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## NEAN Meeting Notice

**Date:** Thursday, July 8, 2010  
**Time:** 9 a.m. – noon  
**Locations:** NPPD Video Conference Center Conference Call or NPPD Live Meeting

### **SPECIFIC RSVP required:**

Please notify Judi Martin by **Wednesday, July 7**, as to which NPPD Video Conference Center you will go to or if you plan to participate by conference call or NPPD Live Meeting.

The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at noon. Since meetings are held quarterly, *it is important that everyone attend*. NEAN meeting notes from previous meetings may be reviewed at NEAN's website: NEAN Meetings and Minutes.

### **Agenda Items:**

- Recognition of American Red Cross-Heartland Chapter
- Presentation by Danielle Jensen "Getting to Know NEO"
- Get a Head Start webinars
- Committee Reports
- New/old business

### **NPPD Video Locations:**

1. Columbus -- 1414 15 St., first floor video conference room
2. North Platte -- 402 E. State Farm Rd., Rm. 139
3. Lincoln -- 1327 H St., LGA large conference room
4. Kearney -- 900 4th Ave., Kearney east view room
5. Scottsbluff -- 515 First Ave. (guests directed by CSDR staff in front office)

**Parking:** Free parking around the buildings.

**Conference Call Information:** Conference call capability only through video conference sites. No separate conference call number will be available.

### **Live Meeting:**

Here is the Live Meeting information you requested. Simply copy and paste one of the hyperlinks to the appropriate participants for the NEAN meeting in your **meeting notice as well as the AT&T teleconference number**.

**Dial in number: 866-331-0889 Participant code: 809420**

This is an on-going link so it can be used for all of your future NEAN meetings and can be

joined anytime. You can upload documents prior to the meetings as well, so all of the presentations are in one location.

**PRESENTER LINK – Join the NEAN Meeting (Presenter) <<https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/nppd/join?id=NEAN&role=present&pw=WR%3Fr%26n%3CC6>>**

**\*\*Please limit the number of presenters in a meeting. Someone can be promoted to a presenter if need be during a meeting.\*\***

**ATTENDEE LINK – Join the NEAN Meeting <<https://www.livemeeting.com/cc/nppd/join?id=NEAN&role=attend&pw=F%26%298%7DPbTZ>>**

**\*\*Everyone should have Live Meeting installed on their computers, but just in case they don't, maybe add this in your meeting notice (especially for non-NPPD participants). It only takes a few minutes to install\*\***

**If Live Meeting is not installed on your computer, please install it here:**

<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/help/HA101733831033.aspx>

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 with their energy needs through education, advocacy and partnerships.

**Please RSVP by July 7:**

Judi Martin [jamartin@oppd.com](mailto:jamartin@oppd.com)

OPPD

Office: 402/636-3654

# NEBRASKA ENERGY ASSISTANCE NETWORK

Thursday, July 8, 2010

9 A.M. – 12 PM

## NEAN Meeting Agenda

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>	<b>Information</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>Call to Order – Judi Martin, chair</b>	9:00			X
<b>1. Introductions</b>	9:00-9:05	X		
<b>2. Award Presentation- American Red Cross-Heartland Chapter</b>	9:05-9:15			X
<b>3. Presentation — <i>Get to Know NEO</i> Danielle Jensen — Public and Government Relations Liaison, Nebraska Energy Office  Julie Hendricks, Chief — NEOs Weatherization Division</b>	9:15-9:45	X	X	
<b>4. Review and Approval of First Quarter Annual Meeting Minutes</b>	9:45-9:50	X	X	X
<b>5. Committee Reports</b>  Executive Committee Treasurer's Report Energy Assistance/LIHEAP update Energy Education/webinar update Website	9:50-11:50	X	X	X
<b>6. Next meeting — chair, calendar update</b>	11:50-12:00		X	X
<b>7. Adjourn</b>	12:00			X

Nebraska Public Power District, Video Conferencing Sponsor

Thanks to NPPD for hosting and coordination of the NEAN meetings at their various locations.

## Report on the 2010 National Energy and Utility Affordability Conference

About 600 people gathered in San Antonio, TX, June 14-17 when the National Fuel Funds Network and National Low Income Energy Consortium presented the 2010 National Energy and Utility Affordability Conference. The event known, known as NEUAC, is the largest single U.S. gathering to address the need for affordable home energy and other utilities for people with low income. The keynote speaker was former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros, who served in President Bill Clinton's cabinet.

