



Nebraska Energy

ASSISTANCE NETWORK

NEAN Meeting Notice

Thursday, February 14, 2008
11 AM – 2:30 PM
Loup Power District
2404 15 St.
Columbus, NE
Office: 402-564-3171

RSVP: Lunch is provided. Please **RSVP by NOON, Tuesday, February 12th**; call **(402) 221-2159** (Sheila Nelson) or e-mail sheila.nelson@aquila.com. The meeting will begin promptly at 11 a.m. and conclude by 2:30 p.m.

MAJOR AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDE:

- Strategic Initiatives & Innovative Funding (Guest Speaker: Roger Colton from Fisher, Sheehan & Colton)
- Committee Reports
- Vote on By Laws
- NEAN Brochures
- NEAN Member Company Visits

CONFERENCE CALL INFORMATION: Dial-in #: **1-800-391-1709**

Access Code: **404469**

NOTE: There will be NO Education Committee meeting before or after the NEAN meeting. The Energy Assistance Committee leader will notify committee members if there is to be a separate meeting.

Parking: Free parking available around the building.

Judi Martin, NEAN Chair
Omaha Public Power District
444 S. 16th Street
Omaha, NE 68102
(402)636-3654

Interested parties are invited to join us and learn how we can work together to meet the mission of the Nebraska Energy Assistance Network: To assist Nebraskans meet energy needs through education, collaboration and advocacy.

<p style="text-align: center;">AGENDA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">NEBRASKA ENERGY ASSISTANCE NETWORK Thursday February 14, 2008, 11 – 2:30 PM Columbus, Nebraska</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sponsor: Loup Public Power</p>	Time Frame	Information	Discussion	Action
Call to Order – Judi Martin, Executive Chair	11 a.m.			X
1. Welcome and opening – Meeting host – Rick Cheloha	11-11:05	X		X
2. Introduce Guest Speaker: Roger Colton	11:05- 11:35	X	X	
3. Review and Approval of January Minutes – Judi Martin	11:35-11:40	X	X	X
4. Committee Reports – <u>Executive Committee:</u> Treasurer’s Report <u>Energy Education:</u> Get a Head Start on Energy <u>Energy Assistance:</u> Burden Study update Calcupal Training Aquila Online Resource for EA Organ. <u>Membership:</u> <u>Development:</u> LB 1001 <u>Roger Colton's presentation</u> <u>Communication:</u>	11:40-12:45	X	X	X
Lunch – (will break when food is ready) A big thank-you to Loup Public Power	TBD			
5. Old-New Business: By-Laws: NEAN name	12:45-1:45			
6. Announcements: National Energy and Utility Affordability Conference Heartland Walk for Warmth Others....	1:45-2:25			
7. Next Meeting Location and Adjourn	2:30	X	X	X

NEAN Meeting Notes – Columbus February 14, 2008

Attendance:

Rick Cheloha	Loup Power District
Jan Davis	Aquila
Pete Davis	Nebraska Energy Office
Laura Demman (call-in)	Public Service Commission
Linda Eidem (call-in)	NorthWestern Energy
Cory Fuehrer	Nebraska Public Power District
Judi Martin	Omaha Public Power District
Mari Matulka (call-in)	Metropolitan Utilities District
Sheila Nelson	Aquila
Shirley Niemeyer	University of Nebraska, Lincoln; UNL Extension
Rick Hemphill	Elkhorn Rural, Stanton Co., Cedar-Knox PPD
Roger Colton (call-in)	Guest Speaker from Fisher Sheehan & Colton

Next NEAN Committee Meeting: Thursday, March 13, 2008 – 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

NorthWestern Energy

515 W. 3rd St., Grand Island, NE
Office Number: 308.385.4514

Note Upcoming Meeting Dates/Locations:

- April 10 – North Platte (mark your calendar for possible 2-day meeting and celebration of NEAN’s successful year in 2007)
- May 8 – OPPD in Omaha
- June 12 – Source Gas
- July 10 – TBD
- August 14 - TBD
- September 11 - TBD
- October 9 - Mahoney

I. Meeting called to order by Judi Martin.

- A. Minutes accepted from January 10 with one revision: Mike Kelly will sign-off for data collection instead of Judi Martin, as Judi’s company (OPPD) would be sharing data.

Lunch - Thank you Loup Power District for hosting and providing lunch!

II. Conference call with Roger Colton from Fisher Sheehan & Colton, a nationally recognized consultant, working with utilities and others on low income energy issues.

