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

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Phone Conference ID: 612 087 987#

#### 

#### Attendees:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CNGC** | **CNGC – Continued** | **The Energy Project** | **WUTC** |
| Monica Cowlishaw | Ted McCammant | Shawn Collins | Heather Moline |
| Mike Parvinen | Ashton Davis |  |  |
| Kary Burin | Devin McGreal | **NWEC** | **Dept. of Commerce** |
| Desiree Bickmore | Alyn Spector | Amy Wheeless | Liz Reichart |
| Jocelyne Moore | Mark Chiles |  |  |
| Kris Forck | Lori Blattner | **NEEA** | **Guests** |
| Jon Storvick | Stephanie Reed | Peter Christeleit | Gil Peach |
| Taylor Mead |  |  | Liepa Braciulyte |
| Sheila McElhinney | **TRC** | **Public Council** | Keith Kueny |
|  | Bradey Day | Corey Dahl |  |

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

*\*\* Time stamp for each agenda item is located beside the topic header below in this format HH:MM:SS*

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



### Roll Call & Review Q4 meeting notes - *led by Monica Cowlishaw - 0:01:38*

**Action Items: None**

**Decisions Made: None**

**Noted Discussion:**

Introduction of Desiree Bickmore, Conservation Support Specialist (CNGC), to the CAG group.

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### Quarterly Portfolio update - *led by Monica Cowlishaw & Bradey Day - 0:13:22*

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### Commercial Highlights *- 00:13:32*

**Action Items:**  None

**Decisions Made: None**

**Noted Discussion:**

* Q4 was the strongest quarter which was expected based on the large custom project that was completed within the quarter.
* Heather Moline asked question pertaining to the graph. Does the CNGC 2021 target go up by month and why a slanting line as opposed to a straight line?
  + Per Bradey – We make some project projections by month as we anticipate accomplishments based on a 3-year average
* Corey Dahl asked if the goal was exceeded by a high percentage why it wasn’t included in the target as it was about 40% over goal
  + Per Monica – This is because of two factors. Cascade knew this project was coming last year as it was supposed to close in 2020 but didn’t. When we did our contract with Bradey’s team last year, we took what LoadMAP had said was our goal for the year and factored it into the vendor contract. We wanted to keep momentum for the programs and based our pay for performance contract with them to not just meet goal but go above and beyond. The Contract had aspirational goals set on a quarterly basis outside of the “official” goal from LoadMAP
  + Per Bradey – It’s also relevant to note the goal for 2021 was about 200,000 therms higher than the goal for 2021. Last year was 387,000 therms and this year was 578,000. This year’s goal for the C/I program is around 419,000
* TRC is working on trying to identify hard-to-reach communities and approaches to address EE in those communities.
  + Per Bradey - TRC has identified the Spanish speaking market as an area where we could provide more program awareness and we’ve done some advertising in 2021.
* The last initiative TRC focused on in 2021 was the Re-COV-ery Initiative. This campaign offered an additional 10% in savings for customer who installed three or more measures. Based on this offering the program saw an additional $8,277.00 in incentives tied specifically to the Re-COV-ery Initiative which is a good indication of a successful initiative.
* Monica advised there was a typo in the agenda as TRC has identified projects to cover roughly half of the goal for this year. So TRC is forecasting about 226,000 therms just from specific projects already identified for 2022.

### Residential Highlights *- 0:28:06*

**Action Items:**  **None**

**Decisions Made: None**

**Noted Discussion:**

* The Residential program encountered a slowdown in submitted applications at the end of year per Trade Ally feedback. Some of the Contractors advised they are having trouble getting EE equipment to install for customers as the higher efficiency equipment just wasn’t available. This was one element which prevented the Residential program from reaching 100%of goal by year end.
* Two programs were put into place in November to try to drive additional application submittals, the Vet and the Trade Ally Promotion.
* Despite the push from these promotions the Residential program still did not see an increase in application submittals over 2020 which is partially attributable to the supply chain issues.
* Heather Moline asked for clarification on the agenda on what Cascade meant by noting the rebate goals weren’t met “based solely on rebate processing”. She also asked for clarification on the difference between the two 2021 graphs in the residential update.
  + Per Monica – If not for vacations/holiday’s, we would have gotten very close, within 1%, of meeting goal as we received a large builder submittal in December
  + Monica explained that the note about basing the savings solely on rebate processing for the residential program is referring to therm savings through the NEEA membership The CAG needs to discuss how the Company should attribute code savings for the NEEA effort whether a portion of the estimated savings would be counted through the residential program
  + Monica and Jocelyne explained the graph differences

### Portfolio Highlights *- 0:40:13*

**Action Items: None**

**Decisions Made: None**

**Noted Discussion:**

* The program saved 1.24 million therms this year, exceeding the portfolio goal.
* Residential unofficial actuals 441,000/Commercial 798,874/low income 8,075
* Heather Moline asked what the difference between the 2021 conservation plan goals and the portfolio total therm target is as noted in the agenda.
  + Per Monica – we pulled the low income out separately

### Low Income Weatherization *-* **led by Alyn Spector & Sheila McElhinney***- 0:43:15*

**Action Items:** Any advisory group members or people on the phone interested in a subgroup focused on the low-income program, send an email to Monica Cowlishaw and Alyn Spector for a follow-up. Cascade staff to circulate red-lined tariff revisions to advisory group for review, consistent with BCP conditions. *(Heather Moline has replied that she is interested in the Low-Income Subgroup.)*

***Pending:*** Shawn Collins to keep CNGC/CAG informed of the new contracts from LIHEAP and other Federal Sources-*Previous action item*

**Decisions Made: Okay to move forward with subgroup of advisory group**

**Noted Discussion:**

* Sheila discussed the Q4 achievements.
* Alyn went over the agency MOU’s.
  + Previously, each agency had been on their own cycle. Starting last year, we were able to synchronize everybody up. Waiting to get one change approved by our advisory group before sending out the fresh MOU regarding low-income certification
* Alyn noted MOU language updated to defer to agencies on qualifying customers for weatherization eligibility, rather than prescriptive standards that are subject to change. This is consistent with WIP/EWIP tariff.
* Shawn stated in recognition of the Clean Energy Transformation Act setting low income at 80% of area median income or 200% of federal poverty level.
  + Commerce has allowed the use of matchmaker funds to that limit
  + This is the state law – federal income guidelines max out at 200% of federal poverty level
  + This will provide the flexibility needed to use state funding where appropriate for projects that benefit CNGC customers
* Tariff changes are going to be designed to align with the BCP
* Additional changes will be made to meet Agency needs and align with previous feedback of the CAG. Possibly as two rounds of tariff changes in 2022, TBD
* Gil thinks adjusting the 1.0 SIR requirement plan is a very reasonable perspective to achieve balance.
* Shawn added to what Gil had mentioned and stated he did not see any concerns with it.
* Total of coordination/administration fee would be adjusted per BCP conditions to a max program average at 30%.
  + Per Monica - this is 5% more than what we are currently doing
  + Per Shawn - this breaks down to 10% indirect rate and 20% project coordination. This change will bring it in line with four of the five utilities
* Heather asked the difference of indirect rate and project coordination.
  + Per Shawn
    - Indirect rate is the basic costs of doing business (HR, insurance, rent, etc.)
    - Project coordination is specific expenses associated with going out identifying the customer during income eligibility, bringing on contractors, facilitating the project, doing an inspection, completing the test out, filling out paperwork for CNGC and coordinating the distribution of funds – these are direct costs associated with project coordination
* Shawn mentioned he would like to further discuss merging EWIP/WIP for simplicity’s sake.
* Monica felt merging EWIP/WIP paired really well with the updates that we need to do as it would be a really good opportunity to streamline the program.
* Heather will mull over the EWIP/WIP merge with staff.
* Monica mentioned to Shawn before he had to leave the call that there is a tariff discussion later in the meeting and we do have some changes that need to be made more in the immediate future to the Low-Income program.
  + Shawn suggested to have an off-line discussion to follow-up on that
* Shawn suggested for clarification of the combined EWIP/WIP program, a clear way to state that would be, ‘additional funds are not precluded from being provided to cover the project costs.”
* Per Alyn, Cascade will follow up with Low-Income agencies with on the new MOU and to arrange a Q1 meeting with them. Cascade will also forward the proposed tariff changes to Shawn and Keith.
* Sheila suggested to use ‘weatherization related repair’ in place of ‘incidental’ or ‘associated’ for definition of total installed costs – ties it very closely to Commerce.
  + Alyn likes the idea and will float that out with Shawn and Keith, too, when sending draft out
* Monica had a question about a topic from Q3 regarding having a subgroup of the CAG focused on LI issues. Interest expressed from several members of CAG.
  + Alyn mentioned that we’re OK to move forward

### Biennial Conservation Plan (BCP) *- 1:21:15*

**Action Items:**  Heather Moline to confirm final version. Monica Cowlishaw will read through it, making sure it aligns with our understanding. Monica will follow-up and send a copy to the advisory group.