The conference also featured two general session panels. Tuesday's plenary session examined Smart Grid technology and its impacts on low-income consumers.

On Wednesday, two Department of Energy officials led a discussion of an overview of the impact and accomplishments of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and provided a look at what lies ahead. NEUAC 2010 featured 56 workshops in seven tracks dealing with subjects including energy availability and sustainability, weatherization and energy efficiency, energy assistance and education, energy policy and advocacy, vulnerable populations, energy programs in Indian country, and utility and fuel programs and fundraising.

It also included Hot Topics sessions and a poverty simulation workshop, where conferees had the opportunity to experience the problems and difficulties faced by low income households through role playing.

Copies of presentations and handouts from the 2010 conference can be viewed or downloaded by clicking on speakers' or presenters' names at:

<http://www.energyandutilityconference.org/2010%20Speakers.html>>.

Next year's conference will be held June 27-29, 2011, at the Marriott Harbor Beach Hotel, Fort Lauderdale, FL.

Submitted by Judi Martin, NEAN who attended 7/8/2010

## NEAN Executive Board Second Quarter Recap:

Board held their monthly meetings during the quarter; all minutes are posted on website.

### Major Discussion Items:

- 1) Quarterly meetings:
  - Judi – chair this quarter, Jan Davis takes over next quarter following July meeting
  - Logistics of meetings
  - Speakers — topics and arrangements
- 2) Finances:
  - Checking account set up — three people can sign -- Cory, Rick and Mike
  - 501C3: 95 % of the way there; finishing up 2011 project
  - NEAN approved a budget last year that carries us through 2010
- 3) Reviewed major initiatives of committees:
  - Energy Education webinars
  - Energy Assistance — grant program, utility funds data gathering
- 4) Access Nebraska Outreach
  - After April meeting, Judi Martin, volunteered to represent NEAN on their outreach committee
- 5) Utility arrearage/disconnection data — reporting and gathering of data. Working through the details to get underway.
- 6) NEAN administrative assistance. Still working to find volunteer to help with strategic planning and other administrative duties.

Submitted by: Judi Martin July 8, 2010

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**NEAN Website Report**  
**July 6, 2010**

**Number of visitors:**

April: 348  
May: 473  
June: 367

(I would expect that most of these visitors are robots and/or spiders. Example: 15 robots visited the website from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday, July 6.)

**Most viewed pages:**

**Assistance:**

April 117; May 113; June 110

**Resources:**

April: 108; May 78; June 93

**About Us:**

April 94; May 49; June 85

**Agenda.Minutes**

April 64; May 59; June 73

There was no documentation for hits on the video pages. Hits were not counted if they were less than 11.

Mari Matulka  
Director, Corporate Communications  
Metropolitan Utilities District  
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E-mail: [mari\\_matulka@mudnebr.com](mailto:mari_matulka@mudnebr.com)

# NEAN Energy Assistance Committee Report Second Quarter 2010

## Committee initiatives for 2010:

- Monthly Meetings — regularly scheduled for the first Thursday of the month
- Energy Assistance Program Contact List
- Data Gathering Efforts
- Energy Burden /affordability
- Inventory of energy assistance programs/funding
- Program Planning 2010 — We were going to brainstorm and discuss next steps:

Committee initiative suggestions:

- Educate customers to apply for assistance; avoid service interruptions
- Level payment plans
- LIHEAP Program guidelines — how to apply
- Communication with utilities and agencies sooner rather than later
- Financial stability programs

## Update on 2010 initiatives:

- Monthly meetings were held this quarter; regularly scheduled for the first Thursday of the month – May 6, June 3 and July 1
- Energy Assistance Program contact list — Laura Demman
- Data Gathering — Jan Davis; Utilities are now reporting. Request for second quarter data sent last week.
- Energy Burden — Affordability update; brainstorm and discuss next steps — Judi Martin; Jerry Deichert, UNO, reported at the April meeting. This report will be updated annually.
- 2010 initiatives: We are working indirectly on the suggested initiatives. We joined the Energy Education Committee on the development/presentation of the NEAN Get A Head Start webinar series. The webinars to train the trainers are addressing some of the initiatives our committee suggested.

