



Equity Advisory Group – Equity Lens Session

Meeting Date: September 17, 2025
Time: 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Location: Zoom Meeting

Attendees:

Facilitator	Present	EAG Member	Member Organizations
Amber Lenhart	☐	Clyde Abrahamson	Spokane Indian Housing Authority
Avista Team Members	☐	Margee Chambers	Spokane Clean Air
Ana Matthews	☐	Connie Kliewer	NEWESD101
Nicole Hydzik	☐	Clair Trapp	Rural Resources
Meghan Pinch	☐	KJ January	Spectrum
Amanda Ghering	☐	William von Bracht	Othello, school English as 2 nd language
Ariana Barrey	☒	Andrew Gardner	Spokane Public Schools
	☐	Lynn Suksdorf, PhD	Rural Community
	☐	Brook Beeler	Department of Ecology Eastern Region
	☐	Jupiter McGee	Sunrise Spokane Affiliation (youth led) (Facebook)
	☒	Vanessa Strange	Spokane Public Library
	☐	Olly Murphy	Spokane Regional Health District
	☐	Tami Dillion	Providence
	☐	Latrice Williams	Community Member/ WA state board of Equity
	☐	Cindy Kimmet	Takesa Village
	☐	Carmen Groom	SNAP
	☐	Sandra Childers	Rural Resources - Colville
	☒	Sue Lani Madsen	Washington Rural Environmental Network (WREN)
	☐	Jean Kindem	Aging & Long-Term Care of Eastern Washington
	☐	Karen Boone	Red Cross
		Guests	
		Joshua Dennis, WUTC	
		Alex.E, DH	
		Paj Nandi, DH	

Agenda

- I. Welcome & Introductions 1
- II. Partner Share/ Connections 2
- III. DH Community Partner Survey 2

EAG Equity Lens Session Meeting Notes

I. Welcome & Introductions

- Welcome to new EAG member – Olly Murphy from Spokane Regional Health District

II. Partner Share/ Connections

- [Hanford's Leaks, Legends, and Legacies - Spokane Public Library](#)

III. DH Community Partner Survey

- DH has been in discussion with Avista for over a year to discuss strategic discussion and plan, for a Community Partnership Program (CPP). The program will be a way for Avista to go beyond what CETA requires for community engagement by creating meaningful and long-lasting relationships with communities. The company is looking to connect in respectful, authentic and impactful ways, by connecting Avista with community organizations and/or leaders to plan and implement projects and communications activities that bring the company and communities together creating a symbiotic relationship.
- The CPP will operate more in the Involve and Collaborate space on IAP2 Spectrum of Participation.
- Avista has put funding behind the strategy and development phase with potential of advancing with implementation, sustainability and evaluation, and growth opportunities.
- Context of CPP is working with community partners as the best messengers and connectors to community members and the company.
- Survey high level findings (details in meeting slide deck)
 - Sent to just under 200 recipients, 106 responses – incredible response rate, usually unheard of that speaks to great relationships Avista has already built with the organizations. There was diverse representation among the respondents.
 - Avista perception within the community – the majority was very positive 63% with 21% is somewhat positive, with 1% very negative
 - Your View of Avista – 72% community oriented, 52% reliable, 43% customer focused. Other – Kind, Responsive, genuinely interested and helpful. 12% Expensive.
 - Interest in participating in CPP – 61% yes interested, 37% unsure but would like to learn more.
 - Topics in CPP – 90% more financial support (i.e., grants), 55% support for underrepresented communities, 47% co-hosted community events
 - Resources necessary for program to be feasible/valuable to organization along with meaningful – top funding support, co-hosting events, capacity building, co-development, compensation for participation, long-term relationship.
 - Concerns or barriers – limited staff time/resources 81%, limited funding/budget 54%, misalignment of organizations mission.
- Mural Activity
 - Authentic Partnership/Attributes & Characteristics for Successful Partnership – some comments from EAG members
 - Chat comments

- Auth Partn: Valuing personal connections over bureaucratic processes
- Auth Partn: Consistent and direct connection paths - both ways
- Attributes: Willingness and interest
- Auth Partn: Clear understanding of value proposition to the community
- Attributes: Problem solving focus vs check the box
- Attributes: Growth mindset
- There has to be another attribute other than Avista addressing their CETA responsibilities.
- Question of the meaning of PINW –Partners INW
- How should Avista prioritize NC for participation and what are reasonable expectations of organizations?
 - Chat comments
 - Prioritize efficient reliable delivery of energy to everyone
 - Focus on how the partnership addresses energy needs
 - Find organizations willing to focus on positive energy outcomes. Utilities are necessarily utilitarian rather than deontological
 - Commitments: To be consistent and to follow through
 - And now I'm questioning myself, because this exercise is about addressing the needs of the few who may fall outside the boundaries of the many
 - Looking at data to see who has been historically burdened
- What are Avista's commitments and what other opportunities, concerns or risk are there?
 - Chat comments
 - Opportunities: stronger connections face to face
 - Concerns: Adding activity without adding value to energy delivery
 - Risks: Trade-offs not well balanced (i.e. ROI) in decisions and rising costs to consumers

IV. Your Support Team and Next Meeting

- Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 22nd at noon and Friday, October 24 at 7:30 am. Meeting information is featured at: www.myavista.com/eag
- Members were informed of the Comment form at www.myavista.com/ceta to provide feedback and share thoughts. There is an option to be anonymous or share contact information for a response.