



Nebraska Energy
ASSISTANCE NETWORK

NEAN Meeting Notice

Thursday, March 13, 2008

11 AM – 2:30 PM

NorthWestern Energy

515 W. 3rd

Grand Island, NE

Office: 605.978.2952

Linda Eidem's Cell: 605.359.0218

RSVP: Lunch is provided. Please **RSVP by NOON, Tuesday, March 11; 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. NEAN meeting notes from previous meetings may be reviewed at the NEAN website: [NEAN Meetings and Minutes](#).

MAJOR AGENDA ITEMS INCLUDE:

- Energy Burden Study – Jerry Deichert
- Committee Reports
- Membership Committee Recruitment
- 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
- April meeting discussion

CONFERENCE CALL INFORMATION: Dial-in: **1.866.213.1962**

Access Code: **140244**

NOTE: The Energy Assistance Committee **and** the Symposium Sub-Committee will meet with Jerry Deichert prior to the regular NEAN meeting starting at 9 a.m.

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.

**NEAN Meeting Notes – Grand Island
March 13, 2008**

Attendance:

Pam Browning	Goldenrod Hills Community Action
Marge Buescher	Catholic Social Services
Rick Cheloha	Loup Power District
Jan Davis (call-in)	Aquila
Pete Davis	NE Energy Office
Jerry Deichert	UNO
Linda Eidem	NorthWestern Energy
Cory Fuehrer	Nebraska Public Power District
Rick Hemphill	Elkhorn Rural, Stanton Co., Cedar-Knox PPD
Ardi Hoins	Blue Valley Community Action
Cheryl Holcomb	Central NE Community Services
Ronda Jaeschke	SourceGas
Judi Martin	Omaha Public Power District
Mari Matulka (call-in)	Metropolitan Utilities District
Sheila Nelson	Aquila
Shirley Niemeyer	University of Nebraska, Lincoln; UN-L Extension
Char Reiman	SourceGas
Tom Schik	Catholic Social Services
Scott Welk	Southern Public Power District

Next NEAN Committee Meeting: Thursday, April 10-11, 2008

NPPD's Lake Maloney Cabin south of North Platte, North Platte, NE

Note Upcoming Meeting Dates/Locations:

- April 10 – North Platte (mark your calendar for possible two-day meeting and celebration of NEAN's successful year in 2007)
- May 8 – OPPD Elkhorn Service Center, 1101 N 180th St. (north of 180 & Dodge Sts.)
- 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 February 14.
- II. Jerry Deichert from UNO Center for Public Affairs Research – partner and grant administrator – Energy Burden Grant Study
 - A. Jerry will send pdf file to Sheila – DRAFT not yet final report – Information may not be shared outside of NEAN.
 - B. Using Energy Wisely Forum Survey Study results may be reported at future symposium.
 - C. Burden Study
 - D. Methodology for ongoing basis is completed – NEAN will be able to update this model yearly with current census data.
 - E. Statewide survey – Contract has been issued and surveys will begin shortly.

- F. Gaps – Inventory of existing programs/resources will be conducted – A survey form will be developed and NEAN will be involved.
- G. Symposium – NEAN sub-committee formed – UNO will arrange for facilitator to meet with committee and plan the symposium.
- H. Census information training in June – Jerry will send to Sheila. Sheila will forward.

Lunch - Thank you NorthWestern Energy for hosting and providing lunch!

III. Committee Reports

A. Executive Committee Report

- i. Treasurer's report
 - a. \$787.50 paid to Steve Raglin Graphic Design
 - b. Balance as of January 31, 2007 = \$2,719.80
- ii. Bylaws reviewed
- iii. Cory will continue to serve as treasurer and will submit paperwork for 501(c)3, per NPPD leadership.
- iv. Elections
 - a. If you are interested in serving as an officer of NEAN, contact current Board members.
- v. Strategic Plan – A report grouping the strategic planning action items by the Executive Committee. Liaison responsibilities were distributed.
- vi. Meeting Notes
 - a. Committee members and Treasurer's report – please send to Sheila in advance of each meeting – it will help ease note-taking at each meeting.
 - b. Executive Committee reviews notes from meeting in advance of publication on website.

B. Energy Assistance Committee

- i. Energy Burden Study – Presented by Jerry Deichert
- ii. Who is on Energy Assistance Committee?
 - a. Mike Kelly
 - b. Krista Heineman
 - c. Marge Buescher
 - d. Ardi Hoins
 - e. Cheryl Holcomb
 - f. Judi Martin
 - g. Char Reiman
 - h. Ronda Jaschke
- iii. Collection data from utility companies is crucial.
 - a. Only two utilities have submitted information to date: M.U.D. and OPPD.
 - b. Data was to have included all of 2007. In 2008, data will be gathered quarterly. NPPD and Loup will check with appropriate company staff.
 - c. SourceGas – New billing system.
 - d. Rick Hemphill – Hopes to begin reporting first quarter of 2008.
 - e. Aquila delayed due to sale.
 - f. It was noted that had everyone reported data, it would have been available to Mike Kelly as LiHeap requested further funding in D.C.
- iv. Promotion of Weatherization – How can NEAN help?
 - a. 1,200 households are on waiting lists.
 - b. Work with utilities on awareness.
- v. Question regarding Rebates / Weatherization

