



Redwood Coast Energy Authority

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MEETING MINUTES

Redwood Coast Energy Resource Center
517 5th Street, Eureka, CA 95501

March 19, 2007
Monday, 3:00 p.m.

Redwood Coast Energy Authority will accommodate those with special needs. Arrangements for people with disabilities who attend RCEA meetings can be made in advance by contacting Cheryl Clayton at 269-1700 by noon the day of the meeting.

I. ROLL CALL

Members: City Council Member Jeff Leonard (Chair), City of Eureka; City Council Member Alex Stillman, City of Arcata; HBMWD Director, Randy Turner(Vice-Chair); Mayor Bud Leonard, City of Rio Dell; Supervisor Jill Geist, County of Humboldt; City Council Member Doug Strehl, City of Fortuna; City Manager Jay Parrish, City of Ferndale

Absent: City Council Member Marvin Samuels, City of Blue Lake; City Council Member Dwight Miller, City of Trinidad

Staff: Executive Director David Boyd; Program Assistant Cheryl Clayton;

Guests: Mark Sturman, Acting Program Manager, PG&E (via teleconference); Beckie Menton, City of Arcata, Dept. of Environmental Services; Susan Penn, Northcoast Environmental Center; Pat King, DG Energy; Kaye Strickland, RR & LWVHC; Michael Winkler, Schatz Energy Resource Center; Bob Marino, DG Fairhaven Power; River Hume, Arcata Energy Committee

II. REPORTS FROM MEMBER ENTITIES

None

III. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

None

IV. CONSENT CALENDAR

All matters on the Consent Calendar are considered to be routine by the Board and are enacted on one motion. There is no separate discussion of any of these items. If discussion is required, that item is removed from the Consent Calendar and considered separately. At the end of the reading of the Consent Calendar, Board members or members of the public can request that an item be removed for separate discussion.

- A. Approve Minutes from January 8, 2007 Board meeting.
- B. Approve attached Warrants.
- C. Approve a contract augmentation with the Community Energy Services Corporation (SmartLights) for an amount not to exceed \$5,000 for technical support for the Redwood Coast Energy Watch SBDI program element (original authorization was for \$38,000).
- D. Approve a contract augmentation with the California Conservation Corps for an amount not to exceed \$6,350 for assistance with the second round of RCEW neighborhood sweeps (original authorization was for \$10,000).

- E. Approve a contract with David Wylie for an amount not to exceed \$2,500 for technical support for the Redwood Coast Energy Watch Motors program element.
- F. Approve a contract with Kurt Kammerer for an amount not to exceed \$2,500 for technical support for the Redwood Coast Energy Watch Network Energy Management program element.

Motion – Jay Parrish; Second – Alex Stillman; Approved 8-0 Vote

V. REMOVED FROM CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS

None

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Staff update on Redwood Coast Energy Watch Partnership implementation.

- Implementation Issues

Director Boyd reviewed RCEW contract issues and noted that operating with reduced staff hours remained problematic. It has not proved to be possible to maintain a 60% schedule and adequately meet the demands of the program (at least during program start-up). Some staff are working longer hours by necessity, and adjustments will need to be made later. The current contract is a performance-based program that is being evaluated for actual energy savings at the end of June (at which time it could be increased or decreased), and it is important to maximize accomplishments during the first half of 2007.

- Torchiere Exchange Event

Over 500 halogen lamps were exchanged for energy efficient fluorescent units at the exchange event in January. A guest asked about disposal of old units and was told that they were picked up for recycling by The Koop in Arcata.

- Residential Neighborhood Sweeps

A second round of CCC CFL sweeps has begun (first round occurred in November 2006), and will include neighborhoods in Eureka, Arcata, Fortuna, Rio Dell, Loleta, and Garberville.

- Small Business Direct Install Program

The SBDI program element will account for the bulk of RCEA's energy savings goal, and is the centerpiece of the RCEW partnership. The program was designed to address common barriers that prevent small business from improving their energy efficiency. These include lack of expertise about what to do, lack of funding to accomplish efficiency projects, and limited time to oversee the process. The SBDI program overcomes these barriers by offering free energy assessments, enhanced incentives, and turn-key project management. To date, there have been 87 requests for lighting assessments and staff has completed 57 audits. Actual accomplishment of installations has been slower than expected. RCEA is trying to keep the PGC funds in the county by using local contractors and suppliers to the maximum extent possible

- Vending Machine Controller Initiative

Vending machine energy controllers, known as VendingMisers, will be installed on vending machines throughout the county for free. A major local vending machine distributor, Rendezvous Music and Vending, has agreed to allow installation on

their machines, and to provide their customer database as the initial installation group. Annual savings from this program are estimated to be 500,000 kWh.

