

**Equity Advisory Group –
Equity Lens Session**

Meeting Date: January 20, 2023
 Time: 7:30am – 9:00am
 Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Facilitator:	EAG Members:
Amber Lenhart	Rowena Pineda
Avista:	Tami Dillon
Tamara Bradley	Vanessa Strange
Amanda Ghering	Will von Bracht
Ana Matthews	Claire Trapp
	Brook Beeler
	Carmen Groom
	Margee Chambers
	Larry Matson
	Guests:
	N/A

Agenda

- I. Welcome & Introductions
 - Overview of Meeting: Rules and Intent
- II. Partner Share
- III. Condition #10 Update
- IV. Named Communities Investment Fund
- V. Public Participation Plan Update
- VI. Your Support Team and Next Meeting

Facilitator

Amber Lenhart
 Amber Lenhart
 Amber Lenhart
 Ana Matthews
 Ana Matthews
 Tamara Bradley
 Amber Lenhart

Meeting Notes

Welcome & Introductions

Introductions and Meeting Rules and Intent and review of today’s agenda.

Partner Share

Do you have any upcoming events that members of this group may be interested in attending or be able to support? Are you hearing about any common needs or issues that could use help? Or are there challenges your organization is faces that we may be able to reflect on as a group?

Company: SNAP is still accepting appointments for the month of February so please share that with those that need it.

Member: Skil S’kin we are hosting an event for families with disabilities where they can ask questions and get answers on financial planning and how many hours you can work

and still maintain benefits. We will also have project partners like Project I.D., special Olympics etc.,

Member: Environmental justice counsel at the state level and on their website, it shows when they meet, and you can join if interested.

<https://waportal.org/partners/home/environmental-justice-council>

Member: Two fundraisers going one for project share and donors receive a thank you cord of wood. Gestalt is also fundraising for SNAP to support energy fuel needs for low-income customers. We are still working at bridging the digital divide, we are trying to keep up with that while being a non-profit.

Snap Fundraiser: <https://www.snapwa.org/project-share-wood-fundraiser/>

Gestalt Fundraiser: <https://www.gestaltiagnostics.com/building-community-relationships>

Member: Othello is voting on a school levy and looking for bonds for school buildings which is an equity concern when you look at little school districts such as Othello. A lot of bonds require a 60% vote, and we are seeing across the state that a lot of those bonds are failing along with levies.

Member: I will end an email with some topics. The Central Library has been dealing with teens and behavioral issues with violence and drug use which has been taking up a lot of our time and working on policies to deal with it.

Condition #10 Update

Working on the power dependency pilot, we are drafting ideas and the size of a battery, seeing what the need is within our named communities and agencies we could partner with. Also obtaining legal and risk management consultations. There is a variety of medical devices and how many KWs they use and what type of battery would provide an alternative battery source and how long would the battery last etc., Any questions or comments? We will continue to bring these updates to you and ask questions on a path forward as we progress through this condition.

Member: I would encourage devices such as mobility like motorized scooters etc.,

Member: I am so excited about this project; we have people at SNAP that could already benefit from this program. We would love to partner with you, a little nervous with the educational piece of the equipment.

Named Communities Investment Fund Update

We have discussed the NCIF for several months now, last month we developed a list of potential projects. Today we will discuss the ideas identified last month and projects that Avista already has underway. In February we will prioritize those projects. Discussed all programs and initiatives outlined below.

Initiative	Energy Efficiency	Can be an initiative of the EAG NCIF led projects	Notes
Increase electric vehicle charging infrastructure for and within NC	No	No	Avista Electric Vehicle Community & Low-Income Initiatives
Increase tree canopy and shade in NC	Yes	Yes	Biennial Conservation Plan Exploration underway
Increase access to energy efficient products and appliances for NC	Yes	Yes	Avista Outreach Incentives for appliances that are energy efficient
Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for community members without stable housing	Yes	Yes	Projects must benefit customers; that can include organizations/businesses that support homelessness
Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for schools, community centers, and other places where NC spend time	Yes	Yes	Current programs in place – account executives are not focused on NC exclusively
Increase awareness of and engagement in energy efficiency programs while also meeting whole-household needs through community-based partnerships and referrals to services	Yes	Yes	
Focus efforts on improving energy efficiency for Spokane Tribe partners	Yes	Yes	Help develop and support funding strategies for energy efficiency upgrades that may include energy audits
Improve energy efficiency in multi-family and mobile home communities	Yes	Yes	Pilot

Think about ways that we can leverage existing projects and where there may be gaps that we can try to fill. We can continue to refine this list and add to it.

Member: Reach out to the landlord association in Spokane. I bet the association would be happy to promote EE to their members.

Member: Something to keep in mind as we go through this process is the question of unintended consequences. The one for energy efficiency for example, when landlords put in EE measures will that cause the landlord to raise rent and potentially push people out of their rental house etc., something to keep in mind.

Public Participation Plan Update

Public Participation Partner (P3) came and supported Avista through its public participation plan efforts. They came to our Washington service territory and spent time at the following locations learning from the community and how we can better reach them and their communities:

- Latinos of Spokane
- American Indian Community Center
- The Salvation Army Spokane
- Our Place Community Outreach
- Carl Maxey Center
- Spokane Indian Housing Authority
- Kettle Falls Adventist Church

They conducted a survey and included that survey in several languages and different methods as follows:

- Arabic
 - Dhari
 - English
 - Mandarin
 - Marshallese
 - Russian
 - Spanish
 - Vietnamese
- Notices on website
 - Promotional video
 - Social media posts
 - Email campaigns
 - Digital and printed flyers
 - Avista e-newsletter
 - Avista phone tree message

Barriers to Participation

- Language barriers
- A need for educational materials
- Technology challenges
- Transportation to in-person meetings
- Timing of meetings
- Location of meetings
- Awareness that meetings are occurring
- Trust

Communication Methods

- Diverse and multiple form
- Colorful envelopes to communicate important information
- Email
- Text messages
- Receiving information from trust sources
- Clarity of communication
- Website

Reviewed survey results displayed on slides 19-22.

Next steps: review best practices provided from P3, work with P3 on CEIP public participation strategy and implementation process utilizing all the items they have learned through public meetings and surveys which should be complete in the next 30 days.

We will then take their action plan and implement that within our service territory.

What do you feel is meaningful to the public regarding our CEIP that we can discuss during our next public participation plan? How does this resonate with everyone?

Member: How did you determine the languages?

Company: we used demographic data learned through P3s research and used the data from our language services that are used when customers call into our contact center.

Wrap Up

Thank you all for your wonderful ideas, please feel free to send us any additional ideas.

Reminder of upcoming meetings on February 15th and 17th

Member: Started a new job with the department of commerce and the position is with the renewable energy program with which Avista has successfully applied for and received grants for and most customers here are eligible for, but this will be my last meeting as I do not want there to appear to be a conflict of interest.