

Conservation Committee
Minutes August 24, 2011

Present: Ray Peterson, Roger Rowatt, Doug Graybeal, Doug Adams, Betsy Cushman, Ken Westman, Tom Sullivan, Ellen Lamiman, Gina Monteverde, Pat Leigh and Mark Crum.

Reminder that next meeting is at **2:00pm** on Sept. 14. Guest speakers will be Debra Peters with OKPUD conservation and Brian Perry with Methow Mechanical.

Doug Adams summarized findings presented by Steve Fisher with Lands Energy at OCEC Board Meeting on Aug. 23 regarding Energy Sentry pilot project. Based on new BPA billing structure and impacts to each customer and the Co-op as a whole, Steve recommended NOT moving forward with pilot study. Members of committee to get copy of Steves report. Three main considerations as described by Doug were:

- #1. BPA rate structure lessens benefits of ES units
 - #2. Steve used 5 year payback as criteria for customer investment. Not possible with new structure.
 - #3. Best estimated savings to Co-op was \$25,000/year. OCEC needed to pay ½ of project for matching funds. Payout by Co-op would exceed savings according to study.
 - #4 Mazama Feeder upgrades still need to be done with/without ES installations on that feeder.
- Overall, the Energy Sentrys work VERY well. Impacts revenues and while wonderful for each customer to decide to install and pay for, the Co-op is not in the position to sponsor.
- #5 Study showed that Co-op high demand times/days in general occur on what BPA terms Light Load Days(based on industrial sector). Weekends and holidays are LLD which happen to be normally OCEC high demand times! Another catch 22 of being a residential utility.

OCEC will continue to make Energy Sentry units available for members to purchase. Explicit information given to each person that does purchase one that rate structure may change. Letters to be sent to all members that currently have Energy Sentrys and those that were on the list to participate. OCEC will not require ES installations with OCCAC weatherization program.

Board directed Doug Adams and engineering to look at other alternatives for the DOE grant that was to be used for the ES program. Roger Rowatt suggested using such devices for commercial applications.

Betsy inquired about appropriateness of time of use billing with new BPA billing and grant funds.

Doug Graybeal reminded committee that "conserving a kilowatt hour is conserving a kW" as seen by BPA. This was also stated by Steve Fisher at presentation.

Doug Adams reminded committee that there are still incentives to stay within Tier1 power.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Betsy presented draft budget recommendations for the Board.

Unanimous committee opinion to continue to support **Community Action** low income weatherization. Decision by committee to help non-low income members pay for **Energy Audits** conducted by Com Action crews. Subsidy amount to be either \$100.00 or \$200.00 per audit. Audit budget item moved to 2011 from 2012 category.

- Action Item- Gina to find out from Ron Whiteside what the availability of the audit crews is for this year.

Loan Program for energy upgrades to home. Committee supports pursuing conversation with Farmers Bank regarding “revolving” loan program for Co-op members.

*Betsy to talk with Ed and Beau Adams.

Marathon Water Heaters-OCEC can offer Marathon Water Heaters at our cost plus sales tax. Effectively, member would be saving the \$300.00 retail price plus qualify for the BPA rebate of \$46.00 to \$100.00.

Committee interested in looking at conservation opportunities in the Commercial Sector. Gina to find out if BPA offers energy audits for large users and she will talk with Greg Stanovich and David Harris at Methow Valley School District regarding current uses/practices.

Brief discussion about legalities of Co-op requiring above code energy standard sfor new construction. Need to develop incentive program for such. Pat to work on that.

Advertising-Conclusion that we need to get “the word out” about conservation programs. 2011 budget \$1500/00 Mark Crum and Pat Leigh to work on web and newspaper ads. Gina to work on counter top placards.

Summary of 2011 Budget Proposal-

OCCAC Low Income Weatherization-	\$31, 010.00
Water heater timer/blankets	\$ 1500.00
Advertising	\$ 1,500.00
Energy Audits	\$ 9200.00
Energy Loan Fund	\$20,000.00
Advertising/Education	\$ 1,500.00
TOTAL	\$63,210.00

2012 Projects

OCCAC Low-Income Weatherization	\$ 9,000.00
Water heater timer/blankets	\$ 1500.00
Advertising/Education	\$ 500.00
Misc. Categories Include:	\$ 790.00
LED Rebates	
Large Commercial Audits	
Energy Loan Program	
TOTAL	\$75,000.00

Minutes from July 20 approved.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.