

Meeting Minutes – 4/16/26

Attendees:

DTE	Charlie Kondek	PGW	Michel Farag
DTE	James Leidel	Rinnai	Perry McGuire
ESC	Eric Burgis	Rinnai	Kevin Morgan
ESC	Sonia Vahedian	UGI Utilities	Joe Calhoun

- The meeting was called to order at approx. 2 PM ET
- Eric provided an update on the hydrogen white papers noting that 4 of 5 are complete and posted on the Hydrogen deliverables page under this consortium on the ESC site. A draft of the 5th is due anytime. And Ted Williams mentioned adding a 6th paper for no charge.
- Eric asked members what the consortium should be doing with hydrogen commenting that the H2 papers show that hydrogen is complicated, expensive and the CO2 saved is much lower than the % natural gas replaced with H2.
- Michel said that H2 adoption in the U.S. is slow due to politics. Europe is heavily focused on H2.
- Michel feels that the U.S. needs to be ready for an administration change in a couple years that could put H2 back in the spotlight.
- Kevin agrees that we need to be ready to deal with H2 for appliances and we should start with blends of H2 in Natural Gas.
- Jim feels that solar PV is now the least cost form of renewable energy. He also sees a resurgence in EV's in light of current auto fuel prices.
- Jim feels methane pyrolysis is promising to the creation of H2 and carbon black from Natural Gas.
- Jim used a boiler example to explain that we need 2X more H2 than Natural gas to produce the same heating value in a boiler than using Natural Gas in that boiler. This is due to the heat value a CF of H2.
- Jim sees the value in distributed methane pyrolysis.
- It was noted that the funding for hydrogen hubs is still there, but incentives have gone away due to uncertainty.
- Eric informed attendees that the consortium has approx. \$60K still available for future deliverables and asked in member have any needs that the consortium could meet.
- Kevin suggested that the consortium hold onto these funds and wait & see where the industry goes in the future.
- Charlie asked if the consortium could explore doing some public relations to create awareness.
 - Eric noted that ESC does not get into policy. That noted, he said that many consortium members are using parts of the consortium deliverables to drive awareness locally and using with the policy people they deal with.
- Jim shared some info on Pyrolysis.
- Charlie agrees that the consortium should not be in a hurry to spend the remaining funds. He feels we should wait and see what support may be needed as things change in the future.
- Meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM