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# Memo

**Date: 4/23/24**

**To: ETAC**

**From: Carla Vita, Director Energy Transition**

## RE: ETO Strategic Plan

### Background

Strategic Planning is important for any office to partake to ensure the highest quality work, best practices, and to use our time and resources most efficiently. The Energy Transition Office (ETO) went through the first stages of strategic planning in March 2024.

The strategic planning was led by DEED’s Innovation Lab team. The strategic planning group met on two days. As planning of the important work of ETO, the perspectives of many was and were needed. A variety of people were invited to cover different communities, parts of MN, workers, different power plant closure stages, non-profit, Prairie Island Indian Community, Coalition of Utility Cities, DEED Workforce Strategies, DEED Business Development, if they sat on ETAC or not, and Federal – EPA and IWG to assist and volunteer their time and expertise. Attached you will find the list of those that attended. (Others were asked, but if their schedules did not cooperate, we asked alternates to ensure that that the perspective was always 360°.)

A smaller cohort of Mayor McComber, Marshall Hallock and Kristen Renskers will be meeting with the ETO staff on an implementation plan. That meeting will take place next week. Upon completion, information regarding the work will be provided to ETAC.

Note – the ETO is not the same as the Energy Transition Advisory Committee. Thus, you will notice when the final work is completed, some areas might be different than the ETAC plan. However, each person participating in the strategic planning was provided a copy of the ETAC plan, and all items on the ETAC website for their review and consideration.

Of special note – the planning work performed by DEED’s Innovation Lab was of no cost to ETAC and the ETO budget.

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| **Who** | **Representing** | **Energy Transition Advisory Committee** | **Where In MN** | **Days Attending**  |
| Klara Beck | Coal Impacted Community | No | Fergus Falls | Both |
| Michael Childs, Jr. | Prairie Island Indian CommunityAlso a former Nuclear Plant worker | Yes | Prairie Island Indian Community | Both |
| Shayla Drake | Workforce – DEED | No | Northern MN – Cohasset, Hoyt Lakes, THE  | Both |
| Jon Grosshans | Intergovernmental Working Group, Federal Environmental Protection Agency | No | National Perspective | Both |
| Marshall Hallock | Red Wing – Nuclear Community | Yes | Red Wing | Both |
| Don Hickman | Non-Profit – Initiative Foundation, years of work in this area | No | Central – Becker, Monticello and St. Cloud | Both |
| David Heyer | DEED – Business Development in an impacted area  | No | Central MN - Becker, Fergus Falls, Monticello & St. Cloud | Mon |
| Mary McComber | Coal Impacted Community | Yes | Oak Park Heights | Mon |
| Mike McCrownsey | Energy Transition Office – Grants | No | Entire State | Both |
| Kristin Renskers | Workers – Union Representative | Yes | Northern | Both |
| Whitney Ridlon -Cancelled  | IRRRB (Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation). Part of the Energy Transition Sprint Document | No | Northern – Cohasset (coal- retiring 2030 & 2035), Hoyt Lakes (formerly Coal now Natural Gas), Schroeder Township (Coal – retired)  | Both |
| Jocelyn Rousey | Innovation Lab – DEED | No | Innovation Director | Both |
| Josh Skelton – Cancelled | MN Power – Utilities – Boswell Coal Plant in Cohasset | Yes | Northern | Both |
| Brett Skyles | Coal Impacted County |  | Itasca County | Both |
| Catalina Valencia | Business Development – DEED | No | Entire State | Both |
| Carla Vita | Energy Transition Office | Staff | Entire State | Both  |
| See Yang | Innovation Lab – DEED | No | Innovation Consultant | Both |
| Shane Zahrt | Coalition of Utility Cities  | Yes | Members: Becker, Cohasset, Granite Falls, Hoyt Lakes, Monticello, Oak Park Heights, Red Wing | Both |