A. Innovative Funding Comments

- i. Roger Colton will be in Des Moines – June 24- 25 if we would like to meet with him
- ii. Encourage us to pursue the “Indiana model” for utility disconnection/data collection
- iii. Element of risk that funding pursuits will/will not work
- iv. Look for money that doesn’t belong to anyone on a state-wide basis

B. Escheated funds

- i. Abandoned funds that have been turned over to the state, i.e., bank accounts, investments
- ii. Utility arena – rate refunds, customer cash security deposits
- iii. Makes sense to use escheated money for low income or energy efficiency projects

- iv. Rationale — relationship and purpose of project funded
- v. Not enough to put a crimp in state budget
- vi. Example: Iowa Electric Coops — abandoned deposits and capital credits/dividends; although there are fewer co-ops in NE
- C. Nebraska problem: People think utilities, piped gas and electricity — there also is home heating by propane
 - i. Propane Education and Research Council (PERC)
 - ii. Propane sales — ½ penny goes to PERC
 - iii. 20% of PERC money can be required to go back to PERC
 - iv. Funds can be used for Education Payment issue, Customer Service issue, Conservation and Education
 - v. Find out more about PERC funding, including Nebraska PERC organization and contacts — Nebraska Propane Association in Lincoln
 - a. How much money do Nebraska Propane dealers provide to PERC?
 - b. Would funds from PERC give us meaningful economic assistance?
- D. Voluntary Check-off
 - i. Need to expand search beyond utility industry
 - a. Possibly insurance industry and banks
 1. Premium payments
 2. Mortgage payments
 3. Sell connection that weatherization is in best interest of insurance industry to increase value of housing
 4. Make point that energy efficiency is not just a utility issue
 - b. National Gas pipeline refunds
 1. Laclede Gas Co. and Missouri Gas and Electric have made proposals to Missouri Public Service Commission for low income programs
 2. Contact Laclede and MGE to review their proposal
 3. Energy Outreach in Colorado has also worked on funding
 4. Nebraska refunds go back to customers through the PGA, however there would be some dollars for customers who have moved away or funds are not available to original customers
 - c. Comment from Judi Martin
 1. Introduced Nebraska legislation last week; hearing to be conducted by Revenue Committee
 - Up to 20% of sales tax pay in would go toward Weatherization Trust Fund
 - Utility could tap into those funds and match

III. Committee Reports

- A. Executive Committee Report
 - i. Treasurer's Report
 - a. No activity since January report
 - b. Balance = \$3,507.40
 - c. Need to pay bill for Head Start materials design
- B. Energy Assistance Committee
 - i. Energy Burden Study
 - a. Inserting census figures in energy burden study now.
 - b. Jerry Deichert has requested to report on status of project at next NEAN meeting March 13 in Grand Island
 - ii. Aquila Online Resource

- a. Allows organizations such as Health and Human Services System and Blue Valley Community Action to review the account utility account of the individual who is requesting assistance
 - b. Requested Jane Krenke (Aquila) to review the program with NEAN interested parties — Jane’s schedule will not allow time, at least until May. Judi and Jan to discuss how we might be able to facilitate a meeting before then.
- C. Energy Education Committee
 - i. Curriculum Committee is working on curriculum
 - a. Starting to shoot video today
 - b. DVD and facility guide with modules 1-2-3 should be out by March 15
 - c. Energy kits have been distributed
 - d. Will connect with Mike Kelly to see if we can have Jean Atkinson send a press release
- D. Membership Committee
 - i. Nothing to report
 - ii. Ronda and Char have some information, but they were unable to attend meeting
 - iii. Will report at next meeting
- E. Website
 - i. Domain is registered from July 10, 2007 to July 10, 2009
 - ii. We also have the domain name — nebraskaenergyassistance.org, which is “parked,” meaning that if someone keys in — <http://www.nebraskaenergyassistance.org> in his or her browser, the person is taken to <http://www.nebraskaenergyassistance.com>
 - iii. The service with the web host, Host Monster, expires October 12, 2008
 - iv. According to our web host service, when people try to find us, the words they use most often are energy assistance and Nebraska
 - v. No one since October 17, 2007 has used the words “efficiency” or “education”
 - vi. Breakdown in order of frequency for October 17 to February 13, 2008 We do not have any statistics prior to October 17, 2007

