



Redwood Coast Energy Authority

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July 9, 2019
Tuesday, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

The agenda for this meeting was posted on July 5, 2019. Community Advisory Committee Vice Chair Larry Goldberg called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

Members present:

Norman Bell	Richard Johnson
Jerome Carman	Dennis Leonardi
Colin Fiske	Kathy Srabian
Vice Chair Larry Goldberg	Board Liaison Robin Smith
Pam Halstead	

Members absent:

Tom Hofweber	Craig Mitchell
Luna Latimer	Chair Matty Tittman
Kit Mann	

Staff present:

- Richard Engel, Director of Power Resources
- Lou Jacobson, Director of Demand-Side Management
- Matthew Marshall, Executive Director
- Nancy Stephenson, Community Strategies Manager
- Lori Taketa, Clerk of the Board

Minutes Approval

Vice Chair Goldberg invited public comment on the April 9 meeting minutes.

Dr. Norman Bell stated that the community needs to know the volume of carbon that local biomass electricity production will emit in the next five years, and that the Comprehensive Action Plan for Energy (CAPE) needs to address the carbon emissions of the Community Choice Energy (CCE) program's electric power procurement.

Upon inquiry by member of the public Jesse Noell whether property value losses to neighbors had been considered when evaluating renewable energy sources, Executive Director Marshall responded that the request for proposal evaluation process included other non-quantitative measures such as environmental impacts and job creation but attempting to quantify and evaluate impacts to property values was not included.

It was clarified that the Board of Directors adopted the target of a 100% clean and renewable electricity mix by 2025 in March, approved gathering community input on how to implement

the goal and how to define “clean,” and that the goal of today’s discussion was to discuss the public input process.

Vice Chair Goldberg closed public comment.

Motion Leonardi, Second Halstead. By consensus, the Committee voted to approve the minutes of April 9, 2019 Regular Meeting.

Oral Communications

Vice Chair Goldberg invited public comment.

Member of the public Dr. Ken Miller expressed concern about the Terra Gen wind project’s construction, transmission line, CO₂ emission, and potential fire impacts on the biodiversity of ridges which are also considered to be sacred. Dr. Miller requested investment in clean power such as offshore wind and old wind energy sites that have been repowered with fewer, modern wind turbines.

Member of the public Jesse Noell stated his opposition to the Humboldt Wind Project’s footprint size, fog disruption, near-turbine temperature rise and the loss of carbon sequestering forest acreage. Mr. Noell disapproved of externalizing project costs onto the public.

Executive Director Marshall clarified that the County approves or denies the Humboldt Wind Project permit; RCEA’s Board approved negotiating a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Terra Gen; energy developers need PPAs to secure financing; RCEA will receive damage payments if the wind project permit is denied; the renewable energy request for proposals (RFP) solicited wind, solar and small hydropower projects, favoring local projects due to transmission line constraints and RCEA planning document direction to pursue energy security; and that the RCEA Board does consider public comment from many sources.

Vice Chair Goldberg closed public comment.

CAPE and Countywide Climate Action Plan Updates

Review and provide input on draft Comprehensive Action Plan for Energy (CAPE) document.

Review and provide input on public engagement plan for the CAPE update process.

Executive Director Matthew Marshall described the documents guiding RCEA’s work and the resources and community involvement in creating them:

- the 2012 Comprehensive Action Plan for Energy (CAPE),
- the 2013 RePower Humboldt strategic plan,
- the 2016 Community Choice Energy Program Launch Period Strategy and Targets,
- the 100% Clean and Renewable Electricity Mix by 2025 Board resolution
- and other local and regional planning documents.

Executive Director Marshall described the County’s current countywide climate action planning efforts and RCEA’s goal to update the CAPE, RCEA’s main work blueprint, by incorporating the agency’s preceding guiding documents and aligning it with the County’s currently forming climate action plan. The updated CAPE will capture the community’s qualitative goals and high-level quantitative goals and timeline targets, and shape the Community Choice Energy program’s Integrated Resource Plan outlining the power purchases needed to meet electricity load needs, community goals and state mandates for the next 20 years.