## New initiatives since last quarter:

1. Inventory of energy assistance programs/funding — Mary Beth Rathe and Judi Martin  
This was a new initiative. We previously discussed doing this and to a limited extent it was covered in the Energy Burden Study.

During the early part of the quarter, the Omaha Area Continuum (MAACH) began to compile energy assistance funding information by their Homelessness Prevention Task Force. Several metro area NEAN members provided data. The data will be compiled into a report on community resources for rent and utilities in the metro Omaha areas. The report is to be completed in September. The EA Committee felt it would be a good time to expand on these efforts and do this statewide. Mary Beth took the lead in coordinating these efforts with the community action agencies to gather similar data. They plan to have their report for the September NEAN meeting.

2. Grant Program for GHSE Program:  
A request was received for kits in using the GHSE program. EA Committee took to the Executive Board, who suggested it be returned to the EA Committee to discuss concerns over commitment and matching funds, and provide recommendation at meeting. The committee developed the following recommendation and will look for input and next steps from members:
  - NEAN would develop a energy kit grant program

- An application process is developed that would require: implementation plans, number served, timeline, plans for utilization of kits, in-kind contribution, reporting and measurement process.
  - Applicants would be required to include at least module 1 & 2 in their proposed plan
  - NEAN members would receive priority
  - Non-NEAN members could apply, must purchase NEAN curriculum or join NEAN
  - Applicants could apply for up to 30 kits
  - No matching of funds required if applicant is facilitating the program using their own staff and facilities (this is their in-kind contribution)
  - NEAN would purchase the kits and supply to grantees
  - NEAN would award up to six grants per year (or up to 180 kits) per year, subject to available funding
  - Grants would be awarded equally throughout the state — 2 west, 2 central and 2 eastern
3. Committee heard report on the National Energy Utility Affordability Conference held in San Antonio June 14-16 attended by Judi Martin. Two key take-a-ways from conference: Heat Response plans and State of Washington's conferences on utility industry. Committee wants to gather additional input on these two topics from second NEAN meeting to see if there is interest.
- Mary Beth said there may be possible interest in CAA's involvement in heat response plans. Kate mentioned this might be something for area COADs.
  - Carol discussed a workshop the rural electrics held on wind/renewable for the public which was very well received. Kate questioned the necessity of having a workshop on the utility industry in Nebraska since agencies have a close working relationship with utilities. Various hot topics could be developed and put into webinar form, such as what the CAAs are using. Committee wants to gain input from members after the GHSE webinars are held before pursuing.
  - Mary Beth said their experience with webinars has been positive. Agencies have technology, it is inexpensive and you can measure your response/impact.
4. Week of November 8 is Money Smart Week sponsored by Financial Education Coalition, statewide. Mary Beth said they are looking for local presentations and asked us to spread the word. Judi mentioned OPPD is planning a workshop using GHSE curriculum. Mary Beth provided the following contact information for those interested:
- Nebraska Financial Education Coalition (<http://www.moneysmartnebraska.org>): Jennifer Clark, Coalition President, at the Federal Reserve Bank in Omaha, Nebraska by phone (402-221-5500) or via email ([jennifer.clark@kc.frb.org](mailto:jennifer.clark@kc.frb.org)).**
5. November 15 is Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week. Mary Beth provided the following contact information if you are interested in getting involved: **Ronni Lanham, Community Action of Nebraska (402-471-3714) or [rfickle@canhelp.org](mailto:rfickle@canhelp.org)**

Submitted July 8, 2010

By: Judi Martin

## NEAN Minutes – Quarterly Meeting – July 8, 2010

The quarterly meeting was held by webinar and locations set up with cameras and microphones in Lincoln, Columbus and Kearney. It lasted from 9 a.m. – noon. Please note unless indicated that all quarterly meetings are scheduled for 9 a.m. – noon.

1. Kate Ellrich accepted an award on behalf of the American Red Cross presented by NEAN in appreciation of their support of and serving as our fiscal agency for the past five years.
2. The Nebraska Energy Office (NEO) made a presentation about everything that they cover. Making the presentation from NEO were Danielle Jensen and Julie Hendricks.

NEO was established in 1977. In 1991 the NEO was made part of the Governor's office. In 2008, they became a stand-alone agency.

