



Redwood Coast Energy Authority

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COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

September 14, 2021 - Tuesday, 6 - 7:30 p.m.

The agenda for this meeting was posted on September 11, 2021. Community Advisory Committee Chair Larry Goldberg called the meeting to order at 6:02 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	Christopher Honar
Colin Fiske	Richard Johnson
Larry Goldberg, Chair	Luna Latimer
Catherine Gurin	Ethan Lawton
Pam Halstead	Dennis Leonardi, Vice Chair
Roger Hess	

Members absent:

Elizabeth Burks	Kit Mann
Jerome Carman	

Staff and others present:

Keith Brennan, RCEA Staff	Colin Mateer, Power Resources Specialist
Chris Curran, Board Liaison	Nancy Stephenson, Community Strategies
Matthew Marshall, Executive Director	Lori Taketa, Board Clerk

New Committee members Christopher Honar and Ethan Red Eagle Lawton introduced themselves. Mr. Lawton works as a Planning Engineer and Tribal Liaison for SHN Engineering, is originally from Alaska and now lives in McKinleyville. Mr. Honar is a former RCEA employee and currently serves as Facilities Manager for an Arcata cannabis extraction facility. He is an Arcata resident.

Minutes Approval

There were no comments from committee members or the public on the last meeting's minutes.

Motion Leonardi, Second Latimer: Approve minutes of July 13, 2021, CAC meeting.

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

Non-Agenda Item Public Comment

There was no public comment on non-agenda items and Chair Goldberg closed the public comment period.

Wave Energy Report

Power Resource Specialist Colin Mateer reported on current wave energy research and development. Wave energy is wind energy transferred to water. The North American coastline has high wave power potential relative to other parts of the world. While wave intensity varies, ocean water moves constantly, making wave energy a potential source of baseload power. Currently there are no large-scale commercial wave energy projects in operation which makes efficiency comparisons with other renewable resources difficult. Many proposed wave energy converters (WECs) are being developed and no mature technology has yet emerged as a widely-accepted frontrunner.

PG&E's WaveConnect project which was planned for development on the Samoa Peninsula attempted to demonstrate wave energy's commercial viability. The project was discontinued in 2010 due to technological and regulatory challenges. Research on potential use of the Samoa site still exists should another WEC test site be planned for that location.

The University of Oregon's 20MW PacWave South test facility is being developed seven miles off the coast of Newport, Oregon. The site will have the capacity to test up to 20 WECs which will be pre-permitted to allow for rapid technology deployment. The project has taken 10 years to usher through the regulatory process and will begin operation in 2023. Staff anticipates significant progress toward WEC commercial viability, and an increase in environmental impact understanding, after PacWave launches.

Locally, the Schatz Energy Research Center is tracking wave energy developments and Arcata-based HD Harvey and Associates is performing wave energy research. RCEA was contacted by Atargis Energy Corporation, a company that is interested in translating aircraft airfoil technology to wave energy converters in Humboldt County. Staff suggested encouraging California Coastal Commissioners to visit the PacWave project to proactively address future WEC development projects issues.

No member of the public commented on this item. Chair Goldberg closed the public comment period.

Humboldt Sawmill Company Alternative Biomass Uses MOU

Executive Director Marshall presented highlights of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between RCEA and Humboldt Sawmill Company (HSC), which is supplemental to a ten-year power purchase agreement that the Board of Directors recently approved. The MOU proposes that RCEA and HSC representatives meet annually to assess the viability of other biomass uses and makes HSC biomass material supply data and HSC consultant biomass use findings available to RCEA. The CAC's Alternative Biomass Uses Subcommittee worked with Power Resources Director Richard Engel to draft the

MOU, which was subsequently successfully negotiated and vetted by HSC representatives. Staff hope to present the MOU to the Board for approval this month.

Committee members clarified reasons for the MOU's confidentiality clauses and language allowing for waste from other mills as source material. A member expressed concern regarding whether the power purchase contract should have been entered into given the energy source's carbon emissions and the urgency of the climate crisis. There was also concern that HSC could claim that no better biomass use exists and continue burning biomass. The MOU's reflection of the Alternative Biomass Uses Subcommittee's desire for continued consideration of alternative biomass uses was affirmed. A committee member expressed appreciation for a formalized process to assess lower greenhouse gas emission alternative uses. The qualified benefit of burning biomass locally was expressed, as trucking biomass to other plants for burning also creates additional carbon emissions.

