

Meeting Minutes April 28th, 2011

Members

Erich Gunther, EnerNex Corporation
Ron Ambrosio, IBM T.J. Watson Research Center
Robert Burke, ISO New England
Ward Camp, Landis + Gyr
Tony Giroti, BRIDGE Energy Group, Inc.
Amr Ibrahim, Ohio Consumer Council
Wayne Longcore, Consumers Energy
Tracy Markie, Engenuity
Robert Saint, NRECA
Ken Wacks, consultant to Sensus Metering Systems Inc.

Support – Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL)

Ron Melton, GWAC Administrator
Todd Halter
Ron Jarnagin
Sherry Kowalski
Steve Widergren

Call to Order

Erich Gunther

Erich Gunther called the meeting to order at 9:20 am.

Proprietary Information Notice

The members and guests were reminded of the proprietary information disclosure policy according to the bylaws.

Speakers and Guests

Mike Coop, Think Smart Grid
Dave Elve, Sensus
Doug Houseman
Munenori Kajiwara – Kajiwara IT Consulting, Inc.
Randy Lowe, American Electric Power
James Mater, QualityLogic
Dan Malone, Consumers Energy
Chairman Orjiakor N. Isiogu, Michigan Public Service Commission

Members – not present

Rik Drummond, Drummond Group
Alex Levinson, Lockheed Martin
Tom Sloan, Kansas State Legislator

Members Emeritus

University Outreach/Curriculum Development Update

Ron Melton, GWAC Administrator

Ron Melton provided a summary and status update of the University Outreach project. Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) is currently negotiating a contract with Catherine Weldon to provide research and curriculum development services. Ron Melton will provide guidance in this process to assure that Catherine is aware of all the materials GWAC has available.

Discussion continued regarding GWAC materials and existing university materials that reference GWAC. Ken Wacks volunteered to inquire about including these GWAC teaching materials in curricula at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Erich Gunther offered materials he created from the early days of spreading the word on interoperability.

Bob Saint agreed to champion this project with assistance from other council members with the gathering of GWAC referenced materials.

Ron Melton asked all GWAC members to check the GWAC SharePoint site to see if the various slide decks from presentations at Grid-Interop and other meetings are all present and up to date.

Action: Council Members are to review the GWAC SharePoint for available materials.

BnP DEWG

Ward Camp

Ward Camp updated the council on the work that was discussed at the face-to-face meeting in Nashville, TN. The Committee wanted to see the features and benefits of the smart grid. Ward Camp recommended that GWAC prepare materials to be used by Public Utilities Commission (PUC) staff as material of record in the PUC proceedings. (This is parallel to what SGIP Bnp DEWG may do.)

Regulatory staffers are looking for independent input on the various questions and decisions being considered by their commissions. There has been a lot of debate in the appliance sub-group over the fundamentals questions being asked by the appliance manufacture.

Discussion continued on the standardization of language. Some of the highlights of the discussion are as follows:

- Data privacy is the starting point.
- Several different states are currently developing privacy language. Ward Camp mentioned that a Texas law was passed that all data is owned by the customer.
- North America Energy Standards Board (NAESB) is leading an effort to develop common language for data privacy – a third party standard in effect under Retail Electric Quadrant.
- This is about the free flow of information in a way that is secure and complete, thus this is about interoperability.

Ron Melton suggested that GWAC contact Jeff Taft and request a Cisco representative for the BnP DEWG.

GridWise Vision/SmartGrid Manifesto Workshop

Ron Melton, GWAC Administrator & Ron Jarnagin

Ron Melton lead a discussion on the process of creating a smart grid manifesto or document which would provide a renewed statement of the strategic vision of smart grid enabled electric power systems.

Wayne Longcore provided a presentation on the proposed process and the guiding principles that will help GWAC to create a cohesive vision that will capture points of agreement. Discussion continued on background source documents for GWAC to utilize in creating the new manifesto. Wayne recommended that we research prior bodies of work that are available so we create something entirely new that can be agreed upon by all. To accomplish this, GWAC should focus on the “mega trends” that we believe will be commonly accepted and reflect the change in the world, not just the United States or North America.

Work continued and several mind maps were created capturing ideas on a possible document name, trends, mega trends, and guiding principles. Ron Melton recommended that a web meeting is scheduled to continue the work.

Action: Schedule web meeting to continue work on the smart grid manifesto.

Future View of Utilities and Consumers Energy

Dan Malone, Consumers Energy

Dan Malone, Senior Vice President of Distribution and Customer Operations provided a presentation on how Consumers Energy sees the smart grid and presented plans for investigating and integrating new Smart Grid technology into Michigan’s electric distribution systems.

Consumers Energy surveys have shown that customers want utilities to be innovative and to be able to provide ways to help the consumers save money. The smart grid enables interactions with customers to help facilitate their desire to be evolved and save money.

During his presentation, Malone said the company views the smart grid as an incremental change instead of a revolutionary one and that they are positioning the company to take the time to utilize lessons learned from other utilities to educate their employees and customers about the smart grid.

Malone also cited the company’s commitment to testing smart grid technology before deploying it statewide.

Consumers Energy recently launched a SmartStreet pilot program in the Grand Rapids East Hills neighborhood to demonstrate smart grid technology and offer energy efficiency programs to customers.

As part of the SmartStreet pilot, 60 residential and business customers have received electric smart meters to measure their energy usage in near real-time.

Guest Speaker

Chairman Orjiakor N. Isiogu, Chairman of Michigan's Public Service Commission and Co-chair of the FERC-NARUC Smart Response Collaborative

Chairman Isiogu came to the GWAC meeting to speak on the challenges he faces today with Michigan's strained economy. Chairman Isiogu shared the importance of growing Michigan economy and the quality of life by assuring low electricity rates. One avenue to facilitate this is to empower the consumer to manage their use and ultimately their cost of electricity.

Chairman Isiogu continued to share that he is looking to GWAC and others for guidance on the best practices and the investments utilities. He feels that consumers need choices and to be empowered to make their choices. Michigan has established a smart grid section to assist with the smart grid issues and challenges. He spoke of the need for a survey of the communities to determine a baseline of smart grid awareness and knowledge. The survey results would clarify the areas of concern for the commissioners as well as others.

Discussion continued on the need for on-going smart grid dialogue and not just rate care hearings. Conversations need to take place about the societal benefits and metrics which are needed to help commissioners understand these benefits. The conversations need to include risks and opportunities offered by the smart grid, the impact of smart grid investment, the cost of the investment, and the implementation path.

Chairman Isiogu stated that it would be helpful to have some of the GWAC information "on the record" and that staff are eager for smart grid information. He encouraged GWAC to participate in the Michigan Smart Grid Collaborative and to develop webinars for NARUC and others.

Consumers Energy Tour

Wayne Longcore, Consumers Energy

Wayne Longcore hosted a tour of the Smart Service Learning Center (SSLC). Since 2008, employees have been evaluating smart meters, communication devices, and other equipment for the smart grid program. The Company created a 2,500-square-foot Smart Services Learning Center (SSLC) in Jackson, MI to test and demonstrate Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) technology. Employees' ongoing assessment and testing of vendor products will ensure the right technologies are selected to support upcoming AMI and smart grid requirements.

More than 2,500 people have visited the SSLC, including Michigan Public Service Commission staff, and commissioners, state and federal legislators, federal-level smart grid industry leaders, state environmental groups, media, equipment vendors, utilities, employees, and the CMS Energy board of directors. Visitors continue to provide consistent and positive feedback about the center. They see it as a valuable tool for demonstrating how the smart grid program will affect the company and customers in the future. The purpose of the SSLC is to make complex technology real, it helps everyone better understand the customer benefits enabled through smart grid.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.