

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
ENERGY TRANSITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA**

REGULAR MEETING

**HYBRID OVER TEAMS AND PHYSICALLY AT THE
MONTICELLO CAREERFORCE CENTER**

FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2022

1. Call to order

The Energy Transition Advisory Committee met in Regular Session and DEED Commissioner Steve Grove welcomed all in attendance and called the meeting to order at 10:00am at the Monticello CareerForce Center in Monticello, MN.

Attendee Name	Representation	Voting Status	Status
Chair Marshall Hallock	Impacted Community	Voting	Present
Vice-Chair Tamara Lowney	Impacted Community	Voting	Present
Michael James Childs Jr	Prairie Island Indian Community Representative	Voting	Present
Shelly Christensen	Speaker of the House Appointment	Voting	Absent
Richard Evans	Utilities That Operate an Impacted Facility	Voting	Present
Jamie Fitzke	Nonprofit Organization with Expertise and Experience Delivering Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs	Voting	Present
Mike Hoppe	Impacted Workers at Impacted Facilities	Voting	Present
Luke Lallemond	Impacted Workers at Impacted Facilities	Voting	Present
Karin Housley	Senate Majority Appointment	Voting	Absent
Mary McComber	Impacted Community	Voting	Present
Jennifer McEwen	Senate Minority Appointment	Voting	Absent
Shane Mekeland	House Minority Leader Appointment	Voting	Absent
Kristin Renskers	Impacted Workers at Impacted Facilities	Voting	Present
Richard James Sackett	Impacted Worker Employed by Company Under Contract	Voting	Present
Joshua Skelton	Utilities That Operate an Impacted Facility	Voting	Present
Derek Vetsch	Impacted Community	Voting	Present
Abigail Wozniak	Professional Economic Development or Workforce Retraining Experience	Voting	Present
Shane Zahrt	Coalition of Utility Cities	Voting	Present

Beth Binczik	Governor’s Designee	Non-Voting	Present
Steve Grove	Commissioner of Employment & Economic Development	Non-Voting	Present
Kevin Lee	Commissioner of Commerce Designee	Non-Voting	Present
Craig McDonnell	Commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency’s Designee	Non-Voting	Present
Jeremy Parker	Commissioner of Labor & Industry Designee	Non-Voting	Present
Rose Patzer	Colleges & Universities Designee	Non-Voting	Absent
Katie Sieben	Executive Secretary of the Public Utilities Commission or Designee	Non-Voting	Present
Jon Van Nurden	Commissioner of Revenue’s Designee	Non-Voting	Present
Will Seuffert	Executive Secretary of the Public Utilities Commission or Designee	Non-Voting	Present

Others Present: Trisha Duncan (Xcel Energy), Bruce Peterson (standing in for Rose Patzer) and Kristin Yeager (Central Minnesota Jobs and Training)
DEED Staff: Catalina Valencia and Carla Vita

2. Energy Transitions Office
Commissioner Grove informed of the State Statute creating the Energy Transition Advisory Committee and their role to create an Energy Transition Plan for the State to be presented to the Governor and State Legislature. He expressed his gratitude to all that are on the Committee and their willingness to serve.

Commissioner Grove introduced Carla Vita, the Energy Transition Director and discussed her background.

3. Energy Transition Advisory Committee
Commissioner Grove requested each person to provide their name, who they represent and to answer the following, “What success looks like for this group?”

Michael James Childs Jr the Prairie Island Indian Community Representative. Success: understanding the effects of the transition from carbon to renewable fuels. Concern that workers are made whole and the local tax base.

Shane Zahrt represents Coalition of Utility Cities. Success: address gaps in State’s ability to assist communities and workers; working together; identify gaps; identify knowns and unknowns.

Abigail “Abby” Wozniak represents Professional Economic Development or Workforce Retraining Experience. Success: A robust plan that is evaluated, can be adjusted and to learn from experiences.

Jamie Fitzke represents Nonprofit Organization with Expertise and Experience Delivering Energy Efficiency and Conservation Programs. Success is what was stated prior and utilizing opportunities for legislation to assist communities and workers affected in the closure.

Richard Evans represents Utilities That Operate an Impacted Facility. Success is impacted cities having optimism for the future.

Mike Hoppe represents Impacted Workers at Impacted Facilities. Success is lessening the impact on workers and communities with power plant loss.