**Decisions Made: None**

**Noted Discussion:**

* Amy Wheeless questioned if conditions were finalized.
  + Heather Moline informed that conditions and memos are typically posted two days before a scheduled meeting, expect them to be public on the 16th, at the latest
* Corey Dahl inquired if he was able to get a copy of the finalized conditions earlier than the 16th, as it does not leave much time for stakeholders to review and develop comments on them.
  + Amy Wheeless agreed with Corey
  + Heather Moline stated it might be possible and she would follow up with Corey and Amy
  + Monica also would like a final version and stated she would be happy to share the final version with the advisory group, if appropriate
  + Heather will check on that – once she knows if that is fine Monica will send an email to the whole group
* BCP discussion - Monica only pulled sections that spoke specifically to our advisory group.
* We have been doing some internal EM&V updates and have kept our advisory group updated. Cascade is ready and willing to work with an external party, but it is something we are going to need to explore further on the best way to proceed.
* Monica requested assistance from Jocelyne Moore to improve our CAG meetings.
* Planning to have a single staff member responsible for focusing on EM&V as we need to work with third-party.
* Expand out with pilots – In Q2, can break out what pilots we’re looking at this year and what opportunities we see.
* Monica will work with Heather and the advisory group to make sure we know the process for making a change once it is in the BCP. We’re aware members of the CAG are time constrained, so we are hoping for help with the new process.

### Tariff update*- 1:44:30*

**Action Items:**  Heather to follow-up with Monica on the format of tariff changes

**Decisions Made: None**

**Noted Discussion:**

* Cascade will need to change the tariff to line up with the BCP. We’re looking to align with Puget Sound Energy’s format on Tariff Sheet No 183.
  + Single tariff sheet that encompasses all the EE programs, maybe not the low-income specifically, and then points back to the BCP with the actual measures and dollar amounts listed within that plan
* Any reason CNGC should have a placeholder for our commercial, industrial, and residential in same format as PSE or can we do a single tariff sheet to include all?
  + Heather Moline responded and provided the phrase Pacific Power uses which noted the changes must be approved by the Commission
  + Not able to weigh in on the PSE question, but happy to follow up with Monica

### Annual Report *- 1:53:37*

**Action Items:**  Peter Christeleit will get a meeting set up to include the ETO and Monica to go over their process for accounting for NEEA related code changes in light of market transformation

**Decisions Made: None**

**Noted Discussion:**

### The Annual report program cost-effectiveness spreadsheets have changed a little this year based on non-energy impacts discussions.

* The Commission is wanting to dig into non-energy impacts and the Technical Forum is looking at it, too.
  + Per Kary – they are wanting to build off the Power Council’s list of non-energy impacts
* Cascade will continue with the modified utility cost test for this biennium.
* Heather Moline commented on their role in the general cost effectiveness discussion.
  + An electric Docket was opened on general cost effectiveness – Docket UE-210804
    - ***Docket # UE-210804*** – currently on pause, but hoping the docket number will be the forum to answer some questions in the conditions document and provide direction
* Monica asked about the NEEA appreciable savings – the code has changed and CNGC should be able to account for some of those savings in 2021’s program achievements
  + How have other companies accounted for appreciable NEEA savings in their cost effectiveness calculations?
  + Are we at the stage of being able to allocate a certain percentage of those costs to be able to claim those savings?
  + Monica stated this is a residential savings that could be attributed to the residential program. Even with just 30% of the estimated 150,000 therms CNGC would have met residential goal
  + Peter Christeleit responded to Monica’s questions
    - I believe The Energy Trust of Oregon does count them in – the savings have really been on codes and standards work and they regularly report those savings
    - Peter will set up a meeting with Energy Trust and Monica to review their process
* Michael Parvinen suggested doing a trend analysis to demonstrate how code changes and the impact of NEEA’s efforts could contribute to the company targets achievements.
* Heather Moline questioned Peter about the comment made by Mike referring to unpredictability of “codes and standards” and use of an independent evaluator. Is there a degree to which we can say that codes and standards would have happened without NEEA support or is it a NEEA thing that happened through the funding of its membership?
  + Peter stated that is exactly what the independent analysis does

### Bellingham Building Audit *- 2:27:50*

**Action Items:**  None

**Decisions Made: None**

**Noted Discussion:**

### The option to replace the building has been eliminated. We are looking at renovation instead.

* The environmental group within our company is calculating the emissions associated with the design submitted by the architect.
* There will be a meeting next week to finalize the plan and recommended next steps for the Company.

### 2022 Quarterly Meeting Schedule*- 2:31:04*

**Action Items:**  None

**Decisions Made: None**

**Noted Discussion:**

### CAG meeting dates for 2022 – January 12th, April 20th, July 13th, and October 15th.

### The annual report needs to be drafted and provided to the advisory group by May 15th, 2022.

* BCP has now transitioned from annual to biennial.
* Would like to look at IRP deliverables.
  + Devin McGreal stated they will be doing a quick commercial, first of four
  + Looking at March 30th for the first Technical Advisory Group meeting
  + Energy efficiency will be discussed at the fourth TAG meeting
  + Washington discussion will be August 10th and Oregon will be August 24th

### Wrap up *- 2:35:11*

**Action Items:**  None

**Decisions Made: None**

**Noted Discussion:**

* Monica closed with a safety moment