

Meeting Minutes 9th May 2023

Introduction

Steve Cavanaugh opens the meeting with a greeting and preview of the agenda topics. The meeting minutes are available on the Meetings Recap page at www.LEIgroup.org/recaps

Will Jernigan gives an update to the team on the integration of the Carbon Balance in the IWA Water Balance free software.

Ideal Initial Projects/Proof of Concept applicability

Steve opens the topic by emphasizing the importance of utilities with projects in action to apply the carbon balance to their ongoing efforts. This helps the utility to begin determining what their carbon impact is - especially in relation to leakage. Equally important is updating recent projects with the carbon balance. Examples are important to helping progress the overall initiative and building credibility for the future of the program. We encourage members of the initiative to seek out and note potential projects.

Alan Wyatt notes Melbourne water who expects to be carbon neutral by 2025. 80% of their electricity is currently renewable.

Will Jernigan underscores DMAs as viable alternatives in place that can be retro actively implemented with the carbon balance. "Low hanging fruit" that is independent of large capital projects.

Stuart Hamilton notes the Bahamas may be an ideal place to view the potential for this program.

Andrew McCarthy notes the benefits of reducing leakage to preserve and distribute clean energy that is being used in the course of water leakage.

Jo Parker notes the United Kingdom is looking at carbon at a macro level. They are endeavoring to reduce their carbon impact across the entire supply chain.

Andrew Chastain Howley notes that Kansas City Missouri has available data with which this program could leverage an effort to integrate the carbon balance.

Progress on education to Global Funding Partners

Steve Cavanaugh comments on conversations thus far with the Asian Development Bank who look to finance utilities for projects and also purchase similar carbon offsets. The Caribbean Development Bank has also expressed interest in addition to the World Bank. The intent of these conversations is to help develop funding for leakage improvement projects.

Stuart Hamilton met with the World Bank a month ago. They were excited about the potential for the carbon benefits to help fund further improvements. There is excitement to reduce carbon emissions and climate specialists are curious in how leakage reduction can help contribute to that goal. IFC, World Bank, IDB are all interested. Stuart is encouraging CariBank as well.

Mike Wrigglesworth comments that funding agencies are looking for bankable projects. George Butler is a contact that should be communicated with.

Andrew Chastain Howley notes USAID is a likely candidate for this conversation.

Dialog and feedback from potential Carbon Leakage Credit Purchasers

Gregg, verification is a process in which very specific details for verification should be explored.

Stuart, we need to be sure what we are looking for before inviting purchasers into the conversation. We are trying to understand their needs.

Discussion of Verification

Gregg notes that South Pole is a notable registry we should reach out to.

The initiative has reached out to Gold Standard to begin the methodology verification process.

Sharing of Sample Education Slides

Steve Cavanaugh discusses, and shares example educational slides provided by Jo Parker. These slides can be utilized by members of the initiative to educate and generate excitement on the Leakage Emissions Initiative.

Summary and Next Meeting Speaker/Topics

Steve Cavanaugh recaps the topics discussed today and shares the next meeting date. The floor is open for closing comments. Steve also notes we will endeavor to invite a carbon credit purchaser and financier to the conversation.

Mike Wrigglesworth brings up that there are upcoming conferences where we can share and discuss the Leakage Emissions Initiative to continue to help spread the word.

Uri Guttermann notes that ACE conference is also up and coming. Steve Cavanaugh notes that this was not an accepted topic.

Stuart Hamilton thanks the team for the effort and notes we are at a crossroads for implementation. What are our objectives? We need to set some hardline objectives.

Next meeting – 11th July 2023

Attendance:

Ahmadi Mehdi
Alan Wyatt
Andrew McCarthy
Andrew Chastain Howley
Andrew Morris
Andrew Wallace
Drew Blackwell
Gregg Semler
Jo Parker
Joerg Koelbl
Justine Leadbetter
Mike Wrigglesworth
Mordecai Feldman
Parthiv Soni
Steve Cavanaugh
Stuart Hamilton
Uri Guttermann
Will Jernigan