#### Meeting held: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm Meeting Recording available to supplement notes

Microsoft Teams meeting

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**Or call in (audio only)**

[+1 509-505-0479 351814161#](tel:+15095050479,,351814161# )   United States, Spokane

Phone Conference ID: **351 814 161**#

#### Attendees:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CNGC** | **CNGC – Continued** | **NWEC** | **Guests** |
| Monica Cowlishaw | Jocelyne Moore | Amy Wheeless | **H. Gil Peach & Assoc.** |
| Mike Parvinen | Brian Robertson | **NEEA** | Gil Peach |
| Kary Burin | Ashton Davis | Emily Rosenbloom | **Forefront Economics Inc** |
| Robin White | Devin McGreal | **Public Council** | Mark Thompson |
| Phillip Hensyel | Alyn Spector | Corey Dahl | **AEG** |
| Kris Forck | Mark Chiles | **WUTC** | Kenneth Walter |
| Jon Storvick | Mark Sellers-Vaughn | Andrew Rector | Eli Morris |
| Taylor Mead | **TRC** | **Dept. of Commerce** |  |
| Sheila McElhinney | Bradey Day | Liz Reichart |  |

*The meeting will be recorded to capture all discussions and will be distributed to CNGC/CAG members*

*\*\*Glen has appointed Liz Reichart to the remaining CNGC/CAG meetings for 2021*

*\*\*Link to the supplemental video:* [*https://www.cngc.com/energy-efficiency/cascade-natural-gas-conservation-advisory-group-meetings/*](https://www.cngc.com/energy-efficiency/cascade-natural-gas-conservation-advisory-group-meetings/)

*\*\* Time stamp for each agenda item is located the topic header below in this format 00:00:00 H,M,S*

***All Graphs and Charts are available in the Agenda (Embedded Below):***

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#### Introduction of new CAG Members, Guests and CNGC Employees: 00:00:40

#### Review of 2021 Q1Meeting Minutes: 00:13:38

**Action Items:** None

**Decisions Made:** None

**Noted Discussion:**

* Andrew stated he liked the new meeting minutes format

#### Low Income Weatherization: 00:18:02

**Action Items:** None

**Decisions Made:** None

**Noted Discussion:**

* Good uptick in Agency submissions this quarter
  + 9 homes completed
  + 15 homes in the queue
* Chelan Low Income is beginning to participate
* Agency participation has been consistent even with the COVID-19 Pandemic, although the program participation was lower than 2019
* Marketing fund has been opened to agencies for any COVID-19 related training and/or co-branding marketing use
* Andrew asked (for 2020) if the Cascade Admin Costs were included within the Total project Costs in the Annual Report Table
  + Monica stated Cascade Admin funds of $29,850 not included in the total project costs with Agency Admin
* Andrew asked if Cascade was seeing a difference in therms saved per household between 2021 vs 2020 as the numbers in the graph indicated a lower therms per household savings than last year
  + Sheila stated she feels it is a little early in the year to predict how the year’s numbers will turn out; some projects coming in are only one measure – for instance there have been projects with a single tankless or one furnace
* MOU Update: 9 MOU’s returned to Cascade which represents 69 homes the agencies are anticipating serving in 2021 and ~$954,000 in projects