Information received from Mari after meeting via e-mail

 - a. February 1-13, 2008
 - 1. nebraska energy assistance 4 10.2%
 - omaha energy assistance 3 7.6%
 - search 1 2.5%
 - energy assistance fund nebraska 1 2.5%
 - arizona utility payday lenders aps 1 2.5%
 - nebraska energy assistance network 1 2.5%
 - energy assistance omaha 1 2.5%
 - health and human services omaha energy assistance 1 2.5%
 - jono anzalone red cross 1 2.5%
 - gwen kautz 1 2.5%
 - b. January 2008
 - 1. nebraska energy assistance 10 9%
 - energy assistance omaha 5 4.5%
 - www.heartlandwalkforwarmth.org 5 4.5%
 - nebraska energy assistance network 4 3.6%
 - heartlandwalkforwarmth.org 4 3.6%
 - ne energy assistance 3 2.7%
 - nebraska energy office 3 2.7%
 - www.heartlandwalkforwarmth.com 3 2.7%

www.nebraskaenergyassistance.com 2 1.8%

mari matulka 2 1.8%

c. December 2007

1. nebraska energy assistance 13 11.7%

nebraska energy assistance network 7 6.3%

www.nebraskaenergyassistance.com 6 5.4%

energy assistance omaha ne 6 5.4%

http //www.nebraskaenergyassistance.com 6 5.4%

nebraskaenergyassistance.com 5 4.5%

site 3 2.7%

gonews.com 2 1.8%

assistance with telephone and utility bills for low income in shelby county alabama 2 1.8%

omaha energy assistant program 2 1.8%

d. November 2007

1. nebraska energy assistance network 7 10.7%

nebraska energy assistance 7 10.7%

www.misa.ro 4 6.1%

omaha energy assistance 3 4.6%

heating assistance nebraska 3 4.6%

nean nebraska 2 3%

energy assistance in ne 2 3%

nebraska energy network 2 3%

energy assistance nebraska 2 3%

nebraskaenergyassistance network 1 1.5%

e. October 17 – 31, 2007

1. nebraska energy assistance 5 25%

nebraska energy assistance network 3 15%

nebraska energy assistance program 2 10%

energy assistance ne 2 10%

energy 1 5%

vivian lausevic 1 5%

assistance 1 5%

united way assistance omaha ne 1 5%

kelly davis fairbury nebraska 1 5%

low income help with energy bills boulder co 1 5%

vii. Cory can tell us the cost to register the domain name and the cost for the annual web hosting service as I don't have those records

F. Communication & Administration

i. Jan Davis had 1,000 NEAN brochures printed

ii. Will work with Cory and Linda to distribute them

iii. Reviewed bylaws

a. Changes made to bylaws (during meeting):

1. Membership meetings should be conducted at least quarterly

2. Annual meeting in April

3. Article VII – Books, Records and Accounts — As a 501(c)3 we don't have to provide information?

4. Article XII – Indemnification Agreement — should look into having officers insurance for directors and bond for Cory

b. Bylaws approved as changed

IV. Symposium/Seminar

- A. Need committee to plan symposium
 - i. Judi Martin
 - ii. Sheila Nelson
 - iii. Pete Davis
 - iv. Linda Eidem
 - v. Cheryl Holcomb
 - vi. Shirley Niemeyer
- B. To whom should the symposium be directed?
 - i. Possibly invite members of the Nebraska Legislative Committees: Revenue Committee; Natural Resources Committee; Urban Affairs Committee
- C. Speakers? (expense covered by grant)
- D. What topics?
 - i. Energy Efficiency
 - ii. Data from original grant from Energy Forums
 - iii. Head Start program results? (May not have data ready)
 - iv. What NEAN is all about
 - v. Should we tag on to existing conference (i.e., affordable Housing Conference in August?)
 - vi. Is State Energy Office planning anything? (possibly renewables?)
 - vii. Community Action Conference?
 - viii. Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA)?
 - ix. Introduce study at end of legislative session — interim study meetings?
 - x. Do a training to use curriculum?

V. Miscellaneous

- A. Calc-U-Pal – A new on-line energy cost calculator tool homeowners can use to obtain information that helps them determine what changes or additions to their homes will increase or decrease their energy usage. Linda will address at next NEAN meeting.
- B. Briefing company management team regarding NEAN (for organizations that belong to NEAN)
 - i. Who is going to be talking to the various utility companies?
 - ii. Should be a mixture within NEAN (i.e., gas representatives briefing electric; community services agencies, etc.)
 - iii. Briefing topics
 - a. History of NEAN
 - b. Education
 - c. What difference has it make on how community assistance organizations serve their clients (Diane, Ardi, Mike, Laura)?
 - iv. Aquila scheduled for March 27 management team meeting in Omaha
 - a. Judi and Cory are available
 - b. One of the company agencies (Diane Vesely-Robb from Lincoln Action Program)?
- C. Discussed possibility of NEAN name change
 - i. Recommendation that NEAN name should include “Energy Efficiency”
 - a. Nebraska Energy Network and Assistance Network
 - b. Nebraska Energy Network
 - c. Nebraska Energy Assistance and Efficiency Network
 - d. Adhoc committee should research name; chaired by Rick Cheloha
 - 1. Study ramifications of name change
 - 2. What would need to be done?

