

MIGREENPOWER COMMUNITY IMPACT PILOT
LOW-INCOME SOLAR COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
May 6, 2025

Minutes transcribed from recording by Jessica Jamieson

The meeting was called to order at 11:09 AM by Chandler Kielbas.

At 11:09 AM Chandler Kielbas asked the Council if everyone had the opportunity to review the meeting agenda and if any additions needed to be made. Janis Hazel suggested the Council should add in a discussion regarding the May 14, 2025, Solar for All virtual listening session to discuss if any representative is available to make a public comment. Chandler proposed the Council should discuss this during their “engagement initiatives” section. Janis agreed. Chandler then asked if any further additions needed to be made and there were none. Chandler asked the Council to motion to approve the meeting agenda. Juan Shannon moved to approve, and Boratha Tan seconded the motion.

At 11:10 AM Chandler Kielbas asked the Council for a motion to approve the April 1, 2025, meeting minutes, which had not been approved during the previous session. Juan Shannon moved to approve, and Janis Hazel seconded the motion. Chandler then asked the Council if they had the opportunity to review the meeting minutes from April 15, 2025, and if any changes needed to be made. There were none. Chandler then asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Janis moved to approve, and Juan seconded the motion.

At 11:12 AM Chandler Kielbas introduced the first item on the agenda, the Solar for Savings discussion. He explained that this was EGLE’s newest RFP which they announced on April 22, 2025, with \$8.875 million in funds, twice the size of the RE-EIED grant the team previously applied for. He furthered that \$6.5 million of these funds were specifically allocated to community solar, and the DTE team believes this would be a good opportunity to gain funding for each of the three Community Impact Pilot locations. At this point Chandler inquired if the Council had any questions. Janis Hazel expressed that she thought the team should follow through on this opportunity and asked what the next steps would be in completing an application, especially regarding the Canton Community Foundation (CCF) and their role in the process. Chandler replied that a partnership with the CCF would be essential for this grant application. Janis wondered if the company would be eligible to apply for this grant given the CCF’s approval. Chandler confirmed the company would be eligible. With her screen shared, Janis presented the timeline of the Solar for Savings grant on the EGLE website, with a “round one” deadline of May 30, 2025, and a “round two” deadline of June 30, 2025, and a “final response” deadline of July 30, 2025. She asked if the team had until May 30th, then, to complete the grant application. Chandler answered that he believed they have until July 30th because he did not see a difference between the three rounds. Janis then pointed to the language that the grants would be

given on a “First-come first-serve basis” until all funds have been allocated, so she believed the team should reach for the May or June deadline, so EGLE does not run out of funds. Chandler said that this was an interesting point and that he would have to investigate it, but that he has early concerns of being able to make the May 30th deadline considering all the entities that have to sign off on the application. He then said that he would reach out to Dr. Wang or some other representative about it. Juan Shannon then asked if there is confirmation that this funding has been secured locally, given the change of the federal administration. Chandler said that based on EGLE’s listening sessions, they have been communicating that they have the funding, however he could not confirm. Janis added that in her time attending various in-person conferences, this was a prominent concern among attendees, however it seems like the funding has already been transferred to the State of Michigan. She still had concerns that by waiting until the July 30th deadline, this funding could be taken back by the federal government. Chandler then said that the LISC representatives and he would be in contact via email about these issues before the next meeting.

At 11:24 AM Chandler Kielbas moved down the agenda to the RE-EIED grant review part four. Chandler reminded the Council that they are currently coming up on the end of the public comment period and will soon be entering the amendment period. At this point he opened the floor to any comments before the May 20, 2025, deadline. Janis Hazel brought up a negative comment made by the public about the proposal and was wondering whether this could be appealed to because the comment was speaking about an entirely different program. Chandler replied that anyone who has read the grant application would understand that that comment is addressing an unrelated program, so it is probably fine to let it be. He also thanked Janis for her help with obtaining supportive comments. Juan Shannon said that he would send any extra comments he had via email before the May 9, 2025, public comment deadline.

At 11:31 AM Chandler Kielbas moved to reviewing community engagement initiatives. He handed it off to Janis Hazel to discuss the last scheduled Solar for All listening session on May 14, 2025. She put the event details in the meeting chat and asked if Juan Shannon or Darryl Folks would be willing to make comments on behalf of their municipality. She suggested both of them could send in comments in support of the Pilot via email even if they could not attend in person. Both Juan and Darryl agreed they would do this. Janis moved on to discussing Detroit City Council Green Task force who had their annual Earth Day on April 26, 2025. Some Detroit Council members were made aware that the Marathon land deal was no longer being pursued. Tepfirah Rushdan, Detroit’s Director of Sustainability suggested looking into three communities not selected for the City of Detroit’s municipal solar program for a possible land opportunity in Detroit. She asked if Tepfirah could be scheduled into an upcoming meeting to discuss this, especially because these communities had previously been open to a solar array. Chandler confirmed this would be a great idea. She furthered that she had met Scott Benson and his senior policy advisor and asked them to make comments on behalf of the RE-EIED Grant, and that she would be attending a Climate and Sustainability happy hour on May 8, 2025, and the Detroit

City Council Green Task Force's monthly meeting on May 15, 2025. At the Climate Conference she recently attended, she added that she had made some really good connections. She suggested the LISC should meet with Wayne County as they were interested in potentially partnering because they could have land suitable for all three of the pilot locations. Chandler said that he would be very supportive if she scheduled them to join a Council meeting sometime in June. Juan then said that this reminded him that Highland Park used to own a tree farm in Rochester Hills and currently owns a treatment facility on the East side of Detroit. He wondered whether it would be possible for Highland Park to own an array not directly located in the city. Chandler said that his team and he would have to revisit the settlement agreement, but that he thought this was a great idea.

At 11:47 AM Chandler Kielbas moved to the action item register and asked if any items needed to be added. Juan Shannon mentioned that he is working with Solidarity for the Energy, Sustainability, and Tech Fair on July 18th and 19th and suggested it would be possible for DTE to have a display table at that event. Chandler asked Juan to email the dates and times to him so he could forward it around the teams. No more items needed to be added to the action item register.

At 11:49 AM Chandler Kielbas opened the roundtable discussion and asked for any final thoughts. There were none.

At 11:51 AM the meeting was adjourned.