- Motor Efficiency Initiative

Staff is working on finalizing details of the motor efficiency program element, and is hoping to launch this effort in conjunction with the upcoming Motor Efficiency workshop on May 8. David Wylie is assisting with program development.

- Computer Network Energy Management Initiative

This program element may not be as suitable for Humboldt County as originally anticipated because it has been learned that it requires large numbers of networked computers (>1000) to be effective, and there are few local sites with this many computers. Kurt Kammerer will provide assistance in determining feasibility.

- Time-of-Sale Home Energy Assessment Pilot

At least 73% of homes in Humboldt County were built prior to 1978 when Title 24 took effect, and therefore they likely do not meet current energy efficiency standards. Up-front costs are a significant barrier to efficiency improvements for many of these homes. One possibility to mitigate this barrier is to include efficiency improvement costs in the mortgage when homes change ownership, and amortize these costs over the term of the mortgage. Considering reduced operating costs from lower energy bills, this could result in a positive cash flow for the homeowner, even with a slightly larger mortgage. RCEA is working with the Arcata Energy Committee to develop a free time-of-sale home energy assessment pilot program in Arcata.

- Workshops

Workshops scheduled for 2007 include the motor efficiency workshop on May 8th at the Wharfinger Building, presented by David Wylie. Basics of grid-tied PV Systems on June 14th, Food Service Efficiency on October 19, and Boilers on November 1.

B. Update on RCEA support for PG&E's Humboldt Bay Repowering Project.

1. Review and authorize revised letter to the California Energy Commission in support of this project.

Draft letter was reviewed and Greg Lamberg (PG&E) submitted written suggestions for changes. Supervisor Geist suggested some appropriate changes which staff was directed to incorporate before sending the letter to the CEC.

Motion – Alex Stillman; Second – Jay Parrish; Approved 8-0 vote

C. Update on Humboldt County 2025 General Plan Update Energy Element.

The Board was reminded that the Humboldt County Planning Commission has begun hearings on the draft elements of the 2025 General Plan Update. The Energy Element was discussed at a meeting on March 15, and due to the large number of interested citizens, public comments were extended until the April 19 meeting.

D. Update on RCEA's 2004-05 PG&E Contract Close-Out and Review of Draft EM&V Report.

The previous contract should be closed out in the near future. There are no significant issues in the EM&V report, and RCEA accomplished most of the required deliverables.

E. Continued Discussion of RCEA Board meeting schedule.

1. Approve staff recommendation to schedule regular meetings on a bi-monthly basis.

Staff made a recommendation to adopt a bi-monthly meeting schedule, citing limited available time due to RCEW implementation demands as noted earlier, and the amount of staff time necessary to prepare for meetings. Following a Board discussion it was decided continue bi-monthly for now, and to re-visit this issue at the next meeting in May.

F. Update from DG Energy Solutions on the proposed Fairhaven Tri-Renewable Energy Park (Patrick King, DGES).

Pat King, of DG Energy, made a presentation on the background of DG Energy and the planned installation of wind turbines and ocean power buoys.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Report from PG&E on their proposed wave energy pilot program in Humboldt County (Greg Lamberg, PG&E).

Greg Lamberg presented information on the proposed plan to initiate a wave energy study and pilot program in Humboldt County.

B. Presentation and Discussion on the Local Government Sustainable Energy Coalition.

Director Boyd requested that the Board review information in the packet for discussion at the next meeting. He reviewed the benefits of RCEA participation in this coalition, while noting that membership dues could be problematic. Discussion on this was tabled until the May meeting.

**C. Discussion of staff proposal to hold facilitated RCEA Board Visioning Session.
Tabled until the May meeting due to time constraints/**

VIII. STAFF REPORT

A. David Boyd, Executive Director.

- RCEA Staffing Update

Mike Kowalski has been added to the staff as a part-time energy auditor.

IX. ADJOURNMENT – 5:30 p.m.

***The next regular RCEA Board of Directors Business Meeting will be on
May 21, 2007, at 3:00 p.m.***