

MIGREENPOWER COMMUNITY IMPACT PILOT
LOW-INCOME SOLAR COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
May 20, 2025

Minutes transcribed from recording by Jessica Jamieson

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

At 11:11 AM Chandler Kielbas asked the Council if everyone had the opportunity to review the meeting agenda and if any additions needed to be made. No comments were made. Chandler then asked the Council to motion to approve the meeting agenda. Darryl Folks moved to approve, and Juan Shannon seconded the motion.

At 11:12 AM Chandler Kielbas asked the Council if any changes needed to be made to the May 06, 2025, meeting minutes, and if not, he asked for a motion to approve them. Darryl Folks confirmed there were no changes to be made and moved to approve, Janis Hazel seconded the motion.

At 11:12 AM Chandler Kielbas introduced the first item on the agenda, the Solar for Savings discussion. He explained that his team and he had met with the Canton Community Foundation (CCF) since the last Council meeting on May 06, 2025. The CCF had several questions that they wanted to submit to EGLE before setting a plan for pursuing the grant opportunity. He said that the DTE Team and the CCF are currently still waiting on that feedback from EGLE, so there is no vote on a specific plan at this meeting. The target for that vote will be the first Council meeting in June, which means that the team will not be able to submit the grant before the May 30th deadline. However, the team is hopeful that the grant could be submitted by June 30th instead. At this point he opened the floor for any questions, comments, or suggestions. Janis Hazel inquired whether Chandler had an idea of the kind of questions the CCF had presented to EGLE. Chandler replied that they proposed a blend of questions, a few regarding whether the CCF was completely eligible as a fiduciary for this grant, as federal funds often come with different requirements than state funds. He added that it is important to get an awareness of this early-on because Solar for All would have these same requirements. Janis then asked if the CCF had read over the RE-EIED Grant that was submitted last year to get an idea of what all the requirements were for that. With other federal funding opportunities ahead, she is concerned with how much time is being taken away from the ability of the DTE team to write this grant because of the collaboration with the CCF. Chandler answered that the

majority of grants pursued in collaboration with the CCF will not be federal grants, so their partnership is still very beneficial.

At 11:21 AM Chandler Kielbas moved down the agenda to the “RE-EIED Grant Amendment Requests” section. He reminded the Council that the team has until May 27, 2025, to make amendments to the grant application. Juan Shannon mentioned that the wording of DTE’s program continues to be a little bit misleading and suggested adding language regarding the exact number of households that could be serviced by the program and other details such as that. He then questioned the line in the grant application that states that 100% of the customer’s electricity would come from renewable sources, as this does not seem accurate. Chandler responded that in the grant, it was mentioned that 50 to 55 customers are expected to be serviced by the array. Sam Shannon answered the latter question, explaining that utility companies can make the claim that 100% green energy is being utilized, as even though it is sometimes dark or the wind is not blowing, an equivalent number of kilowatt hours of renewable energy of the household’s usage has been offset somewhere in the grid, allowing the math to even out. He concedes, though, that as a customer’s electricity usage goes up and down, it is not always perfect. Juan then asked if there was another way to phrase this claim, then, on the grant application. Sam suggested they could utilize alternative language. Juan stated that he would like to keep the line similar to a sales pitch, but with more accuracy to the true facts. Chandler then asked Juan to send him an email after the meeting, making a suggestion on how he would like to re-word the statement. Chandler then asked if there was anything else to discuss. Janis Hazel stated that she had been able to garner supportive comments from 15 members of the community. She mentioned that this is a higher number of supportive comments than almost any other grant application, excluding the city of Ypsilanti. Chandler thanked her for her efforts. He addressed Juan, who in the previous meeting had asked if land that was owned by one of the three municipalities, but not directly located in that municipality, could be utilized as a potential project location. Chandler explained that after speaking to members of the DTE team, it was concluded that this is largely a gray area, and the eligibility of each site would have to be determined on a case-by-case basis. However, he believes it should be possible, so if Juan had any ideas, he could send them over and they would take a look at it. Juan mentioned that the first area that came to mind is two water facilities that Highland Park owns, which do not actively pump water into the city, but where water still passes through the pipes. Chandler asked if Juan knew the acreage size. Juan said that he did not know the exact number but confirmed that it was large and more than three acres. He added that most likely rooftop solar would have to be utilized.

At 11:39 AM Chandler Kielbas moved to reviewing community engagement initiatives. He passed it over to Janis Hazel who had added items to the registry. Janis discussed how she

had attended the Detroit Office of Climate and Sustainability Happy Hour and invited Tepfirah Rushdan to a June LISC Council meeting to discuss potential land opportunities in Detroit. She also attended the last Solar for All listening session on May 14th. A few comments were made arguing cities such as Detroit, with dated infrastructure, would waste benefits if the Solar for All money was to be utilized there. In response, Janis made a comment in favor of the MIGreenPower Community Impact Pilot, stressing the need to be equitable, especially with historical injustices. Branching off this point, Chandler added that in DTE's Solar for All Grant application, Energy Waste Reduction (EWR) benefits could possibly be emphasized to counter that sort of comment. Janis agreed that this would be a good idea to add to the application and that she would forward Chandler the verbal comments she made. Janis then asked if the projects would include weatherization. Chandler explained that the Solar for Savings Grant application will be different from the RE-EIED Grant application because at this time the team has not put together a strict plan for what will be included. This application would offer a great opportunity to include aspects like weatherization and other EWR benefits in conjunction with DTE's EEA EWR Team. Janis then said that she would expand on her comments and email them to EGLE. Juan Shannon then asked if Chandler could add "Weekend Market Opening" for July 26th and the Energy, Sustainability and Tech Fair on July 18th and 19th.

At 11:51 AM Chandler Kielbas moved to the action item register and asked if any items needed to be added. Janis Hazel mentioned that along with inviting Tepfirah to a June meeting, she will also invite the representative from Wayne County interested in a potential partnership with DTE for a land opportunity. She also mentioned attempting to move forward with Michele Flournoy on the Joe Louis Greenway. Chandler answered that the Land Development team and he have been in contact with Michele for that opportunity. Janis then asked if they had ever connected with the Executive Director of the Joe Louis Greenway in Highland Park. Chandler replied that yes, he has a scheduled meeting with Leona Medley on May 20, 2025, for a general introduction and to discuss potential opportunities with that site.

At 11:55 AM Chandler Kielbas opened the roundtable discussion and asked for any final thoughts. Juan said that he dropped the address for the Water Treatment Plant in the chat and asked Chandler if they could research into that opportunity. There were no other comments.

At 11:56 AM the meeting was adjourned.