

Benchmarking Collaboration Ad Hoc Committee

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Meeting was called to order at 4:34pm

Present: John Sumi, Chad Faber, Susan Schmitz, Raj Shukla, Manus McDevitt, Jeannette LeZaks, Willa Schlecht, Ald. Phair arrived late.

Excused: Zach Brandon

Absent: Ald. Ahrens

Others Present: Steve Kismohr, Curt Brink, Bob Connor, Gillean Kitchen, Jeanne Hoffman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes

Made by John Sumi

Seconded by Manus McDevitt

Unanimously Approved

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DISCLOSURES AND RECUSALS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Presentation by MG&E

Sumi – introduced Bob Connor is from MG&E. Bob works with large clients, including helping clients with energy efficiency. We have some experience with benchmarking. We thought it would be helpful for this committee to hear about MG&E's experience.

Bob Connor – Director of Commercial and Industrial Marketing.

Connor – we offer services to help business customers invest in energy efficiency and help them save money. We have a team of engineers, and account managers, etc. to help with on-site energy audits, look at pay back review, equipment information, review rates, assist with software management to help manage energy data. Staff works in special areas i.e. health care, retail, etc. We also provide trainings and partner with many organizations to help with trainings.

We market energy information through variety of means. We work to connect clients with partners who can provide resources.

Businesses make decisions for a variety of reason - some for payback and some because of environmental concerns.

We do all sort of analysis from commissioning and more.

MG&E has its own benchmarking on its web site. We provide equipment purchasing information and energy charting. We have had 230,000 visits to the web site.

MG&E provides a shared savings program to larger customer. They have the project installed then paid back the cost of the project through energy savings.

Schmitz – does anyone have questions?

LeZaks – can you talk more about the benchmarking program the MG&E has?

Connor – MG&E encourages customers to benchmark when they go into the web site. There are different types of buildings on the site.

Faber – asked how many buildings are in there?

Connor – I have not checked recently but there is hundreds.

Sumi – we also have a newer portion for multi-family.

Connor – we aggregate the data for multi-family.

Sumi – Maintaining the confidentiality is important. Building owners are curious, but they do not want energy information publicly available.

Schmitz – asked what are some success stories?

Connor - with large accounts we work very closely with them. There was one business where we helped them replace boilers and saved them over 1.0 million therms per year.

Connor – there are benefits if we reduce peak energy usage. Time of day is also important.

McDevitt – this is very positive. It would be great to expand it to more buildings.

Connor – I think that most buildings in Madison are pretty good.

McDevitt – there is also the operational issues too. MGE can help with that.

Connor – yes we can. We measure energy in 15 minutes increments helping customers shift energy use to off peak time – to save on peak demand - monthly and annually.

Schmitz – I would think building owners would be interested in that.

Sumi – businesses are interested in bringing peak down.

Connor – customers need to know when the peak hits – monthly and annually.

LeZaks – asked what is the next thing?

Connor – retro-commissioning is a big deal right now. There is also a huge potential in replacing rooftop HVAC, also commercial refrigeration, lighting, data centers.

Sumi – MG&E can provide that information to our customers .

Connor – through training too.

McDevitt – How many are in benchmarking program?

Connor – we have 12,000 commercial customers and we are in the hundreds.

McDevitt – if more benchmarked, would we see more energy efficiency?

Connor – we always tell our customers to know what our consumption is.

MG&E is available if you have more questions.

2. Next Step to form Working Group

Schmitz – we had the property owners attending the last meeting. It was great and we got a lot of great information.

Looking at setting up a small working group to work out the details.

I and Manus brainstormed some names.

The working group is balanced.

Susan Schmitz would chair

Manus McDevitt, Chad Faber, John Sumi, Ald. Phair

Also include - Matt Dargus – ULI and Leon Wilkosz – Vanta

Schmitz - we are purposing to have lots of meetings to get it done.

Then the working group would bring back a draft for the group to consider.

Workgroup would work through issues like privacy, incentives, etc. We would work out the hot button issues.

LeZaks – asked can we have an draft by the next meeting?

McDevitt/Schmitz – indicated that we don't know yet, until the working group has a chance to meet.

McDevitt – I am hopeful we can get an get this done.

Hoffman/Shukla – indicated that drafting an ordinance would mean mandatory. We do not need an ordinance if it voluntary.

Shukla – asked what are the issues?

McDevitt – suggested some:

- 1) Buildings sizes
- 2) Building types
- 3) Phases – Implementation schedule
- 4) Disclosures
- 5) Verification
- 6) Penalty

LeZaks – asked is the group going to put together a voluntary AND mandatory option?

Schlecht – indicated that she thought that because we can not measure what we need to measure to meet the goals the city unless we have mandatory benchmarking.

Shukla – we need to be able to target energy efficiency programs and projects.

Faber – the ownership group was not involved before, but I believe there was some push back on benchmarking from the last meeting.

McDevitt – my memory from the last meeting is “it is not a question of when but what is the details.”

Phair - I heard the same thing

Hoffman – and they want help figuring out how to use all the incentives and also getting more incentivizes.

Schmitz – this is what I heard too and it would be nice to talk about incentives in the working group..

McDevitt – at the last meeting, we talked about disclosure and how it can be done in different ways. I heard the buildings owners that they were ok with that.

LeZaks – I heard basically the same thing that the devil was in the details, but I did not hear that much push back on an ordinance. I feel that the we need to get something drafted because then we to get the work out more businesses and get feedback from them

before we introduce it. We do not want the amount of negative feedback that we got the last time.

Shukla – I do not think the working group needs to meet if it is voluntary, but we need to get building owners buy-in as we go.

Sumi – There are some who believe that they don't need to do this because of recently passed state laws including owners of multi- family and commercial.

Hoffman – we need to get the City Atty office involved to provide us with an opinion.

Phair/Sumi/Schmitz – talked more about legal issues.

Schlecht – I believe he wanted to have something drafted and then bring parts out of for public discussion.

LeZaks – this could take a while.

Schmitz – I would like it to be something workable. This would move it forward faster.

Phair – can we decide on ordinance?

Sumi – this is the list of hot issues from the last ordinance.

McDevitt – couple of meetings ago, we all nodded our heads about mandatory. The working group needs to be given direction.

Faber – I think the working group should meet and perhaps bring more issues to the table.

McDevitt - isn't that what we have been doing?

Sumi – the council needs to look at voluntary program too.

McDevitt – didn't we did do this when we talked with all of the other cities, etc.

Hoffman – suggested to start putting something together, because this is a complicated ordinance and we need to know IF an ordinance will work, but the only way to know is if we start putting something together and try to work out issues.

McDevitt – the goal of 80% reduction by 2050.

Sumi – asked is there is data on if this achievable?

Hoffman – talked about ICELI and greenhouse gas inventories done so far.

Sumi – suggested that the working group examine issues in and bring forward solutions.

Phair - do we want to provide a list?

Schlecht – having a list of task would be helpful.

Hoffman – suggested she can gather ordinance from other cities for the group as so they can review sections in the ordinance.

McDevitt/Schmitz – further discussed how the working group with work.

Hoffman – let us see how it works.

Sumi – we need to know our limit, such as legal issues –

Schlecht – suggested “crafting an ordinance with an approach to achieving the city’s sustainability goals.”

McDevitt/ Schlecht – discussed the goal.

There was nodding of heads to go forward with the work group.

Hoffman – reminded everything that we will need to post these working group meetings.

LeZaks/Schmitz – talked about how we can get updates.

3. Additional Business

None

ADJOURNMENT

Move to Adjourn was mad by Phair

Seconded by Faber

Meeting was adjourned at 6:15pm