



Energy Efficiency Subcommittee
 Meeting Minutes
 November 26, 2019
 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Facilitator:	James Geisen		
Meeting Attendees:	James Geisen, Kendrick Heinlein, Tom Oosterbaan, Keisha Hills, Carissa Patrone, Monica Light, Brett Little, John Mitchell, Sherri Vainavicz, Amelia Ackley, Andrew, Maddie Strom, Brad Banks, John Kinch, Dan Schoonmaker, Wende Randall, Brianne Czyzio Robach		
Time Convened:	1:04	Time Adjourned:	2:32

Introductions	
Review of Minutes	From October 22, 2019
Discussion	None
Amendments	None
Conclusion	Motion Passed
Event Preparation	
Discussion	
<p>The group has been talking around how to bring service providers together with the environmental sustainability circles to explore how those in lower-income households can access to energy innovations and to insert creativity into solutions. The West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum event is on December 9, from 11:30-1:30pm at the LIT event space.</p> <p><u>Format:</u> Lunch will be provided around noon; presentations will begin around 12:15. An hour of presentations will be followed by about 45 minutes table activity which will serve as networking time as well. Presentation will be framed as an overview of the utility assistance process, intersectional thoughts, and an introduction of solutions led by John and Brett. Table exercises will be facilitated by speakers and WMSBF staff. Initial idea is where each table has a specific topic or affinity group. The thought is that each table will have a mix of nonprofit, energy professionals, community advocates. Participants will have time to understand the issue, then table topics will be introduced, and participants will be asked to self-select a table. Each table will have facilitation depending on topic area. WMSBF will facilitate sign ups.</p> <p><u>Table topics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This should include current efforts and discussion around assistance versus systemic solutions. • Alternative Funding Opportunities • Technology solutions (3 tables): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Demand Side approach - Supply Side approach - Behavioral change/Education • Coordination and Collaboration 	



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Three questions for each table group:

- What challenges do we need to anticipate through this process?
- What do you do and what resources can you contribute ...?
- How can resources be used or leveraged to mitigate the need for utility assistance?

Table conversations may encompass the following topics: Current MEAP policy has been sunsetted but extended until 2022. Another topic is ownership – landlord upkeep and utility disclosure to show estimated cost could be local policy topics. Smaller utilities throughout state would not be obligated to do low-income interventions, potential policy engagement. More people are being deferred for household safety issues – poor roof, asbestos, air quality, etc. likely be a funding or collaboration topic. Collaboration and work between utilities, weatherizations, deferral mitigation. Water department connection – this seems to come up less than utilities. KCCA gets funding from city of Grand Rapids to provide assistance. This is regulated locally throughout the state.

Logistics:

Handouts will overview the process and include high-level infographics from 2018 report.

There will be a table sheet (large pieces of paper) to capture dialogue at the tables. Capture information from the report-outs as well. Dan anticipates that actionable policy ideas brought to January ENTF meeting to apply resources to these ideas. Opportunities that are more project-based can be discussed at WMSBF.

Presenters will develop slides. Please send slides to Dan and Carissa ahead of time.

Wende encouraged attendees to bring additional service partners. The following should be invited:

- Senator MacGregor’s office
- Foundations and corporate giving officers
- Electric and gas association
- True North

Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
Coalition to Keep Michigan Warm Update		
Discussion		
Coalition is planning an advocacy push mid-December including a social media push and information packets to elected officials. LIHEAP push will be in March. Dates will be sent later. A workgroup has been working on describing what assistance and what it does not look like to help inform solutions.		
Action Items	Person Responsible	Deadline
MEAP 2019 Updates		
Discussion		
Salvation Army: is taking appointments. Many people are looking for co-pay assistance		
North Kent Connect: started taking clients, they have seen a slow start		



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KCCA: has not started taking clients yet, funds are only at \$50,000 for the year	
Agency Updates	
Discussion	
<p>Senior Neighbors: They are waiting for funds from the senior millage.</p> <p>Rainy Day Project: is a WMEAC pilot project. This program engages with different neighborhood organizations. The team provided residents with low-flow toilets, rain barrels, others. Will also be providing rain gardens to eligible households. Participants may receive a water bill credit. 17 people participated in the pilot project, but they are hoping to increase participation in future projects. To learn more about the project, click here.</p> <p>KCCA: shared weatherization flyers. These will be sent electronically. KCCA is required to do a Community Needs Assessment every three years. The report will be approved by the board next month, it will be available online after it is approved. Susan can share in December.</p> <p>2-1-1: Wende had collected data a few months ago and reviewed today. Identified that utility assistance was the second largest assistance area, covering 16% of calls to 211. Sherri noted that across the state utilities are the number 1 need. The housing crisis in Kent County has led to housing being the highest identified need.</p>	