

Envision 2020  
E2020 Energy Conservation Taskforce meeting  
September 23, 2010, 8-9 am  
Greater Mankato Business Development Center

MINUTES

Present: Bill Anderson, Monika Antonelli, Jeff Brand, Ted Downey, Paul Lindfors, Leigh Pomeroy, Bob Schabert, Lou Schwartzkopf.

I. Ted Downey opened the meeting at 8:00 am.

II. Old business

A. Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Lou Schwartzkopf: Scott Fitchner, the Blue Earth County Environmental Services Director, is the person with Blue Earth County most familiar with the Torrie-Smith Greenhouse Gas Strategy software. Lou will contact Scott about the use of the software. Lou has met with Jon Hammel, an Economic Development Specialist with Region 9, who is working on an energy consumption / renewable energy potential / carbon footprint report by county for Region 9. No new electricity or natural gas data for Mankato has been forthcoming in the last month. Jeff Brand will set up a Google group as a place to put and have accessible the Mankato energy consumption data we're accumulating.

B. EPA Energy Star programs.

Lou Schwartzkopf circulated an Xcel advertisement in the September 22 Free Press about the Home Performance with Energy Star program, a comprehensive whole-house approach to increasing home energy efficiency, in which completed home energy efficiency projects are rewarded by Xcel with cash rebates. The question is, how can we facilitate getting information about this program, and other Energy Star programs, to citizens? Leigh Pomeroy will follow up on the ad.

C. Expansion of meters for libraries.

Lou Schwartzkopf called Tim Hayes, Director of the Blue Earth County Library, about the success of the Meters for Libraries program. Tim said that the meters are being checked out; at any one time, there are two or three meters on the shelves; the rest of the ten are out. Leigh Pomeroy reported that the North Mankato Library can't keep them on the shelves. Denny Dotson has said that if the Task Force can get him the information on the brand of meter and power cord we got for the libraries program, he'll send out a letter to local businesses with this information, so that the businesses can buy meters to check out to their employees; information on both 110 V

and 220 V meters would be useful. Leigh will get this information to Benny. Monika Antonelli will ask Marcus Hendrickson about the possibility of getting some meters for the MSU Library. The question of an information sheet on electricity use in the home to be included with the meters for check-out was deferred until the next meeting.

### III. New business

A. Jeff Brand reported on the efforts of a citizens' group, Concerned Citizens of New Ulm, to keep the New Ulm power company from converting a boiler from natural gas to coal; Jeff, Bob Schabert, and Paul Lindfors attended a meeting of the group earlier this week. As a part of the plan to burn coal, coal from Wyoming will be transported by rail to Renville, then trucked to New Ulm; the coal ash will be deposited in Mankato's Ponderosa landfill. The Mankato area is downwind and downstream from the power plant.

In support of Concerned Citizens of New Ulm, the Task Force will take the following actions:

1. Paul and Jeff will be contact persons for the media; they'll write a letter of support to the citizens' group citing scientific evidence explaining why burning coal is not a good idea.
2. Leigh Pomeroy will inform the Free Press and Minnesota Public Radio about the power company's plan.
3. Bill Anderson will contact his son Doug at the EPA to see if Doug can provide any guidance with regard to actions that can be taken to oppose the plan.
4. Lou Schwartzkopf will contact J. Drake Hamilton at Fresh Energy for guidance about how we can advocate against coal with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA).

B. Jeff Brand suggested that we think of ideas for articles and editorials in the Free Press on energy and environmental issues, then contact the Free Press about writing them. A good article or editorial once a month is a goal to work toward, to keep energy and environmental issues in the public eye.

### IV. Announcements

A. Jeff Brand: A 370-MW solar plant has recently started operation in California.

B. Jeff Brand: Lennox now sells solar powered heating and cooling systems; these systems are available from Lennox suppliers in Mankato.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 am. The next meeting will be Thursday, October 28, 2010, 8-9 am, Greater Mankato Business Development Center, Classroom B.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Schwartzkopf