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

RePower Humboldt Strategic Plan Update

Executive Director Marshall gave a report on progress made in the four focus areas of RCEA's strategic plan.

In the area of low-carbon transportation, a new electric vehicle (EV) charging station was installed in Arcata and another will be installed as part of the airport microgrid project. RCEA is offering a rebate for which local EV buyers can apply in addition to the state EV rebate. RCEA was awarded a CEC grant to plan local zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicle infrastructure.

In the Integrated Demand-Side Management or Customer Energy Solutions focus area, RCEA launched: a building electrification heat pump rebate program for water heaters, furnaces and air conditioners and a program with Swell Energy that incentivizes customers to allow their batteries to be used for grid reliability. RCEA's energy efficiency programs are increasing activity as COVID-restrictions ease.

In the area of Energy Generation and Utility Services, batteries have been installed for the airport microgrid solar array. The project will go through the commissioning process in the next months and is expected to be fully operational by the end of the year. The 100 MW Sandrini Solar Project is nearing the construction phase and is expected to be online by the end of 2022. The local solar feed-in tariff projects on Hatchery Road near Blue Lake are experiencing higher interconnection costs and delays with PG&E and have pushed back their timelines. RCEA's first customer grid reliability contract with LEAP began operating in June and was featured in the Los Angeles Times. The project aggregates customer resources like smart thermostats and EV chargers and reduces their energy use in response to peak energy demand times. Participation in this program benefits customers who help RCEA meet resource adequacy grid reliability requirements.

In the area of Regional Planning and Coordination, RCEA continues its work with the County and cities on the regional climate action plan. The public will have a chance to review the draft plan at the end of September and the CAC will discuss the draft plan at its November meeting. Staff is working with the Humboldt Area Foundation on energy,

climate resilience and decarbonization engagement with at-risk and underserved communities and the general local community to support of local government decision-making processes. Environmental review of the studies and surveys associated with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's offshore wind leasing process is beginning. This is a separate process from the environmental review of actual offshore wind farm construction. The Harbor District submitted a \$56 million U.S. Department of Transportation grant proposal to build an offshore wind dock. There is \$11 million earmarked in the state budget for Humboldt Bay wind energy dock facility development. This is the DOT grant's required match-funding amount. Public engagement for this project will be increasing. RCEA has submitted a grant proposal to plan for renewable energy resilience for critical facilities threatened by climate change impacts. This planning will complement the County's hazard mitigation plan by addressing facility-level energy needs. RCEA and PG&E are discussing how to prioritize this resilience planning for Eastern Humboldt. Member Latimer described how SAFE (Smoke Air Fire Energy) program members Schatz Energy Research Center, Blue Lake Rancheria and the Karuk Tribe are investigating ways for vulnerable communities outside the PG&E Humboldt Bay Generating Station islanded area to obtain reliable, clean energy during power shutoffs.

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

CAC Goal-Setting & Annual Report

Executive Director Marshall reviewed the proposed timeline for committee goal setting, Board and committee feedback and annual report presentation to the Board. Member Gurin, Vice Chair Leonardi and Chair Goldberg volunteered to serve on an ad hoc goal-setting committee to work with staff on developing goals for the coming year and on preparing the annual report for a Board presentation in January. It was suggested that absent member Kit Mann be asked whether he would like to volunteer for this ad hoc working group. There was no public comment on this agenda item.

Member Reports

Member Fiske reported that the California Air Resources Board is developing parameters for a statewide e-bike rebate program and requested that RCEA engage with this program.

Summarize actions, outcomes, Board communication items, next steps

There were requests for:

- a report on wave energy's biological and cultural impacts and potential mitigation strategies as well as the technology's lifecycle expectancy and maintenance findings, when this information becomes available;
- a report on small, modular nuclear reactors; and
- an update on Monument Ridge onshore wind development if this possibility is ever considered by any entity.

Chair Goldberg adjourned the meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Lori Taketa
Board Clerk