Derek Vetsch represents Impacted Community. Success is ensuring that communities and public are educated on complex issues related to the closure including impacts and effects.

Tamara Lowney represents Impacted Community. Success is what was said prior plus finding the right resources for the areas of concern.

Beth Binczik represents Governor’s Designee. Success is what was said prior plus plans on how to best assist communities.

Mary McComber represents Impacted Community. Success is bringing this group together to learn, listen and work together on challenges of the plant closures and with the redevelopment of the property.

Marshall Hallock represents Impacted Community. Success is finding solutions as the closure affects every part of a community.

Kristin Renskers represents Impacted Workers at Impacted Facilities. Success is a clear plan with tangible results which includes the impacted workers and their families.

Luke Lallemon represents Impacted Workers at Impacted Facilities. Success is the just transition for communities and workers.

Richard “Dick” James Sackett represents Impacted Worker Employed by Company Under Contract. Success is assistance with the anxiety and uncertainty of the closures for the worker and their family; finding solutions for the community and the impacted workers.

Joshua Skelton represents Utilities That Operate an Impacted Facility. Success is finding solutions for the social and community and impacts.

Kevin Lee represents Commissioner of Commerce Designee. Success is what was said prior plus incentives for the impacted workers especially in re-training.

Jeremy Parker represents Commissioner of Labor & Industry Designee. Success is retraining opportunities, including apprenticeships, for the workers especially those interested in the trades.

Jon Van Nurden represents Commissioner of Revenue's Designee. Success is reducing the impact to workers and communities due to the closure; it is important to ensure equity.

Katie Sieben represents Executive Secretary of the Public Utilities Commission or Designee. Success is a concrete plan for the workers and host communities including working with the legislature for a smooth transition.

Will Seuffert represents Executive Secretary of the Public Utilities Commission or Designee. Success is working together to share best practices.

Craig McDonnell represents Commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency's Designee. Success is a plan for the community and workers with priorities and steps identified.

Steve Grove, represents Commissioner of Employment & Economic Development. Success is a plan for the future, prepared by this Committee to "tackle" issues.

Valencia discussed the purpose of the Energy Transition Advisory Committee as detailed in Stated Statute. She stated that it includes the creation and development of a plan, implementation of the plan ensuring the voice of the community and those impacted. The plan is statewide and is meant to assist the communities before, during and after the closures.

Valencia informed that State Statute states that the Energy Transition Advisory Committee is required to meet monthly until the plan is submitted and then the Committee is dissolved. The Committee will use Robert's Rules of order to run meetings. Due to the hybrid model of meeting, all votes must be a roll call vote. This first meeting must be run by Department of Employment and Economic Development Commissioner Steve Grove per State Statute. At this meeting a Chair and Vice-Chair will be elected. Open meeting law, conflict of interest; gifts, grants and donations were discussed.

4. Research and Other Efforts

Valencia discussed the Minnesota Business Vitality Council's (MBVC) Community Energy Transition report and recommendations. Some people that are on the Energy Transition Advisory Committee were a part of the effort that produce the report. She encouraged everyone to read the report for key findings, best practices and recommendations. Each impacted community was interviewed; they interviewed other impacted communities in the United States, and the conclusions are within the report. She indicated that the report might assist the Committee and its efforts.

Valencia discussed other efforts regarding the plant closures including meetings with Just Transitions; the Midwest Governor's Power Plant closure report; Brownfield Development conference and DEED Staff; Vita's on-going meeting with Advisory Committee members and Impacted Communities and others.

Valencia informed on the Xcel Energy Workforce Training and Development Program Pilot and the Walz- Flanagan Budget to Move Minnesota Forward.

5. Open Discussion

Zahrt stated that he would like to see research items from the MBVC Energy Transition Sprint Report and other research items on the DEED webpage for Energy Transitions. Valencia informed that the report, is on the webpage and the report has all the research from their efforts.

