



Redwood Coast Energy Authority

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COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

July 13, 2021 - Tuesday, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

The agenda for this meeting was posted on July 10, 2021. Community Advisory Committee Chair Larry Goldberg called the meeting to order at 6:03 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	Catherine Gurin
Elizabeth Burks	Pam Halstead
Jerome Carman	Roger Hess
Colin Fiske	Luna Latimer
Larry Goldberg, Chair	Dennis Leonardi, Vice Chair

Members absent:

Richard Johnson	Ethan Lawton
Kit Mann	

Staff and others present:

Chris Curran, Board Liaison	Nancy Stephenson, Community Strategies
Matthew Marshall, Executive Director	Lori Taketa, Board Clerk
Oona Smith, HCAOG Senior Regional Planner	Amin Younes, Schatz Energy Research Center Fellow

Minutes Approval

A member asked when the committee would provide input on Community Choice Energy program priorities. Staff replied that the topic would be addressed at a future meeting. There were no comments from members of the public. Chair Goldberg closed the public comment period.

Motion Leonardi, Second Halstead: Approve minutes of May 11, 2021, CAC meeting.

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

There was no public comment on non-agenda items.

HCAOG 2021 Regional Transportation Plan Update

Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) Executive Director Elizabeth Burks and HCAOG Senior Regional Planner Oona Smith presented the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) draft update with added greenhouse gas emission reduction targets, planning goals highlighting a better quality of place and racial justice, equity and inclusion goals in the transportation sector. Many of the plan's goals are aligned with RCEA's RePower Humboldt strategic plan transportation goals such as reduction of transportation greenhouse gas emissions by reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT), increasing vehicle efficiency, accelerating electric vehicle (EV) adoption and expanding advanced fuel infrastructure. RePower Humboldt and the RTP also share transportation efficient land use planning goals. The RTP is due to be adopted in December.

The group discussed whether the plan could impact how existing streets can be repurposed to promote multi-modal transportation when jurisdictions undertake development projects or change zoning. The group discussed which agency should encourage telecommuting, whether telecommuting reduces VMT and the issue's connection to economic and regional broadband development. Members expressed the need for EV workforce development, mobile battery charger roadside service, and additional EV infrastructure in Eastern Humboldt, especially along Highway 96 between Willow Creek and Yreka. Staff described RCEA's EV workforce development efforts and the five existing EV charging stations along Highway 96.

Ms. Smith explained the next steps for Plan adoption, how the Plan's priorities will emerge, HCAOG's planning and fund distribution role, and the Regional Transportation Plan's usefulness for jurisdictions to point to as a guiding document when pursuing project funding. No member of the public commented on this item.

Exploring Humboldt County's Renewable Energy Futures Presentation

Former CAC member Amin Younes shared findings from his master's thesis for Humboldt State University's Energy Technology and Policy Program. Mr. Younes, a Schatz Energy Research Center Fellow, observed disagreement among Humboldt County residents about the kinds of energy needed to meet local energy demand. He conducted interviews and performed other research to understand the different ways Humboldt County might develop renewable energy to meet its energy needs through technically feasible methods consistent with residents' goals and mandated renewable portfolio standards.

Mr. Younes explained Humboldt County's grid conditions, why it is not possible to import all the County's needed energy with current transmission lines, and how the natural gas-powered Humboldt Bay Generating Station is critical to maintain current grid stability. Local renewable energy development is needed because of these grid constraints.

Mr. Younes' qualitative findings were that residents are divided on whether renewable energy should come from distributed or centralized sources. However, interviewees all wanted to mitigating climate change impacts through renewable electricity, cared about how energy burdens and benefits are distributed across the county and want to ensure that the planning process for these projects is fair and open. Mr. Younes performed a quantitative analysis of different renewable energy sources to try to address qualitative

differences. He calculated the cost, land use needs, projected job growth and greenhouse gas emissions of different energy source scenarios.

Mr. Younes calculated how much distributed solar with battery storage, local utility scale solar with battery storage, large utility scale solar without biomass, offshore wind and biomass power would be needed to meet Humboldt County's renewable portfolio standard of 60% renewable energy by 2030. He found that local energy needs can feasibly be met with local renewable resources such as solar, offshore wind and biomass, although opinions on each as well as impacts vary. He suggested a next step of creating a venue for multi-party conversations about Humboldt County's energy future.

The group thanked Mr. Younes for his research, discussed his carbon emission data source, whether substrate transport costs were factored into cost calculations, and how subsidies will affect costs. There was discussion about the need for open conversations beginning early in project development instead of at the end when it is only possible to express support or opposition. Humboldt State University, the Schatz Energy Research Center or RCEA were named as possible organizations who could create platforms for discourse. Mr. Younes cites some European examples of open energy development conversation in his thesis.

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

Committee-Board Work Coordination

Executive Director Marshall proposed a plan for the CAC to create work goals and coordinate with and receive assignments from the RCEA Board of Directors. The Committee agreed to work with staff to draft an annual work plan in November, receive Board input in December, and present the next year's goals and past year's accomplishments to the Board during a January annual report.

Board Liaison Curran expressed interest in receiving a mid-year update to the Board. There was unanimous support to adopt the practice of reporting annually on CAC accomplishments and goals to the RCEA Board of Directors at the January Board meeting. No member of the public commented on this item. There was a request to form a subcommittee to help draft the report at the next meeting.

Member Reports

Colin Fiske informed the group of an upcoming U.S. Department of Energy roundtable [webinar on streamlining solar permitting](#).

Chair Goldberg adjourned the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Lori Taketa
Board Clerk