The energy action plan's four strategy categories were described: 1) Regional Energy Planning and Coordination (including energy-related economic development and emergency response planning), 2) Integrated Demand Side Management (customer energy efficiency and conservation, distributed generation, and demand response), 3) Energy Generation and Utility Services (buying power, microgrids), and 4) Low-Carbon Transportation. It was explained that transportation accounts for more than half of Humboldt County's greenhouse gas emissions and RCEA focuses on transportation energy use (alternative fuels vehicles and associated fueling infrastructure) while relying on Humboldt Transit Authority, Humboldt County Association of Governments and other local government entities to lead other transportation-related greenhouse gas reduction and planning efforts.

Mr. Marshall described the needed next steps: refining the energy action plan's qualitative goals and high-level strategies, developing quantitative targets and milestones, particularly power portfolio targets leading toward 100% clean and renewable electricity by 2025, and translating those electricity mix targets into an integrated resource plan.

Discussion covered how offshore wind will most likely be significantly more expensive than onshore wind initially; how energy source availability at different times of day needs to be considered; how the renewables RFP looked at projects' demand curve fit, rate impacts, and the impact of long-term commitments on procuring other energy.

Power Resources Director Richard Engel presented proposals for community engagement and a possible timeline.

The members expressed wanting a written public comment period; wanting the process of determining targets to be transparent; asking the public where the community's electricity should come from rather than for definitions of "clean" or "renewable"; wanting to know the carbon emissions of different energy sources so the community can decide on the power portfolio make-up; the need to clearly ask the public for help in setting goals and how to meet them; the need to keep public information on what RCEA is doing crisp and clear; how engaging stakeholder focus groups for input may be more productive than general public forums; the need to avoid redoing costly technical analysis; wanting to begin a Climate Action Plan discussion on forest management for carbon sequestration, forestry's economic impacts and biomass energy's role; the possibility of using a North Coast Journal insert to help gather public input; the need for information on energy source feasibility, impacts, and costs; and that this is the opportunity for the public to determine what power sources should be included in the CCE power mix.

Concerns were raised about the timeframe to engage the public for input; the public unfamiliarity with RCEA's mission and previous efforts to engage the public in the agency's planning process; the possibility of public meetings increasing divisiveness; and the difficulty of quickly reaching a decision on biomass energy from forest management discussions.

Executive Director Marshall summarized the Committee's discussion as follows: The Committee requests a period for the general public to submit written comments on the Comprehensive Action Plan for Energy strategies and guidelines. The group would like to solicit input from targeted stakeholder groups, avoiding overwhelming technical detail. Staff will use gathered input to refine the CAPE. The Committee would like a second opportunity for written public comment on the revised, high-level quantitative goals. The Integrated Resource Plan will be

revised based on the public input. Finally, the group would like an education campaign on what RCEA is doing.

Vice Chair Goldberg invited public comment. No one came forward to speak. Vice Chair Goldberg closed public comment.

October Meeting Schedule

In light of upcoming CAPE update public engagement work and the Yom Kippur holiday, Executive Director Marshall recommended moving the next CAC meeting to October 29 and working with the CAC Chair to schedule public engagement special meetings on August 26 and October 14.

Vice Chair Goldberg invited public comment. No one came forward to speak. Vice Chair Goldberg closed public comment.

Motion Johnson, Second Leonardi. By consensus, the Committee unanimously voted to cancel the October 8 regular Community Advisory Committee meeting and schedule a special meeting on Tuesday, October 29 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at the RCEA office.

Customer Programs Subcommittee

Demand-Side Management Director Lou Jacobson requested volunteers to give input to staff on the future of state and local customer programs, existing program life spans, working toward program administrator status and other ways of bridging state to local programs. Vice Chair Larry Goldberg and members Jerome Carman and Richard Johnson volunteered to serve on the ad hoc FY 2019-2020 Customer Programs Subcommittee which will sunset in March.

Vice Chair Goldberg adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Taketa
Clerk of the Board

NEXT MEETING

The Tuesday, October 8, 2019, regular Community Advisory Committee meeting has been canceled.

A special meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, October 29 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the RCEA office, 633 Third Street, Eureka, CA.