- a. How are rebates paid – are they sent directly to the customer?
 - b. Is there a way they could be collected by the agency that does the work to put back into weatherization fund?
 - 1. SourceGas offers rebates – Check go to whoever is listed as premise on gas account.
 - 2. Overseen by commission as proposed in rate-filing.
 - 3. Work must be verified.
 - c. Weatherization programs do not provide for heat pumps as they are more expensive.
 - d. Goldenrod Hills Community Action weatherization program pays for entire cost of unit installation.
- vi. Need to do an overview of weatherization program and policies.
- vii. Need to collect information from other service providers regarding their energy programs.
- viii. Survey different religious organizations regarding money used for utility bill assistance – churches do not have specific amounts and may not want to share information.
- ix. Average cost per household for Weatherization Programs is \$3,500-\$3,600 for materials, labor, inspector time, transportation, wall insulation, attic insulation, furnace, window/door replacement, etc.
 - a. Only replace furnaces of homeowners.
- x. Weatherization programs done for the following:
 - a. 30% elderly
 - b. 30% handicapped
 - c. 15-20% with children in household under 6
- xi. Goldenrod Hills Community Action Agency – 6-8 month waiting list for weatherization
 - a. Send letter to those who qualify.
 - b. Renters qualify, but landlord must sign agreement.
- xii. Symposium
 - a. Share with other conference?
 - 1. NCIP – Nebraska Community Improvement Program
 - 2. Nebraska Commission on Housing and Homeless – meeting just before NIFA Conference
 - 3. NIFA – Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (January in Omaha on Housing)
 - 4. Nebraska county officials
 - 5. Nebraska senators
 - 6. Municipal Power Pool
 - 7. Nebraska rural electric
 - 8. Present at several organizations?

C. Energy Education

- i. Conference call February 23, 2007
- ii. Participants: Judi Martin, Diane Vesely-Robb, Cory Fuehrer, Paula Thompson, Shirley Niemeyer, Rick Cheloha.
- iii. Consensus reached by participants to delay the start of the “Head Start on Energy” Program until late summer or early fall. This discussion was prompted by delays in shooting the DVD and developing the curriculum.
- iv. Head Start agrees with decision. All Head Start participants have been notified and will hold the materials at their locations until we are ready.
- v. March 7 – Energy Education subcommittee held a meeting at the Lincoln Action Program offices and continued to work on developing the curriculum.

D. Website Report

267 visitors

81.7% of hits came from a direct address or bookmark

13.4% of hits came from a search engine (Google with the most, followed by Yahoo and Windows Live)

9 hits came from a link on the WOWT news/headlines page.

84.6% of the visitors spent 0-30 seconds on the website

5.3% spent 30 seconds to 2 minutes on the website

2.3% or 9 spent 2-5 minutes on the website

3.5% or 14 spent 5-15 minutes on the website

1.7% or 7 spent 15-30 minutes on the website

2.3% or 9 spent 30 minutes to an hour on the website. Could also mean the site was up on their computer that long.

Most viewed page: “news” -- 114; “assistance” -- 89; “agenda minutes” -- 63; “about us” -- 63; “resources” 54; “2.1.08 walk”-- 50; “education” -- 45

Search Key Phrases

Nebraska energy assistance — 11 or 10.4%

Omaha energy assistance — 5 or 4.7%

Nebraska heating assistance — 3 or 2.8%

Nebraska energy assistance network — 2 or 1.9%

Energy assistance Omaha — 2 or 1.9%

Energy assistance in NE — 2 or 1.9%

Energy assistance Nebraska — 2 or 1.9%

Nebraska energy — 2 or 1.9%

Search Key Words

Assistance — 46 or 12.6%

Energy — 44 or 12.1%

Nebraska — 34 or 9.3%

Omaha — 18 or 4.9%

NE — 9 or 2.4%

NEAN -- 5 or 1.3%

Utility -- 4 or 1.1%

Heating — 4 or 1.1%

Besides visitors from the U.S., other countries accessing the site included: Germany, Canada, Great Britain, Czech Republic, Poland, Italy, China, Australia, Brazil, Israel, Japan, Barbados, Thailand. Most likely these were from search engines and web crawlers.

E. Membership Committee

i. Need more people to join the committee

a. Handout pamphlets

b. Cost of membership

1. \$300 utility (based on meter usage)

2. Need to clarify and vote on at April meeting regarding membership fees

- i. Example: What about CSN and other state-wide organizations?
- ii. We need to demonstrate value to recruit new members
- iii. Do we still want to meet every month?
- iv. Have subcommittees meet on their own – when needed

IV. Calc-U-Pal presentation by Linda Eidem (NorthWestern Energy)

- A. Comparison platform – energy home currently is using to base and what improvements you can make and what it will save you per year.
- B. Anyone can use
 - i. Link to NorthWestern Energy website (Grand Island rate)
 - ii. APOGEE and DOE have similar programs
- C. Side note: There are only two certified people trained to do energy audits in the private sector

V. Annual Meeting – April 10-11, North Platte

- A. Election of officers
- B. Approval of Articles of Corporation
- C. Vote on membership dues
- D. Budget approval – As a 501(c)3, one-third of revenue must come from general public.
- E. Sheila will send a notice to determine who will attend
 - i. Invite guests to come – Membership Committee will put together an invite to e-mail – RSVP by April 3.
- F. Awards / recognition – send suggestions to Executive Committee
 - i. Executive Committee: Judi Martin, Mike Kelly, Cory Fuehrer, Jan Davis, Linda Eidem.
- G. \$25 fee payable to NEAN (participating utilities will share remainder of costs)
- H. We need a quorum of at least 13 people
 - i. Can do electronic vote for members

VI. Miscellaneous

- A. LB1001
 - i. Adopt the Low-Income Home Energy Conservation Act and change provisions relating to income tax withholding of independent contractors.
 - ii. Referred to Revenue Committee.
 - iii. Legislature advanced to “Select File.”
 - iv. Bill called for 20%, now down to 5%.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.