



# Redwood Coast Energy Authority

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## **COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

**November 9, 2021 - Tuesday, 6 - 7:30 p.m.**

The agenda for this meeting was posted on November 5, 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 revised Brown Act provisions signed into law on September 16. Chair Goldberg stated that the posted agenda outlined instructions for public participation in this meeting.

#### **Members present:**

Norman Bell

Colin Fiske

Larry Goldberg, Chair

Catherine Gurin

Pam Halstead

Roger Hess

Christopher Honar

Richard Johnson

Luna Latimer

Ethan Lawton

Dennis Leonardi, Vice Chair

Jerome (Carman) Qiriazzi

#### **Members absent:**

Elizabeth Burks

Kit Mann

#### **Staff and others present:**

Keith Brennan, RCEA Staff

Aisha Cissna, Leg. & Reg. Pol. Mgr.

Chris Curran, Board Liaison

Matthew Marshall, Executive Director

Connor McGuigan, Humboldt County

Michael Richardson, Humboldt County

Nancy Stephenson, Comm. Strategies Mgr.

Lori Taketa, Board Clerk

Eileen Verbeck, Deputy Executive Director

#### **Minutes Approval**

Member Bell inquired whether, given changed financial and climate conditions, RCEA is engaging in local wave energy development efforts after PG&E's initial feasibility studies. There was discussion of how previous funding for regional planning went to Oregon and Washington. Discussion at a future meeting was requested on how to catalyze wave energy development locally. It was noted that Humboldt State University's transition to a polytechnic institute may present an opportunity for this work.

**Motion Johnson, Second Lawton: Approve minutes of September 14, 2021, CAC meeting.**

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

### **Non-Agenda Item Public Comment**

Executive Director Matthew Marshall introduced RCEA's new Deputy Executive Director Eileen Verbeck. Deputy Executive Director Verbeck worked at the City of Arcata for 14 years in the Redevelopment and Police Departments.

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

### **Countywide Climate Action Plan**

County Planner Connor McGuigan reported on the Countywide Climate Action Plan's status. A three-year effort to collect data, perform analysis and coordinate planning efforts between the County, cities and RCEA is nearing completion. A draft for public review, containing a regional blueprint for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction with implementation measures selected by each jurisdiction, is expected to be released in January 2022. A CEQA review will follow, then plan implementation.

The plan is based on a 2015 countywide greenhouse gas inventory. Transportation accounts for 53% of greenhouse gases emitted in the region, followed by smaller percentages from livestock, combustion of propane and natural gas in buildings, pre-Community Choice Energy program electricity consumption and the industrial sector. The countywide climate action plan is consistent with the state goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. Reduction methods vary by sector and can include changing development design to deemphasize vehicle use and reduce vehicle miles traveled, promoting low-carbon transportation using alternative fuels, building electrification and replacing propane and natural gas appliances with electric ones. Many measures also match those of RCEA's RePower Humboldt Comprehensive Action Plan for Energy.

There was discussion of adding telecommuting support into the plan's measures and the need to review studies on effective strategies for reducing vehicle miles traveled.

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

### **Community Advisory Committee 2022 Goals**

Executive Director Marshall presented six proposed CAC work focus areas for 2022 based on the agency's overall 2022 work plan. The group supported the list of focus areas and expressed much interest in reviewing and providing input on energy-specific considerations for large development projects that may impact the RePower Humboldt strategic plan. It was suggested that RCEA also participate in updates of General Plans, Housing Elements and economic development plans, incentivizing greenhouse gas and energy reduction. An ad hoc subcommittee with members Carman, Fiske, Hess and Johnson was formed to meet and suggest comments to the RCEA Board for

projects with imminent due dates while the CAC and Board determine the committee's 2022 work focus areas. This ad hoc Major Projects Subcommittee will meet to recommend comments on the North McKay Ranch Subdivision project, as the environmental impact report comment period closes on December 1, prior to the CAC's next meeting. The subcommittee will present their recommendations to the Board at next week's Board meeting. Members would also like to see the Board comment on energy-related aspects of the Nordic Aquafarm development.

Members expressed interest in helping to identify and prioritize critical community facilities for enhanced renewable energy resilience infrastructure work. A member requested clarifying the goal's language to include supporting community-scale microgrids. Members also supported finalizing recommendations to the RCEA Board and County Board of Supervisors for energy projects for bond or alternative financing and facilitating community input on the Humboldt Regional Climate Action Plan completion and adoption. A request was made to list goal timeframes so committee work can be planned through this and coming years.

Members Mann and Honar asked to join the CAC ad hoc Annual Report Subcommittee, joining Chair Goldberg, Member Gurin and Vice Chair Leonardi.

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

### **Member Reports**

Member Latimer reported that PG&E's Community Wildfire Safety Program is implementing an enhanced vegetation management program. Eastern county agencies and tribal departments of natural resources are concerned that the tree cutting approach will increase fire fuel loads. A public meeting on this topic will be held in Orleans on Monday.

Chair Goldberg requested a report from RCEA's Regulatory and Legislative Policy Manager on shovel-ready projects that could be funded by Congress' infrastructure and Build Back Better bills.

Member Fiske reported that the Arcata Energy Committee will discuss how to use COVID stimulus funds that the City of Arcata set aside for climate crisis efforts.

Member Carman encouraged people to review and comment on HCAOG's Regional Transportation Plan which contains very aggressive sustainability and greenhouse gas reduction targets. The Plan's public comment period is open through November 21.

Chair Goldberg adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Lori Taketa  
Board Clerk