



Other Business

Business Item: 2011-182

Meeting date: June 22, 2011

ADVISORY INFORMATION

Date:	June 15, 2011
Subject:	Appointment to the Metropolitan Energy Policy Coalition
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Metropolitan Council Bylaws; MEPC Bylaws
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Susan Haigh, Chair
Division/Department:	Chair's Office

Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council approve the appointment of Council Members Sandy Rummel and Lona Schreiber as Council representatives to the Metropolitan Energy Policy Coalition (MEPC).

Background

Leading by example, the MEPC provides a forum for member entities to exchange ideas, network across agencies and collaborate on issues of energy conservation and efficiency, renewable energy and greenhouse gas emissions reduction. The MEPC engages in matters of strategic interest to meet the needs of member entities, the region and the state to advance safe, reliable, sustainable, economical and environmentally responsible energy sources.

The Metropolitan Council has been a member of the MEPC since 2007. Other members currently include Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne and Washington Counties. Two appointed Commissioners or Council Members represent each member organization of the MEPC.

Fiscal responsibility and administration of the MEPC shall be carried out pursuant to a Financial Management Agreement between Hennepin County and each member organization. This allows for professional management of the funds and contracts without the MEPC needing staff to do so.

Rationale

Continued membership on the MEPC allows the Council to share the costs, with other metropolitan counties, of common energy work and provides an opportunity to network with County Commissioners.

Funding

The MEPC budget establishes a revenue amount to be secured from contributions from member organizations. Fifty percent of member contributions will be split equally among the member organizations. The remaining fifty percent of contributions will be allocated proportional to member county population, except that the Metropolitan Council's share shall be the same as Hennepin County's share.

Over the past few of years MEPC has built up a fiscal reserve, allowing for membership contributions in 2010 and 2011 to be halved. The Metropolitan Council membership contribution for 2011 is \$10,686.00. Historically the Council cost has been split 50-50 between MCES and Metro Transit, and both these divisions have budgeted for this.

Known Support / Opposition

The metropolitan area (member) counties encourage the Metropolitan Council's continued membership on the MEPC.