



Redwood Coast Energy Authority

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COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

January 12, 2021 - Tuesday, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

The agenda for this meeting was posted on January 9, 2021. Community Advisory Committee Chair Larry Goldberg called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m., stating that the meeting was being conducted by teleconference pursuant to Brown Act waivers included in Governor Newsom's COVID-19 State of Emergency Executive Orders and in response to local efforts to reduce the spread of the virus. Chair Goldberg stated that the posted agenda outlined instructions for the public on listening to the meeting and providing comment.

Members present:

Norman Bell

Elizabeth Burks

Jerome Carman

Colin Fiske

Larry Goldberg, Chair

Catherine Gurin

Pam Halstead

Roger Hess

Richard Johnson

Luna Latimer

Dennis Leonardi, Vice Chair

Kit Mann

Amin Younes

Stephen Avis, Board Liaison (non-voting)

Members absent:

Matty Tittmann

Staff present:

Aisha Cissna, Regulatory and Legislative Policy Manager

Richard Engel, Power Resources Director

Derek Hilson, RCEA Staff

Matthew Marshall, Executive Director

Nancy Stephenson, Community Strategies Manager

Lori Taketa, Board Clerk

Minutes Approval

Chair Goldberg invited comment. There were no comments from CAC members or members of the public. Chair Goldberg closed the public comment period.

Motion Johnson, Second Leonardi: Approve minutes of October 13, 2020, CAC meeting.

The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote. Ayes: Bell, Burks, Carman, Fiske, Gurin, Goldberg, Halstead, Hess, Johnson, Latimer, Leonardi, Mann, Younes. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Tittmann.

Chair Goldberg invited public comment on non-agenda items. No member of the public made comment. Chair Goldberg closed the public comment period. There were no member reports.

2021 Meeting Calendar

Executive Director Matthew Marshall reported that he observed a lack of time during quarterly CAC meetings to adequately address member-requested agenda items and described the difficulty of bringing current matters to the committee in a timely manner. CAC members had expressed a slight preference for more frequent 90-minute meetings rather than longer quarterly meetings in an informal poll. The committee discussed their meeting preferences.

Chair Goldberg invited public comment. No member of the public made comment. Chair Goldberg closed the public comment period.

Motion Mann, Second Halstead: Approve a bimonthly Community Advisory Committee meeting schedule beginning in January 2021, and request that the RCEA Board of Directors amend the Board Operating Guidelines to reflect the revised meeting schedule.

The motion passed with a unanimous roll call vote. Ayes: Bell, Burks, Carman, Fiske, Gurin, Goldberg, Halstead, Hess, Johnson, Latimer, Leonardi, Mann, Younes. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Tittmann.

CAC Chair/Vice Chair Selection

Executive Director Marshall presented a staff report on the CAC Chair and Vice Chair appointment process. To his nomination to serve as Chair, Member Leonardi replied that he would not be able to fulfil that role due to prior commitments. The group expressed a desire for continuity in leadership.

Chair Goldberg invited public comment. No member of the public made comment. Chair Goldberg closed the public comment period.

Motion Carman, Second Gurin: Appoint Larry Goldberg and Dennis Leonardi as Community Advisory Committee Chair and Vice Chair, respectively, for terms beginning April 12, 2021, and ending April 12, 2022.

The motion passed with a roll call vote. Ayes: Bell, Burks, Carman, Fiske, Gurin, Goldberg, Halstead, Hess, Johnson, Latimer, Leonardi, Mann, Younes. Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Tittmann.

Countywide Climate Action Plan Development Update

RCEA Regulatory and Legislative Policy Manager Aisha Cissna reported on the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan (CAP). The plan's goal is for each city within Humboldt County as well as unincorporated Humboldt County areas to adopt and implement greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction measures.

In fall 2018 the jurisdictions agreed to work on a countywide plan. RCEA, with support from consultant Environmental Indicator Accounting Services (EIAS), completed greenhouse gas inventories for 1990, 2005 and 2015, and forecasted 2030 countywide emissions. RCEA and EIAS assisted the jurisdictions with developing potential GHG reduction measures and are currently working with the jurisdictions to make initial measure selections based on feasibility given the targets and deadlines.