- A. Federal Grant Information – To qualify for this federal grant through NEO the project must fit the guidelines of the grant. It is recommended that people also look for their own grants as NEO does not get copies of all available grants.
  - B. Low Interest Dollars and Energy Saving Plan – This is a revolving loan program and a loan for energy efficiency upgrades is a 5% interest loan. So far 25,618 projects have been funded with this program with more than \$205 million loaned. These loans are for Nebraska residents only.
  - C. ARRA Funds – There is a 2½% interest rate for these loans to make improvements on existing homes.
  - D. 2 ½% Energy Efficient Housing Loans – These can be used for new construction. There is a 12- month period for paying back the loan. There is also a 30 mortgage loan for homes that will be 1% under the existing rates. A certified rater must improve the plan for the home and it will be inspected both during and after the construction of the home.
  - E. Nebraska Energy Efficiency Partnership – Includes NEO, NPPD, LES and OPPD. They are working on a program that promotes energy efficiency to fifth grade students. There is a 2½% loan for heat pumps. NOTE: Heat pumps have a life expectancy of 18 years (same as a central air unit). They also are working with the appliance rebate program. NEO has a small introduction to NEAN that they use in all presentations.
  - F. Energy Codes – Work with making sure that home or home repairs are up to code. The least efficient home that can be built is one that just meets the energy code. The least efficient HVAC system that can be legally installed is one that just meets the energy code.
  - G. Public Information – A short tour of the NEO website. It includes information on all possible loans and rebates. There is a newsletter that can be accessed from the website or can be e-mailed to you. There is a listing of all of the areas that NEO covers and a facebook site.
  - H. Nebraska Wind Working Group – Educates and updates the public on the use of wind energy. The annual meeting will be in Kearney, November 9-10.
  - I. Weatherization – NEO began weatherizing homes in 1979. They work with nine sub grantees that will complete the work on homes. Typical improvements are insulating, dealing unsafe furnaces, sealing ductwork, sealing leaks (replace broken glass and replace door and window seals). There is talk of there being no weatherization funds in the future years; hopefully that this will not happen. The nine sub grantees are scrambling because they are working with more money that requires more workers than ever before. This year the NEO has received money for weatherization from ARRA, WAP and LIHEAP. They are required to abide by Davis Bacon for the ARRA funds but not the WAP or LIHEAP funds. There is a national evaluation process with weatherization and to date there have been four of the nine sub grantees selected for the evaluation.
  - J. Any question about energy efficiency should be referred to Danielle Jensen at (402) 471-3360, [Danielle.Jensen@nebraska.gov](mailto:Danielle.Jensen@nebraska.gov) or through the NEO website.
3. There was a motion to approve the minutes from the April 2010 quarterly meeting. The motion was seconded and approved.
  4. Committee Reports
    - A. Executive Committee report – There were three board meetings since the last quarterly meeting. Things discussed included logistics of meetings and speakers for upcoming meetings; NEAN is 95% of the way to meeting the 501(c)(3)

requirements to be a nonprofit organization; and a checking account has been set up that only requires one signature but three people can sign the checks (Cory Fuehrer, Rick Cheloha and Mike Kelly). Jan Davis mentioned that for investor owned entities, NEAN memberships will not qualify as a contribution until the entire process of the 501(c)(3) designation is completed. The NEAN budget for the current year was approved last year under a two-year budget process. Work will begin to review the 2011 budget. The Executive Committee reviews the committees including the Energy Education and Energy Assistance Committees, which have been the most active. Discussion about the utility arrearage/shutoff program. Judi Martin has been seeking an administrative assistance to assist NEAN. She has a good prospect for this fall through the United Way.

- B. Treasurer's report – NEAN funds have been transferred from the American Red Cross to the NEAN account at the Union Bank. There is a balance of \$14,843.25 in the account. There was a motion to approve the report and it was seconded and approved.
- C. Energy Assistance report – The EA Committee set several initiatives for 2010. One was to have a regular monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month. Meetings were held in the last quarter on May 6, June 3 and July 1. Another initiative is to have two lists of energy assistance programs. One list will be placed on the website for anyone to use and the other list will be for NEAN members only to use. Laura Demman is working on this list. Jan Davis has been working on another initiative to collect arrearage and shutoff information. The first quarter report is completed and a request for the second quarter has been sent.

