

MIGREENPOWER COMMUNITY IMPACT PILOT
LOW-INCOME SOLAR COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 17, 2025

Minutes transcribed from recording by Jessica Jamieson

The meeting was called to order at 11:06 AM by Chandler Kielbas.

At 11:06 AM Chandler Kielbas acknowledged Janis Hazel's email request for an addition to the June 17th, 2025 meeting agenda regarding EGLE's Solar For All Community Town Hall program. Chandler recommended they go over this during their community engagement initiatives proposal, and Janis agreed. No other additions needed to be made. Chandler then asked the Council to motion to approve the meeting agenda. Juan Shannon moved to approve, and Janis seconded the motion.

At 11:07 AM Chandler Kielbas asked the Council if any changes needed to be made to the meeting minutes from June 3rd, 2025. There were none. Chandler then asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Janis Hazel moved to approve, and Juan Shannon seconded the motion.

At 11:08 AM Chandler Kielbas introduced the first item on the agenda, the Solar For Savings discussion and potential vote. He asked the Council to give feedback on what the fair and equitable strategy should be in pursuing these funds. Janis Hazel expressed that she believed all three communities should be present on the proposal, or in three separate proposals. Juan Shannon then asked for some additional details about the grant opportunity, where Chandler explained that there is \$8.8 million in total funds, with \$6.5 being specifically allocated for community solar. The Community Impact Pilot projects will cost around \$3.5 million dollars each, which means that this particular piece of Solar For All would only cover one or two of the projects if they are to be awarded the funds. Though, they could still apply for all three under the presumption that one or two would not receive the funding. Juan then asked for further details on the grant, such as reporting schedules and the amount of time they have in order to utilize the funds. Chandler responded that this grant is a reimbursement grant that is very similar to the RE-EIED grant in terms of having a specific timeline and reporting requirements. Juan inquired where the funds would be coming from until they are reimbursed. Kayla Maas said that DTE would likely be providing the upfront payments and submitting those receipts to the Canton Community Foundation to be reimbursed. Juan asked if DTE has agreed they will front the funding. Kayla replied that she believes that is how it will work at this point in time, but further conversations need to be had internally, including with senior leadership. Janis asked if DTE would frontload that money and be reimbursed, or if DTE would utilize the \$300,000 they had set aside for the project. Kayla clarified that the \$300,000 will be put forth on top of any grant

funding received and will not be reimbursed. She furthered that DTE does not need all of the money upfront, just enough to reach a construction milestone and be reimbursed incrementally. The renewables space within DTE has never been awarded a reimbursable grant, so it will take some internal conversations. However, she does not believe that it's reasonable to raise funds via another mechanism to pay for what will eventually be reimbursed. She said that this will become an action item though, and she can get back to the Council with a clearer answer going forward. Juan then expressed concerns that the higher leadership would not sign off on providing upfront funds. Kayla responded that they are aware that the grant is reimbursable, and that this would not be a surprise to them. Janis then stated that she had changed her mind due to the total funding amount available for this grant, and to focus the grant proposal on just Highland Park and River Rouge. Juan said he did not have a firm opinion on the matter and Will Kenworthy expressed his support to focus just on Highland Park and River Rouge if Janis agreed. Chandler asked for any further feedback, but there was none. Chandler then conducted a vote on whether to pursue Highland Park and River Rouge for the Solar For Savings grant funding. Juan, Janis, and Will voted yes on the proposal. Darryl Folks was unable to make it to the meeting, but three of the four necessary votes were cast, and Chandler said that he would send out a DocuSign following the council meeting.

At 11:30 AM Chandler Kielbas moved to reviewing community engagement initiatives. Janis Hazel mentioned that EGLE is offering up to \$10,000 worth of funding to organizations who wish to host two community town hall events and has extended the deadline of this application to June 27th. She was thinking about potentially pursuing this for the Council's annual lunch and learn. She asked Chandler to send her the links to the Council lunch and learn recordings from 2023 and 2024. Chandler said that he doesn't have direct access to these recordings if they are not on the SharePoint, but he could reach out to people and see if he could potentially find them for her. He mentioned that they had about 32 people, though, in attendance for the 2024 lunch and learn which she could use to answer a question EGLE posed in their CBO application. Will Kenworthy said he would ask Boratha Tan about the recordings. Janis then asked if Chandler would fill out EGLE's application if he couldn't find the lunch and learn recordings. She then mentioned that she does not have as much information as she needs about engagement events and collaborating groups for Highland Park and River Rouge, which she asked for from Juan and added she would give Darryl a call. She stated that she has already submitted an application, mostly focused on Detroit, but that she would like to edit it to include more information about Highland Park and River Rouge. In Detroit, she mentioned she could most likely get a recreation center for this event and asked Juan if he knew of any space in Highland Park. Juan replied that they potentially have two locations where they could host this. Janis then said that if everyone agreed to pursue this, they would need to look at dates and getting a location secured. She furthered that the \$10,000 could be used for branded material. Chandler asked if Janis knew when EGLE would let applicants know if they were selected to receive these funds or not. Janis said she did not know for sure but guessed it would be somewhere around mid-July. Chandler inquired whether they needed to have dates picked out before they find out if they get the grant

award. Janis replied that she thinks this would be the most effective approach. Chandler responded that it seems like these events need to be planned in collaboration with EGLE, and it might be difficult to do a lot of pre-work without including them in these discussions. Janis said that she will email EGLE, because a lot of information about this award is not mentioned on the interest form such as whether the money is reimbursable or when the grant award would be handed out. She then asked Chandler to email her a link to the June 17th LISC meeting recording so that she could write out the questions raised in the meeting to EGLE.

At 11:56 AM Chandler Kielbas moved to the action item register and asked Janis Hazel if Tepfirah Rushdan was still interested in attending a meeting. Janis replied that both Tepfirah and Alex Smith were not available for a June meeting, but she is working with them to potentially join one in July. Juan then said that he would like to revisit the Highland Park opportunity for creative engineering design that's on the registry. He has an opportunity to meet with somebody to speak about potentially creatively making the park property previously discussed in Highland Park into a solar array. He wanted to make sure that this is something worth pursuing. Chandler suggested a separate meeting with Kayla and himself to discuss this, to which Juan agreed. Juan then mentioned he forwarded the flyer about the Energy Sustainability and Technology Fair event to the Council.

At 12:00 PM Chandler Kielbas opened the roundtable discussion and asked for any final thoughts. There were none.

At 12:00 PM the meeting was adjourned.