Commissioner Grove discussed the Energy Transition Advisory Committee Chair and Vice-Chair roles and responsibilities. He discussed the deadline of the Minnesota Energy Transition Plan stated in State Statute on July 1, 2022. Commissioner Grove also discussed the recommended formation of 5 task forces to assist on 5 specific topical areas of the plan which include: Tax Base, Community Engagement, workforce, Re-use of Assets and Economic Diversification. Commissioner Grove inquired if any other areas are missing. Childs stated that he believes that Community Engagement needs to include State Statute requirements for tribal consultation. Childs informed the group on the burial remains that were removed with the Prairie Island Power Plant construction. He indicated that the State needs to work with tribal nations when development occurs. He further stated that in the mid-1990s a promise was made to the Prairie Island Community that it would have renewable energy.

Childs also informed that he works for Xcel Energy and is also part owner of Xcel Energy.

Commissioner Grove stated that the importance of the remains will be discussed in the plan.

Zahrt stated that the July 1, 2022 Energy Transition Plan deadline stated in Statute is very close. He inquired about the flexibility to move the date. Valencia stated that the

Committee could request to move the date. Grove stated that it is important to not rush the plan. Vetsch stated that he does not want a specific date determined now as we might know more after the task forces meet. Zahrt stated that it is important that the plan is composed correctly and not rushed. Fitzke agreed but does believe that the authors of the bill ought to be informed of the delay.

Vetsch inquired about how often the task forces will meet. Vita stated monthly. Grove informed that Vita will attend all task force meetings.

Hallock stated that a good plan takes time. The plan needs actionable proposals and solutions.

Lowney advised that task forces are smart recommendation from Staff to move the plan along and guide the specific area. She stated that each task force needs to report to the full board. She stated that the Committee might want to consider a newsletter to communicate to the public.

Grove stated that a communication plan will be brought forth to the committee at the next meeting.

Wozniak stated that the task forces need to consider having youth and older adults to provide advice as they are not represented on the Energy Transition Advisory Committee. Wozniak continued that the youth need to discuss career goals. Grove stated that the perspective of older adults and youth are important and need to be considered.

Motion by Vetsch, second by Evans to create 5 task forces: Community Engagement, Economic Diversification, Re-Use of Assets, Tax Base and Workforce. Vote was completed by roll call and carried unanimously.

6. Election of ETAC's Chair and Vice-Chair

Grove opened the floor for nominations of Chair.

Motion by McComber to nominate Hallock as Chair of the Energy Transition Advisory Committee, seconded by Zahrt.

Motion by Lowney to nominate Lowney as Chair of the Energy Transition Advisory Committee, seconded by Skelton.

Both nominees accepted the nomination.

Grove requested each nominee provided a background to the Committee before a vote occurred. Lowney gave a background including: work on the power plant closures in communities and county; environmental work; workforce development; tax implications of plant closures; federal grants; community diversity; state grants; she is from the area;

her work on the Midwest Governor's Power Plant report and her capacity to put a plan into action.

Hallock gave a background including: his excitement to work with the group on this important project affecting many communities; the power plant closures significant impact in every facet of community life; need for the plan to have actionable outcomes to address the community impacts; and the need for results within the communities.

Vetsch indicated from what was communicated both are well qualified and recommended one be Chair and the other Vice-Chair. McComber indicated that together they both would make a great team. Evens recommended that instead of two votes, one for each seat, that one vote indicating the name of the person desired to be Chair would be best.

Roll Call Vote took place. The following voted for Hallock for Chair: Childs, Fitzke, Hallock, Hoppe, Lallemon, McComber, Vetsch and Zahrt. A total of 8 votes.

The following voted for Lowney as Chair: Evans, Lowney, Renskers, Sackett, Skelton, and Wozniak. A total of 6 votes.

Hallock was voted in as chair of the Energy Transition Advisory Committee.

Motion by Vetsch, seconded by Evans to nominate Lowney as Vice-Chair. The roll call vote carried unanimously.

7. Next Steps

Grove discussed task forces to assist in writing the document. Every person had the opportunity to select none, one or more task forces. Vita was asked to send out the list for those to further reflect on the task forces and to allow for modifications.

The task forces are planned to meet monthly and will report back to the full board.

The next monthly meeting is recommended for the last Tuesday of the month. Conversation that the day is good, but the meeting needs to start at 11am or later. Conversation that the hybrid model of meetings is preferred and that the meetings shall move around to impacted communities. By consensus of the committee, the meetings will take place the last Tuesday of the month, at 11am at an impacted community. Vita to provide details.

8. Adjourn

Motion by Hallock, second by Vetsch to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.