After preparing information for presentation to the public, community workshops will be held in different locations across the county this spring to gather input from communities with different cultures and situations. The plan will go through the CEQA process, which may also involve public hearings. The benefit of doing a regional climate action plan is streamlining the GHG component of the CEQA approval process for future projects in each jurisdiction. Final CAP adoption is targeted for October 2021.

The state has aggressive targets for reducing GHG emissions in the coming years, reaching an 80% reduction below 1990 GHG emission levels by 2050. In Humboldt County, EIAS is recommending a 40% reduction below 2015 GHG levels by 2030, which is more ambitious than the state's targets but does not include industrial emissions, which are controlled at the state level.

Transportation is responsible for the majority of Humboldt County GHG emissions. Pulp and lumber mill closures accounted for most of the county's industrial emissions reductions. One challenge for the county is to reduce emissions while creating economic growth. Member Burks, who was recently selected as HCAOG's Executive Director, expressed a desire to present HCAOG's Regional Transportation Plan to the CAC to ensure that it fits well with the Regional Climate Action Plan.

CAC members were encouraged to participate in the public Climate Action Plan meetings for their areas and to provide input to the County on potential public meeting schedule conflicts with other local events. The CAC expressed interest in holding a special meeting if there is a need for additional discussion on the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan and specific measures.

Chair Goldberg invited public comment. No member of the public made comment. Chair Goldberg closed the public comment period.

Alternative Biomass Uses Subcommittee Draft Report to the RCEA Board

Alternative Biomass Uses Subcommittee member Kit Mann described the group's work to review potential alternative uses of the substantial volume of biomass produced by Humboldt County. Biomass energy has been the most controversial part of the RCEA Community Choice Energy program's power portfolio. The subcommittee recommends that the Board consider RCEA's involvement in facilitating development of non-energy biomass uses of both mill and in-forest biomass waste due to the agency's involvement in greenhouse gas emission reduction planning and the fire hazard posed by years of forest fire suppression practices.

The group discussed the subcommittee's involvement as a facilitator for an expert and stakeholder group to drive development of alternative biomass uses in Humboldt County. The appropriateness and nature of RCEA's involvement in forest waste

management was discussed and there was a request to create a clearer distinction between mill waste and biomass from other sources in the subcommittee report, as the waste streams present very different issues. It was clarified that the subcommittee's report ends with questions for the Board and requests for Board guidance.

Member of the public Nancy Ihara commented in support of the subcommittee's continued pursuit of finding alternative uses for biomass material. She requested the CAC recommend that the Board also support the subcommittee's continued work.

Member Bell stated he lacked a clear sense of the report's purpose.

Motion Johnson, Second Burks: Authorize the Alternative Biomass Uses Subcommittee to revise the draft report based on the CAC's discussion of January 12, 2021, and approve the Subcommittee report for presentation to the RCEA Board of Directors.

The motion passed with a supermajority in a roll call vote. Ayes: Burks, Carman, Fiske, Gurin, Goldberg, Halstead, Hess, Johnson, Latimer, Leonardi, Mann, Younes. Noes: None. Abstain: Bell. Absent: Tittmann.

RePower Humboldt Strategic Plan Status Update

Due to the lack of time, Executive Director Marshall proposed postponing the RCEA strategic plan status update to the next CAC meeting. The group agreed.

The following action items and agenda item requests were summarized:

- CAC meetings will be held bimonthly. The next meeting will be in March.
- Larry Goldberg and Dennis Leonardi were again appointed chair and vice chair.
- The Alternative Biomass Uses Subcommittee will present their report to the RCEA Board with revisions.
- Member Carmen will gather information on why vehicle emissions dipped between 1990 and 2005 then increased in 2015. The Clerk will disseminate this information to the committee and public.
- Chair Goldberg requested RCEA engagement in telecommuting expansion.
- The CAC will be notified when Climate Action Plan public meetings take place.
- Member Bell requested more frequent reports from the Executive Director on large solar, wind and wave energy development projects.
- The continuation of the Alternative Biomass Uses Subcommittee will be discussed by the subcommittee, the CAC and/or the Board at future meetings.

Community Strategies Manager Nancy Stephenson announced RCEA's community report will be published by the North Coast Journal in the next week or two.

Chair Goldberg adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Lori Taketa
Board Clerk