UNO will continue to update the yearly energy burden study. The current report will be added to NEAN's website.

Inventory of EA programs and funding (LIHEAP not included) – Mary Beth Rathe is putting together a report to show available funds and payments by regions. There are questions if it should just show help with utilities or show all help provided. She is hoping to have this information compiled by September. This report is to be used as an internal report only.

United Way arrearage and shutoff report – The report for the first quarter of 2010 is completed. A report will only be completed if four or more utility companies provide the information. The reports are not to be made public, however can be used to send to organizations such as NFFN or NEADA that use this type of information to support LIHEAP. The report is for households in arrears for 31 days, 61 days and 91+ days.

Grant program for GHSE and providing energy kits – It was discussed by the Executive Board after the proposal was made by the EA Committee. It went back to the EA Committee to come up with guidelines. Guidelines have been established:

- An application process is developed that would require – implementation plans, number served, timeline, plans for utilization of kits, in-kind contribution (mention of having to contact businesses to see if they could get any type of contributions to add to the kits), reporting and measurement process.
- Applicants would be required to include at least modules 1 and 2 in their proposed plan.
- NEAN members would receive priority.
- Non-NEAN members could apply, however must purchase NEAN curriculum or join NEAN.
- Applicants could apply for up to 30 kits.
- There would be no matching funds required if the applicant is facilitating the program using their own staff and facilities (this is their in-kind contribution).
- NEAN would purchase the kits and supply to grantees.
- NEAN would reward up to six grants per year (or up to 180 kits), subject to available funding.
- Grants would be awarded equally throughout the state – two western Nebraska, two central Nebraska and two eastern Nebraska.

It was demonstrated that this would be a way to utilize information that NEAN has gathered or created and a constructive way to spend some NEAN dollars. A motion was made to create a grant application program for kits. It was seconded and approved. The EA Committee will work on the application process and bring back to the membership at next meeting.

Judi Martin brought back information from the NEUAC conference that she attended in June. She brought back two ideas that she wanted to discuss at the meeting. The first idea is does NEAN want to get involved in creating a heat response plan. This could be done for particular areas or statewide. There was considerable discussion about how much is Nebraska a heat state? The other idea was that the Public Service Commission of the state of Washington held a conference for involved parties to provide education on utilities – from rates to assistance and types of fuel and generation. There was a mixed feeling about this idea. The thought was, let's wait and see how the webinars go with the GHSE and then talk about future opportunities.

November 8 is Money Smart Week  
November 15 is Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week.

The LIHEAP report by Mike Kelly revealed the Health & Human Services has no idea how much funding will be received for the upcoming year. DHHS may have to reduce income and payment amounts to pre-2009 if the funding is reduced.

- D. Energy Webinar – Joint initiative between the Energy Education and Energy Assistance Committees. There will be a test run July 12 using a system from Iowa State University. The four sessions are scheduled for July 22, July 29, August 5 and August 12. This is a train-the-trainer on the GSHE curriculum. Quite a few NEAN members are stepping up to present certain modules.
- E. Website – Mari Matulka noted where information is located on the website, number of hits to the website and the most popular areas. We did learn about robots and spiders.

DeVonne provided door prizes and the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes submitted by Mike Kelly – July 9, 2010.

Attendees:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Meeting location</b>
April Gross, Custer Public Power District	Kearney
Carol Fritzler, Custer Public Power District	Kearney
Dave Behle, Dawson PPD	Kearney
Wade Rah, Butler PPD	Columbus
Chad Podolak, NPPD	Columbus
Mike Kelly, Nebraska DHHS	Lincoln
Dana Durre, NPGA	Lincoln
Julie Hendricks, NE Energy Office	Lincoln
DeVonne Ksiazkiewicz, NorthWestern Energy	Lincoln
Kate Ellrich, American Red Cross	Lincoln
Judi Martin, OPPD	Lincoln
Roger Hunt, NPPD	Lincoln
Rick Cheloha, Loup PPD	Lincoln
Jan Davis, Black Hills Energy	Lincoln
Mari Matulka, M.U.D.	Lincoln
Shirley Higgins, NPPD	Lincoln
Danielle Jensen, NEO	Lincoln
Marybeth Rathe, Community Action of NE	Lincoln
Krista Heineman, Goldenrod Hills	Lincoln
Michelle Martinez, Community Action	Lincoln