentations
- Membership fees proposed and passed
- Cover expenses for the year
- \$600 web design
- Recommended and accepted:
- \$300/yr. utilities
- \$200/yr government agencies
- \$100/yr non-profit
- Executive Committee reserves the right to waive fees for organizations who are unable to pay the fee. Organization must request waiver from Executive Committee

Administrative Committee:

- Nothing to report

VII . Grants:

- Grant under review

VIII. Miscellaneous

Water

- Does NEAN want to consider taking on “water” as a “quality of life” issue, as LIHEAP already does? It is already addressed through energy via water heads, hot water usage, etc.
- Water treatment plants are a costly issue for rural communities – especially for lower income/fixed income families.

IX. Meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Special thanks to Aquila for providing the site and food.