#### CPA Update: 00:32:34

**Action Items:** None

**Decisions Made:** None

**Noted Discussion:**

* Andrew asked if the median income for homes was specific to Washington State
  + Ken confirmed the numbers were based on Washington State’s median income
* Andrew also asked Monica to clarify the Zones
  + Monica stated:
    - Zone 1, Northwest Washington
    - Zone 2, Southern/Southwest Washington
    - Zone 3, Eastern/Central Washington
* Alyn questioned if the Low-Income graph indicating the WA territory income categories were depicting the “what”, in terms of income and usage, and asked if AEG had narrative for the “why”
  + Alyn pointed out there are many factors leading to reduced energy use in low income households
  + Ken stated he was going to discuss that as it was not depicted in the slide
* Gil asked if the median income noted in the data was adjusted by size of household and inquired what AEG used for establishing median income homes in the study
  + AEG stated yes, the median was adjusted by size of household. Ken did not have access to all the datasets during the meeting, however he used a sample home size of 3 people and a median income of about $86,794 and advised the low-income threshold for the same household would be $43,440
* Kary queried if AEG was going to do any null hypothesis in the realm of “less money = less disposable income for staying warm ” and if this would be a sector for AEG to review further, or if this was follow up research for Cascade to address after the study
  + Ken advised it would likely be something for CNGC to further into in coordination with its CAG members
* Gil stated in his experience (and something for AEG/CNG to consider in the future) there are problems in modeling the poverty sector
  + Social programs work if the sector is 100-200% of poverty but if they are below that line, programs cannot help and do not work; all programs fail at 25% below poverty and these are issues far beyond what a utility can do
  + In Gil’s experience, the privacy law can be a hinderance for studies and is in place to protect markets, not the individual.
* Andrew asked for clarification about Ken’s statement on cost increases from 2016/2017 data vs the 2019 baseline updated data
  + Ken stated the cost increases were likely linked to technology costs
* Phillip stated customer behavior at all levels affected programs disproportionately this last year; for instance, Cascade’s ESK program had a significant effect on the Cascade program during the pandemic

#### Quick Introduction of Liz Reichart and Corey Dahl – 01:12:28

#### Q4 Update – Led by Monica Cowlishaw & Bradey Day:

#### Commercial Highlights 01:14:07

**Action Items:** None

**Decisions Made:** None

**Noted Discussion:**

* Andrew asked for clarification around the goals set for the C/I program in 2021
  + Bradey stated TRC Companies has identified 400,000 therms for the 2021 goal in addition to the identified large oxidizer project which is estimated to save 510,000 therms
  + Monica added CNG wanted to keep the momentum going and challenge TRC to “not sit back” knowing the large project would cover over 80% the yearly goal on its own
  + Bradey explained TRC was reaching out to other sectors to build a baseline of prescriptive projects and was not relying on big, custom projects to achieve the Company’s annual goal
* Andrew asked for details related to the Commercial food service Fryer give way and wondered what the customer would need to do to qualify for an entry
  + Bradey stated CNG set up a special email account and that the customer simply had to send in a request to that email address and be on a qualifying rate schedule; so far there have been approximately 50 entries submitted to date

#### Residential Program Highlights and Activity through December 2020 01:32:00

**Action Items:** None

**Decisions Made:** Updating Andrew on the Residential program during CAG meeting is fine and a separate update is not necessary

**Noted Discussion:**

#### Annual Report Update: 01:39:26

**Action Items:** None

**Decisions Made:** None

**Noted Discussion:** None

#### 2021 Quarterly Meeting Schedule 01:43:28

**Action Items:** None

**Decisions Made:** None

**Noted Discussion:** None

#### Wrap Up – Other Items

#### Kris Forck – Update on eM&V 01:44:20

#### Kary Burin – eM&V Software 01:45:19

**Action Items:** None

**Decisions Made:** None

**Noted Discussion:**

* Cascade will provide a more detailed update of the process and survey during the next CAG meeting which will inform the biennial Conservation Planning process
* Kary explained the reasoning for the small e in (eM&V)
  + The process is an internal evaluation and the sample size is fairly small
* Cascade developed the program and provided thought leadership in working with Nexant to deliver the software solution
* The methodology evaluates a year’s worth of energy usage pre and post installation of an energy efficiency upgrade and then looks for changes in usage
* Cascade staff will perform a survey of those customers, whose projects have sufficient usage data, to see if any household changes have taken place to identify anomalies and avoid skewing the data

#### Alyn Spector update on special NetZero project 01:49:40

**Action Items:** None

**Decisions Made:** None

**Noted Discussion:**

* Cascade is researching ways to renovate the Bellingham District office as a demonstration of how to pair high-efficiency natural gas solutions with renewables, aiming for near or net zero greenhouse gas emissions
* An RFP was sent out for an audit to help the Company identify new natural gas and renewable technologies that could be incorporated into the building renovations
* Andrew asked what the timelines were for Phase 1 and construction for the project
  + Alyn stated RFP responses are due by the end of April, which will give Cascade a few weeks for review
  + The Company is aiming for mid-May for phase 1, which includes the building audit and Phase 2 could possibly happen in late summer if the audit supports continued work