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# Memo

**Date: 2/6/24**

**To: ETAC**

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

## RE: ETO Updates

### Background

The Energy Transition Office has been quite busy since ETAC last met. A sampling of the items we have completed:

* Hiring Mike McCrownsey as the Office’s Grants Specialist Coordinator
* Creation of Community Energy Transition (CET) Grant and all the documentation
* Round 1 of the CET completed and subsequent announcements
  + Granite Falls
  + Fergus Falls
* Preparing for announcement of grants for the remainder of FY 24
* Preparing for FY 25 grant announcements
* Energy Transition Summit 2023
  + ETO office organized a Summit with Becker, Sherburne County and the Initiative Foundation
  + All impacted cities and counties were invited
  + Free event held at Becker in June 2023, ETO covered all costs
  + Started with a tour of Becker for Federal and State funders/departments
  + Numerous presentations all day. Lunch was saved for networking.
* Attended all Xcel Energy 1/4ly mtgs for SHERCO - Becker
* Attended all Xcel Energy 1/4ly mtgs for King Plant - Oak Park Heights
* ETO office check-in with impacted communities throughout year to obtain updates from the impacted communities and to provide updates. Note – ETO staff has physically been at each location. In many locations numerous times.
* Coordinating with DEED Teammates on assisting community needs. Business Development Team, Workforce Strategy Consultants, and Minnesota Job Stills Partnership meet monthly.
* ETO Director selected to the NACO BRECC (National Association of Counties, Building Resilient Economies in Coal Communities) Coalition. Attended monthly virtual meetings and in person meetings in Tennessee and Wyoming.
* Attend local meetings as requested by the local community.
* Updated ETO Webpage – improving the layout. Added significant resources organized per the topic within the ETAC plan. This is a continuous effort.
* “Closing The Loop” meeting coordination. Held meetings with interested impacted cities and counties. They provide a list of projects that they have identified as important for a more successful transition. Then a meeting is held with numerous Federal and State departments/agencies educating on grants/loans/resources to assist each identified project. Non-profits, RDC’s are invited, if the community has those resources.
* Updated the impacted communities as they will evolve over time based on the timing per State Statutes.
* Found numerous resources to assist ET communities. As found they are sent to the communities for their info.
* Attend many meetings. Meeting notes are forwarded to ET communities.
* With Colorado, finding any state with staff that does similar work as Colorado Just Transition and MN ETO. NY offered to coordinate periodic meetings so we can learn on a State level.
* EQB (Environmental Quality Board) contract per Statute 116J.55 for services that they will provide to impacted communities. The EQB will provide technical assistance for energy transition communities on environmental review requirements and processes to support communities in their readiness efforts for business expansion and attraction opportunities.

**2024 ETO Goals:**

• Second round of grants for FY 24 and funding for FY 25.

• Supporting the communities that have, are and will be experiencing power plant closures.

• Support the Energy Transition Advisory Committee and its activities

• Creating a Strategic Plan for the ETO office.

• Continue to engage with stakeholders, workers, utilities, communities, counties, non-profits etc. to support energy transition efforts.

• Grant administration

• Continue to educate and coordinate impacted communities on Federal, State, non-profit, etc. funding and educational opportunities. Including opportunities for impacted communities to learn about resources available to them.

• Monitor transition efforts in other states and localities

• Attend and participate in NACO BRECC, state and other meetings.

• Attend Xcel Energy outreach meetings per orders of the PUC as well as attend other appropriate meetings with other Utilities on their plant closure process.

• In coordination with the efforts of DEED’s Business Development office. Continue to support communities with Economic Diversification efforts. Efforts include leveraging and partnering with local resources (Chambers, community organizations and others) on business attraction, retention and expansion efforts.

•Exploring an Energy Transition Summit 2024 in coordination with Blandin