

Envision 2020
E2020 Energy Conservation Taskforce meeting
October 28, 2010, 8-9 am
Greater Mankato Business Development Center

MINUTES

Present: Bill Anderson, Monika Antonelli, Ted Downey, Leigh Pomeroy, Lou Schwartzkopf, Paul Vogel, Katy Wortel

Guest: Jon Hammel, Economic Development Specialist with Region 9

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

II. Old business

A. Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Lou Schwartzkopf spoke with Scott Fitchner, the Blue Earth County Environmental Services Director, about ICLEI's Clean Air and Climate Protection software to calculate greenhouse gas emissions. To join ICLEI and have access to the software would cost the City of Mankato about \$1000 a year. Paul Vogel: The city doesn't have the money for this. Lou will seek other sources of funding. Lou has set up a Google docs website for those working on the inventory to share data on. Paul Vogel suggested that the City of North Mankato needs representation on the Task Force. Lou will contact Mike Fischer, the North Mankato City Planner, and invite him to join the group.

B. Expansion of Meters for Libraries

Leigh Pomeroy will contact Denny Dotson and Tom Riley with the brand of meter used in this program so that this information can be given to local businesses who are interested in buying meters and checking them out to their employees. Monika Antonelli will contact Marcus Hendrickson at Xcel about the possibility of getting some meters for the MSU library.

C. Home performance with Energy Star

The tax credit for home energy efficiency improvements runs out at the end of this year. Leigh Pomeroy will call Congressman Walz's office about the possibility of extending the tax credit.

D. New Ulm power company proposal to burn coal

Lou Schwartzkopf, reporting on an e-mail received from J. Drake Hamilton, Science Director for Fresh Energy: After the New Ulm power company submits the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the proposed project to the MPCA, it is put on public notice. At that point, there is a procedure and timing set for public input and comments on the EAW. Katy

Wortel suggested that informal discussions between concerned citizens and the power company be held before the public hearings, since her experience is that once the EAW gets to the public hearings, the outcome is pretty much set. The Sierra Club and Fresh Energy are tracking developments; Jeff Brand is also watching developments. Leigh Pomeroy is in contact with the citizens' group in New Ulm which is opposing the plan.

III. New business / New initiatives

Paul Vogel: The City of Mankato joined the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program a couple of months ago. GreenStep Cities is a challenge, assistance, and recognition program to help Minnesota cities achieve their sustainability goals through implementation of 28 best practices. John Noerenberg is in charge of the City of Mankato's program. Anyone wishing to volunteer to help with the program should call 387-8571.

IV. Announcements

A. Lou Schwartzkopf: Karen Schultz, with Energy Resources Minnesota and a consultant to Xcel Energy, is giving a talk, "Energy Efficiency for Residential Customers," at Centenary United Methodist Church (in downtown Mankato at the corner of 2nd and Cherry Streets) on Monday, November 15, at 7:00 pm.

B. Jon Hammel reported on the press conference yesterday at Region 9 at which time the Energy Consumption portion of the Region 9 Energy Assessment and Inventory was rolled out.

V. Agenda items for our next meeting

Katy Wortel suggested partnering with the Youth Energy Summit to get power meters into District 77 school libraries for check-out.

VI. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 am. Next meeting: Since the fourth Thursday of November is Thanksgiving, our next meeting will be Thursday, December 9, 2010, 8-9 am, Greater Mankato Business Development Center, Classroom B. This will be our last meeting this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Lou Schwartzkopf