



Redwood Coast Energy Authority

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Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District Office
828 7th Street, Eureka, CA 95501

November 12, 2019
Tuesday, 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE **SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

The agenda for this meeting was posted on November 8, 2019. Community Advisory Committee Chair Matty Tittman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members present:

Norman Bell (arrived 6:03 p.m.)	Luna Latimer
Jerome Carman	Dennis Leonardi
Colin Fiske	Kit Mann
Vice chair Larry Goldberg	Craig Mitchell
Pam Halstead	Kathy Srabian
Tom Hofweber	Chair Matty Tittman
Richard Johnson	Board Liaison Robin Smith

Staff present:

- Acting Executive Director Dana Boudreau
- Power Resources Director Richard Engel
- Demand Side Projects Manager Mike Avcollie
- RCEA Climate & Forests Consultant Michael Furniss

Minutes approval

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

Motion Johnson, Second Goldberg. Minutes of the July 9, 2019 regular meeting were approved by consensus.

Member Reports

Chair Tittman invited Community Advisory Committee member reports. There were none.

Oral Communications

Chair Tittman invited public comment on items not on the agenda.

Arcata resident Kelsey Reedy expressed opposition to biomass as clean and renewable energy, and to the Terra-Gen wind project. Ms. Reedy expressed further opposition to supporting large corporations as local energy providers instead of smaller power projects.

Chair Tittman closed public comment.

Public Safety Power Shutoff (Information only)

Power Resources Director Richard Engel reported on past efforts by staff to find out from PG&E about islanding Humboldt County in the event of a public safety power shutoff (PSPS), conflicting reports on whether this is possible, the Board of Directors' October 24 formation of an ad hoc subcommittee to investigate the possibility of islanding Humboldt County, and staff communications with PG&E subsequent to that action. The Committee discussed:

- Technical requirements of islanding Humboldt County
- Possible need for CAISO region redefinition
- Importance of local energy generation
- Generator emissions during power shutoffs
- Possible Community Advisory Committee member attendance at ad hoc Board Public Safety Power Shutoff Subcommittee meetings
- The ability to island neighborhoods, as San Diego Gas and Electric does
- PG&E's poor public communication during the shut off events.

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

RePower Humboldt/Comprehensive Action Plan for Energy (CAPE) 2019 Update (Information only)

Staff Director Engel reported on previous strategic plans and technical analyses done with regional partners and the Board-approved Community Choice Energy program guidelines that were incorporated into the Comprehensive Action Plan for Energy revision, now retitled "RePower Humboldt." Community input and updated agency goals were described for each of on four different agency work categories (power procurement, integrated demand-side management, transportation and regional planning). RCEA Climate and Forests Consultant Michael Furniss summarized biomass power research from the Forests, Energy and the Environment meeting and public workshop, described biomass as a possible bridge solution until cleaner electricity sources are available, outlined biomass' health impacts and baseline power production role, and introduced biochar and other potential carbon-sequestration methods for mill waste.

The Committee members discussed:

- The importance of changing state "renewable" definitions and of an energy polyculture
- Routine experience of unreliable power in rural areas and the necessity of microgrids to make electrification initiatives equitable for these communities
- Offshore wind's risks, lack of consistent power production and grid interconnection study preliminary indications
- Possibility of offering competitively priced electricity to Direct Access customers
- The lack of "clean" energy goals in the power mix
- The need to specify action should biomass be found to not be carbon neutral
- The need to address equitable access
- RCEA's and the community's possible roles to address transportation targets, including more involvement with HCAOG and other local agencies
- The need for analysis of status quo, advanced and very aggressive scenarios, and probability analysis of different options such as offshore wind
- The desire for wave energy research and zero carbon release in 10 years
- The off-grid cannabis industry's mobile diesel use and lack of renewable energy requirements

- The need for the RePower document to state that it captures goals for one point in time and that the agency will look at other options should current energy sources become unfeasible.

Chair Tittman invited public comment.

Public commenters expressed:

- Concern over biomass' presence in RCEA's energy portfolio given the amount of atmospheric carbon biomass releases and public health impacts
- Preference for a 100% solar option such as provided by PG&E
- Concern that RePower does not limit the amount of biomass in RCEA's power mix despite 700 commenters opposing biomass and 800 commenters supporting biomass
- Local biomass facility emissions of climate pollutants beyond carbon dioxide, such as methane and black carbon

Public commenters requested:

- Removal of language on page 18 stating that RCEA will contract with biomass plants commensurate to the local supply of wood waste
- Research on alternative wood waste uses
- A life cycle assessment of Humboldt County biomass use and alternative uses
- Use of the cheapest renewable power sources
- Use of ratepayer funds to develop greenhouse gas reducing alternatives
- Development of a clean and resilient energy system with utility scale storage that moves away from base power model dependency.

Chair Tittman closed the public comment period.

Staff confirmed that it received needed information from the Committee and the public to continue its revision of the CAPE document.

The Committee requested the following agenda items for future meetings:

1. Discuss formation of a CAC subcommittee to address the definition of "clean," and include in a staff report background information on use of "clean" in the CAPE document
2. Staff clarification on how the public can change the CCE program's electricity mix
3. Updates on the Board Public Safety Power Shutoff Subcommittee and staff's work with PG&E to island Humboldt County
4. A presentation by Principal Power on the risks and benefits of offshore wind
5. A presentation by Humboldt Redwood Company on local biomass power's community benefits and possibilities for reduced emissions.

Chair Tittman requested and received confirmation of consensus to hold a special Community Advisory Committee meeting during the first week of December to discuss the definition and use of the term "clean" energy in relation to biomass.

Chair Tittman adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Avcollie
Demand-Side Projects Manager